

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
September 13, 2017



A "LIMB-BUSTER" APPLE CROP IN CHESHIRE BODES WELL FOR HARVEST STATEWIDE

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

CHESHIRE - After drought and an ill-timed frost produced a disappointing apple harvest statewide last year, grower Eli Drazen was particularly anxious this spring while looking for signals about the fate of the current crop.

He got his answer in late May, when most of the thousands of apple trees in his orchard exploded with white blossoms and tiny fruit that certified the orchard had fully recovered.

"The trees were just covered in blossoms - we call it a snowball bloom," Drazen (pictured above picking Fuji apples) said this week as he continued picking apples during the midst of what he predicts will be a record-setting harvest. "We knew that this year was going to be a real limb-buster."

Drazen said his crop was down about 40-percent last year, as much of his orchard went into dormancy. The lack of apples, as well as peaches that were wiped out in a February freeze, also led to noticeably fewer customer visits to his Wallingford Road farm.

"It meant people didn't come out and pick apples and peaches or buy other things," he said. "It all integrates."

But he believes the period of inactivity that most of his older apple trees experienced in 2016, combined with

plenty of rain this spring and ideal ripening conditions in recent weeks, is the recipe for a bumper year.

"We had all of those factors come together this year," he said. "The trees that went dormant last year and didn't have a crop are just bursting with apples."

Most orchards statewide should experience similar healthy crops, said Brian Kelliher, who runs Easy Pickins' Orchards in Enfield and is President of the Connecticut Apple Marketing Board.

"Last year's crop was very short, but this year all varieties are available," Kelliher said. "We had good pollinating weather and ample rains early on and the cool nights and sunny days recently are making for great color, quality and flavor."

Drazen, whose family has been growing fruit here since 1951, said the warm days and cool nights in the crucial few weeks before harvesting are essential to trigger hormones in the apple that produce a deep red skin and convert the apple's starches into sugars.

While he still grows traditional New England varieties such as Macintosh, Cortland and Red Delicious, Drazen said he has been busy planting newer varieties that are making many of the older ones obsolete. In the past few years, he has planted more than

(Continued on Page 3)

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

XTRA LARGE	.93	1.17
LARGE	.87	1.01
MEDIUM	.68	.81

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

XTRA LARGE	1.57	1.68
LARGE	1.50	1.60
MEDIUM	.94	1.05
SMALL	.57	.69

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	45.00	59.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	45.00	60.00
Sows, US 1-3			
	300-500 lbs	51.50	59.00
	500-800 lbs	49.00	55.50
Boars	400-900 lbs	5.00	7.00

USDA WHOLESALE CUTFLOWERS

September 4, 2017. \$/pack as noted.

AGERATUM, NENG, /BN, L	7.50	7.50
ALLIUM, DRMSTC, NJ, BUNCH	9.00	9.00
AMRNTHS, HNG, XL, NENG, /BN	17.50	17.50
ASCLEPIAS, PA, 10/BN, LNG	8.50	10.00
CELOSIA, PA, PLUMOSA, BN, L	8.50	8.50
CORNFLOWER, CA, 25/BN, XL	15.00	15.00
DAHLIA, 5/BN, PA, LONG	10.00	10.00
DELPHNM, HYB, NENG, 10/BN	14.00	14.00
GLAD, STD, CA, 10/BN, LNG	13.50	15.00
GOMPHRENA, PA, /BN, LONG	8.50	8.50
LAVENDER, PA, PER BN, LNG	10.00	10.00
LILY, ASIATIC, ME, 10 /BN, XL	13.50	13.50
LISANTHUS, NENG, 10/BN, L	17.50	18.50
QUN ANNE LACE, CA, /BN, L	8.50	8.50
RUDBECKIA, PA, PER BN, L	8.50	8.50
SCABIOSA, PA, 10/BN, L	13.50	15.00
SEDUM, NENG, /BN, L	12.00	12.50
STOCK, CA, DBL, 5/BN, LNG	12.00	12.00
SUNFLOWER, NENG, 5/BN, XL	6.50	6.50
SUNFLOWER, NENG, 5/BN, L	5.00	5.00
SUNFLOWER, MA, 10/BN, L	10.00	12.50
YARROW, YLW, CD, /BN, L	8.50	8.50
ZINNIA, NENG, /BN, LONG	7.00	7.50
ZINNIA, PA, /BN, LONG	7.50	7.50

