

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
November 8, 2017



A FRIEND AND AN ADVOCATE FOR AGRICULTURE WHO CANNOT BE REPLACED

Editor's note: Longtime Dept. of Agriculture marketing representative Rick Macsuga passed away on October 25, leaving an enormous void in the Connecticut agricultural community for which he was an unflagging advocate. The following tribute to him is based on reflections of his colleagues and friends.

Rick Macsuga was the definition of a go-to guy.

As one of the Department of Agriculture's main contacts for farmers for more than 30 years, his deep connections in the agricultural community made him a uniquely qualified and indispensable ally not only for farmers, but for his co-workers.

If you needed to know what was going on with the apple crop or the drought or the price of sweet corn or which farms had crop damage after the latest storm, Rick was the one to ask.

He knew what was happening on the ground because he was constantly in touch with who he always called "my farmers."

Rick forged many of those connections during hundreds of visits to farms to certify them for the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, which he ran for many years, and for farms to qualify for tax assessment

under Public Act 490. He also was instrumental in organizing and greatly increasing the number of farmers markets in Connecticut, which now total more than 125.

A sought-after judge in fruit and vegetable contests at agricultural fairs, he over the years had served as President of the Connecticut Pomological Society and the National Association of Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs.

Rick grew up in East Hartford and was never a farmer himself, but he certainly had the personality of one.

He was direct, plain-spoken and not interested in any conversational frills that distracted from the many jobs and problems always at hand.

Just underneath that blunt exterior was Rick's subtle, witty sense of humor, unflinching work ethic and willingness to help.

Decidedly old-school and low-tech, Rick spent as much time in the fields as the office, and was never a fan of computers.

One of his main tools was an ancient black day planner that contained contact information for countless farmers all over the state. The names and numbers that filled its well-worn pages are a testament to the

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NORTHEAST EGGS/USDAPer doz. Grade A and Grade A white
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.05	1.23
LARGE	.99	1.13
MEDIUM	.85	.98

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGSPer doz. Grade A brown in
carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.76	1.88
LARGE	1.73	1.85
MEDIUM	1.11	1.20
SMALL	.67	.77

RETAIL TURKEY

Report for November 3-11, 2017. \$ per unit.

WHOLE BIRD		
FROZEN TOMS	.39	1.99
FROZEN HENS	.39	1.99
PARTS		
BREAST		
WHOLE, FRESH, B/I	2.49	2.49
WHOLE, FROZEN, B/I	1.49	1.99
CUTLETS	4.99	5.44
STRIPS	4.99	4.99
TENDERS	4.99	4.99
DRUMSTICKS	1.99	1.99
THIGHS	2.99	2.99
WINGS	1.99	1.99
GROUND TURKEY		
PATTIES	2.99	3.99
SAUSAGE	3.18	3.18
85% LEAN	1.98	3.32
93% LEAN	2.99	3.99
BREAST, 99-100% LEAN	4.98	4.99

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	47.00	54.00
	300-350 lbs	49.00	53.50
	350-400 lbs	49.00	51.50
48-52	200-300 lbs	44.00	49.00
	300-350 lbs	45.00	49.00
Sows, US 1-3	300-500 lbs	31.00	34.50
	500-800 lbs	37.00	45.50
	Boars 500-600 lbs	4.00	12.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. DAIRY REPORT

November 1, 2017

FRESH COWS		
SUPREME	1750.00	2250.00
APPROVED	1250.00	1725.00
MEDIUM	850.00	775.00
SHORT BRED COWS (1-3 MONTHS)		
APPROVED	1100.00	1550.00
MEDIUM	825.00	1050.00
SPRINGING COWS		
APPROVED	1150.00	1625.00
MEDIUM	875.00	1100.00
SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MOS)		
SUPREME	1500.00	1650.00
APPROVED	1200.00	1450.00
MEDIUM	750.00	1150.00
BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MOS)		
APPROVED	1050.00	1275.00
MEDIUM	700.00	1000.00
SHORT BRED HEIFERS (1-3 MOS)		
APPROVED	1100.00	1200.00
MEDIUM	700.00	825.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLESBoston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFCY, 72	28.00	28.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, NG, LOOSE	17.00	18.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, 12-3 LB, 2-1/2	23.00	23.00
APPLE, EMPIRE, NG, LOOSE	18.00	18.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 64	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 72	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 80	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, FCY, 88	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, #1, 12-3LB	24.00	24.00
APPLE, GOLD DEL, NG	18.00	18.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY 100	32.00	32.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY, 80	32.00	32.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY, 88	32.00	32.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY, 88	32.00	32.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, NG, LOOSE	40.00	45.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFCY, 80	32.00	32.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFCY, 88	32.00	32.00
APPLE, MACOUN, NG, LOOSE	24.00	24.00
APPLE, MAC, XFCY, TRYPK, 88	27.00	28.00
APPLE, MAC, US FCY, TRYPK 80	20.00	20.00
APPLE, MAC, FCY, TRYPK, 88	20.00	20.00
APPLE, MAC, USFCY, TRYPK 100	21.00	21.00
APPLE, MAC, NG, LOOSE	18.00	18.00
APPLE, MUTSU/CRISPIN, NG	20.00	20.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 72	23.00	23.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 80	23.00	23.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 100	23.00	23.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 125	23.00	23.00
APPLE, RED DEL, #1, 12-3LB	24.00	24.00
APPLE, RED DEL, NG	18.00	18.00
APPLE, SPENSER, NG	18.00	18.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	13.00
BEETS, RED, 25 LBS, LOOSE	7.00	7.00
BRCCOLI, CRWNCT, TRIM, 20 LB	22.00	23.00
BRUSSELS SPROUTS, 25 LBS	50.00	50.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, M-L, 50 LBS	8.00	10.00
CABBAGE, RED, M, 50 LBS	8.00	10.00
CARROTS, S-M, 10-5 LB FILM	14.00	14.00
CARROT, L, 25LB SACK, LOOSE	10.00	11.00
CIDER, 4- 1 GALLON	21.00	22.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	22.50	25.00
CORNSTALKS, 5 BUNDLES	7.00	8.00
CORN, 5 DOZ	10.00	12.00
CRANBRY, HOWE, M, 25 LBS	33.00	33.00
CRNBRY, HOWE, M, 24-12 OZ	28.00	30.00
KALE, LACINITO, 12	15.00	15.00
KALE, 12	13.00	13.00
ORNMNTL CORN, 3/BN, 20	40.00	50.00
ORNMNTL GOURD, 20 LBS	15.00	15.00
ORNMNTL GOURD, SHEL, 1/2BU	22.00	24.00
ORNMNTL GOURD, SHEL, BU	32.00	35.00
PARSNIP, M, 20LB FILM, LOOSE	22.00	23.00
PARSNIP, M, 20LB FILM, 18-1LB	23.00	24.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, XL, 24" BIN	175.00	200.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, XL, 36" BIN	270.00	300.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, M-L, BUSHEL	20.00	24.00
SQUASH, ACORN, L, 1-1/9	18.00	18.00
SQUASH, ACORN, M, 1-1/9	14.00	16.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, M, 1-1/9	16.00	16.00
SQUASH, DELICATA, S, 1/2 BU	14.00	14.00
SQUASH, KABOCHA, M, 1-1/9	16.00	18.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, M, 1-1/9	15.00	16.00
STRAW BALE, STD, PER BALE	8.00	10.00
STRAW BALE, MINI, PER BALE	6.00	6.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - November 6, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	48.00	52.00
61-75 lbs.	60.00	65.00
76-90 lbs.	80.00	85.00
91-105 lbs.	87.50	90.00
106 lbs. & up	92.50	95.00
Farm Calves	97.50	200.00
Starter Calves	35.00	40.00
Veal Calves	75.00	180.00
Feeder Heifers	120.00	150.00
Beef Heifers	n/a	n/a
Feeder Steers	115.00	170.00
Beef Steers	75.00	90.00
Feeder Bulls	90.00	150.00
Beef Bulls	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	1@	40.00
Butcher Hogs	1@	40.00
Feeder Pigs each	n/a	n/a
Sheep each	45.00	180.00
Lambs each	50.00	260.00
Goats each	85.00	325.00
Kid Goats each	45.00	97.50
Canners	up to	43.50
Cutters	44.00	47.00
Utility Grade Cows	48.00	52.00
Rabbits each	8.00	30.00
Chickens each	4.00	22.50
Ducks each	6.00	10.00