**CONNECTICUT FARM-TO-SCHOOL
LOCAL PURCHASE**Product procured from growers and producers to
State of Connecticut school districts during the
months of August 2016 to June 2017. \$/per case.

APPLES, WHOLE, 44 LB	26.75	29.25
APPLES, WEDGES, 6 LB	38.25	38.25
CAULIFLOWER, 14 LB	28.00	28.00
CARROTS, BABY, 32 LBS	30.50	30.50
CARROTS, STICKS, 22 LBS	30.50	30.50
CELERY, 22 LBS	41.75	41.75
CUKES, 45 LBS	35.00	35.00
KALE, 7 LBS	19.25	25.50
ROMAINE, 12 LBS	19.75	19.75
SPINACH, 12 LB	20.50	20.50
PEPPERS, BELL, 25 LBS	16.00	16.00
PEPPERS, OTHER 15 LBS	20.00	20.00
SQUASH, 22 LBS	13.25	19.75
TOMATOES, RED, 11 LBS	22.95	27.95

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

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	14.00
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12- 40Z	16.50	16.50
APPLE, MAC, US FCY, TRYPK 80	21.00	21.00
APPLE, MAC, US FCY, TRYPK 88	21.00	21.00
APPLE, MAC, USFCY, TRYPK 100	21.00	21.00
APPLE, MAC, NG, LOOSE	21.00	21.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, NG, LOOSE	21.00	21.00
APPLE, GINGRGOLD, BU, LOOSE	20.00	21.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY, 72	38.00	38.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY, 80	38.00	38.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, FCY, TRAY, 88	38.00	38.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, NG, LOOSE	55.00	55.00
APPLE, PAULA RED, BU, LOOSE	18.00	21.00
BEANS, CRANBERRY, BU	42.00	45.00
BEANS, FLAT GREEN, BU	25.00	25.00
BEANS, GRN, HNDPKD, BU	15.00	15.00
BEANS, WAX, BU	25.00	32.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEETS, RED, 12 BNCH/CRATE	15.00	15.00
BROCCOLI, BUNCHED, 14	12.00	14.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, M, 50 LBS	14.00	14.00
CABBAGE, RED, M, 50 LBS	18.00	18.00
CARROTS, 10-5 LB FILM	14.00	14.00
CARROT, 25 LB SACK, LOOSE	10.00	11.00
CHIVES, 1 LB, BNCHED 12	8.00	11.00
CIDER, 4- 1 GALLON	21.00	22.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	22.50	25.00
COLLARDS, CRATE, BNCHD, 12	13.00	13.00
CORN, 5 DOZ	12.00	18.00
KALE, BUNCHED, 12	13.00	15.00
LETTUCE, BOSTON, 24	15.00	15.00
MINT, 1/2 BU, BUNCHED 12	10.00	12.00
MUSTARD, 12	15.00	16.00
PEPPER, GREEN BELL, XL, 1-1/9	10.00	12.00
PEPPER, GREEN BELL, L, 1-1/9	9.00	10.00
POTATO, RND WHT, CHF, 50LB	14.00	16.00
POTATO, RND WHT, SZA, 50LB	14.00	16.00
POTATO, RSST, #1, 80, 50 LBS	20.00	20.00
POTATO, YELLOW, CHF, 50LB	18.00	19.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, 36"BIN	300.00	300.00
SQUASH, ACORN, M, 1-1/9	23.00	23.00
SQUASH, BTTRNUT, S, 1-1/9	28.00	28.00
SQUASH, SPAGHET, S, 1-1/9	25.00	25.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, S, 1/2 BU	18.00	18.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, M, 1/2 BU	15.00	16.00
SQUASH, ZUCH, SM, 1/2 BU	16.00	16.00
SQUASH, ZUCH, MED, 1/2 BU	12.00	12.00
SWISS CHARD, RED, 12/CRATE	15.00	15.00
TARRAGON, 1 LB, BUNCHED 12	10.00	10.00
TOM, GHS, CHRRY, ONVINE, 5 LB	13.00	14.00
TOM, GHS, CHRRY, 8-10 OZ	20.00	24.00
TOM, GHS, HEIRLOOM, 10 LBS	28.00	30.00
TOMS, GHS, 11 LBS, ON VINE	12.00	14.00
TOMATOES, XL, 20 LBS	15.00	15.00
TOMATOES, XL, 25 LBS	16.00	16.00
TOMATOES, JUMBO, 25 LBS	16.00	16.00
TOMATOES, PLUM, 25 LBS	14.00	18.00
TURNIP TOP GREENS, 12 BN	15.00	16.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - September 11, 2017