LANCASTER, PA, LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	45.00	49.50
boners 80-85% lean	45.00	49.50
lean 88-90% lean	35.00	42.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	107.00	113.00
Choice 2-3	105.00	108.50
Select 1-2	102.00	104.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/Prime 3-4	74.00	76.50
Choice 2-3	71.00	76.00
Sel 1-2	58.00	66.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	106.00	107.50
Choice 2-3	102.00	106.00
Sel 1-2	91.00	101.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 112-130 lbs	130.00	137.00
No 1 80-110 lbs	140.00	155.00
FEEDER HEIFERS: Medium & Large 1		
200-400 lbs	100.00	105.00
400-500 lbs	105.00	115.00
600-800 lbs	100.00	115.00
800-900 lbs	74.00	88.00
900-1000 lbs	109.00	109.00
1100-1200 lbs	96.00	96.00
FEEDER STEERS: Medium & Large 1		
300-400 lbs	130.00	130.00
400-500 lbs	115.00	127.00
500-700 lbs	122.00	140.00
700-1000 lbs	132.00	132.00
800-900 lbs	105.00	114.00

(Continued from Page 1)

relationships he had built, and were an invaluable resource for him and his colleagues.

The phone on his desk rang a lot, and his office mates never needed to strain to hear his distinctive reedy voice as he bantered with yet another farmer calling with a question.

Although he may not have looked the part, Rick was known as a master decorator of Dept. of Agriculture displays at fairs and other events.

One of his signature creations was a large wooden Connecticut map frame that he would fill to overflowing with an intricate and colorful assortment of vegetables.

The Connecticut Grown display always drew attention and compliments, and was a popular backdrop for visitors to pose for photographs – as well as for children to try to “pick” a vegetable for themselves.

Rick was a workhorse for the agency at the annual Big E in West Springfield, where he did everything from employ his design skills in creating displays to doing grunt work like cleaning and painting the agency's booth in the Connecticut Building.

He was known for mentoring new colleagues and introducing them to farmers and the often-quirky workings of the agricultural industry in Connecticut.

For decades, Rick was the main face of the agency at the Regional Market in Hartford, where for years he did live updates on weekends for a Hartford news radio station.

In his private life, Rick loved to ride his bicycle, hike, fish, kayak and vacation with his family and friends, especially on Cape Cod. He was an accomplished birder who traveled all over the U.S. and to many tropical countries to view native species, and was known for keeping a pair of binoculars near his office

window to spot and point out interesting birds.

But what Rick will be remembered for most in the agricultural community was his passion for helping farmers, especially in navigating the often-complex intersection of agriculture and state government.

Farmers and other members of the agricultural community were in strong attendance at last week's memorial services for Rick in his adopted hometown of South Windsor, and a posting on his passing on the agency's Facebook page drew dozens of messages of condolence and appreciation for his work.

“We will forever miss you Rick,” wrote well-known New Hartford farmer Bruce Gresczyk Jr. “You were an advocate for agriculture who cannot be replaced. More importantly, you were our friend. Rest in peace.”

Over three decades, Rick Macsuga dedicated himself to helping Connecticut farmers be more successful in an ever-evolving marketplace.

He made a positive, meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of many. To much of the agricultural community, Rick was always a friendly and helpful face at the Department of Agriculture.

His illness and passing have left an immeasurable void in our agency and Connecticut's extended agriculture family.

Bless him and his family.

*Steve Reviczky
Agriculture Commissioner*

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

99-R. Feed hay. \$5.00 per bale. Mixed grasses. Le-
dyard, CT. 860-464-9970.

88-R. Beautiful winter squash, Acorn, Butternut, by the box or bin. East Windsor, Conn. Call Karl 860-268-5931 or Glenn 860-930-4331 to arrange pick up.

92-R. Round hay bales – 52" x 48" – Tight, triple plastic wrapped, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, dry, haylage, grass, alfalfa. 200 available. 860-884-2889.

93-R. Christmas greens: wreaths and roping, many sizes and varieties. Excellent for fundraisers. We deliver. 203-457-1344.

95-R. First cut hay bales \$5.00 each. Mulch hay \$3.00 each. Pick up only. Suffield. 860-668-2181.

102-R. 96 X 27 Greenhouse, including furnace, 2 exhaust fans, watering system. \$2,500.00. Negotiable. 860-623-4366 or 860-849-3674.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.

FREE PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE GROWER TRAINING COURSES OFFERED

Several free courses are being offered in upcoming months for growers interested in updating their knowledge of practices to help to minimize food safety risks associated with fresh produce, and to comply with upcoming requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

Larger farms will need to comply with the Produce Safety Rule (PSR) of FSMA starting in January 2018. Compliance includes taking a produce-safety training course such as the ones being offered by UConn Extension and the state Dept. of Agriculture.

The first Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training course will be held November 29-30 at the Middlesex County Extension Center at 1066 Saybrook Road in Haddam.

There is a limit of 30 participants in the course and registration is required by Nov. 15. Future training dates will be Feb. 14-15, 2018, and March 14-15, 2018.

Participants will be eligible to receive a certificate from the Association of Food and Drug Officials that verifies they have completed the training course.

The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement that "at least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration."

Diane Hirsch, a senior extension educator for food safety at UConn and one of the course instructors, said the sessions are also valuable for smaller farms that may be exempt from FSMA.

"Even if you do not need to comply this year, or if you meet the criteria for an exemption, it makes good business sense to take the course so you know what

is needed to help reduce the risk of your product making a customer sick," Hirsch said.

Other instructors are UConn's Candace Bartholomew and New Hartford farmer Bruce Gresczyk Jr. Course participants are expected to gain a basic understanding of:

- Microorganisms relevant to produce safety and where they may be found on the farm.
- How to identify microbial risks, practices that reduce risks, and how to begin implementing produce safety practices on the farm.
- Parts of a farm food safety plan and how to begin writing one.

To register by email, send the following information to diane.hirsch@uconn.edu:

In the subject line, write "PSA Course." In the body of the email, include the name of registrants, the farm or organization name, and a phone number where you can be reached in case of weather issues.

To register by mail, send that information to:

PSA Course
c/o Diane Wright Hirsch
New Haven County Extension Center
305 Skiff Street,
North Haven, CT 06473

The courses are free due to funding by the USDA/CT Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Program.

SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM CHECKS NOW VALID FOR DEPOSIT

With the state budget being signed by Gov. Malloy on Oct. 31, certified farmers who are holding onto 2 million series Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program checks may now deposit them.

All Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) checks (1, 2, and 3 million series) must be deposited and cleared by the holder's financial institution by Nov. 30.

The Dept. of Agriculture thanks all affected growers for their patience during this season. Questions may be directed to Jamie.Smith@ct.gov

Page 1 left: Rick Macsuga at the Regional Market in Hartford.

Page 1 right: Rick with his signature Connecticut Grown display at the Woodstock Fair.

Advertising Rates: Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. Ads must be related to agriculture in Connecticut and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received by noon on Friday before publication the following Wednesday. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and mail copy and remittance to the department at 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701, Hartford, CT 06103. For more information contact Jane.Murdock@ct.gov or call 860-713-2588.

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