Bob Calves:	LOW	HIGH
45-60 lbs.	35.00	38.00
61-75 lbs.	67.50	73.00
76-90 lbs.	75.00	82.00
91-105 lbs.	150.00	155.00
106 lbs. & up	160.00	162.50
Farm Calves	165.00	167.50
Starter Calves	24.00	32.00
Veal Calves	85.00	130.00
Feeder Heifers	85.00	97.50
Beef Heifers	65.00	82.00
Feeder Steers	50.00	75.00
Beef Steers	70.00	106.00
Feeder Bulls	75.00	107.50
Beef Bulls	79.00	86.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	1@	0.1/lb
Sows	1@	.27/lb
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	n/a	n/a
Sheep each	87.50	110.00
Lambs each	120.00	240.00
Goats each	67.00	335.00
Kid Goats each	35.00	97.50
Canners	up to	54.50
Cutters	55.00	58.00
Utility Grade Cows	59.00	64.00
Rabbits each	3.00	17.00
Chickens each	3.00	15.00
Ducks each	4.00	7.00

**LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK
SUMMARY**

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	58.00	64.50
boners 80-85% lean	58.00	63.50
lean 88-90% lean	52.00	59.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	105.00	110.00
Choice 2-3	100.00	105.00
Select 1-2	96.50	109.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	96.00	101.00
Choice 2-3	93.00	95.00
Sel 1-2	84.00	89.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	100.00	102.00
Choice 2-3	95.00	99.00
Sel 1-2	90.00	92.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 90-130 lbs	100.00	117.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn Markets:		
Choice 2-3		
90-110 lbs	210.00	230.00
110-130 lbs	197.00	230.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	100.00	130.00
120-160 lbs	85.00	120.00
160-200 lbs	72.00	115.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
40-60 lbs	140.00	175.00
60-80 lbs	175.00	215.00
80-100 lbs	215.00	240.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS & BILLIES: Sel 1		
80-100 lbs	285.00	310.00
100-150 lbs	300.00	325.00
150-250 lbs	320.00	365.00

(Continued from Page 1)

1,500 dwarf Honeycrisp trees.

"Honeycrisp is a big thing - we don't seem to be able to plant enough of them," he said. "The phone rings off the hook with people looking for them."

New trees are planted three feet apart and trained on multiple horizontal trellis wires that spread the branches, allowing more sunlight to penetrate and making the rows easier to spray and pick.

The dwarf and trellis system allows him to plant about 1,200 trees per acre, as opposed to the 200 or so in traditional orchards with larger trees.

Retail sales are driven by pick-your-own and the farm's brightly-lit stand, which also offers vegetables and other items produced at an array of other local farms.

The stand is run by Drazen's wife, Won Hee Lee, who has developed a regular customer base of her fellow Koreans in the area.

"They love good fruit and they buy a lot of it," Drazen said on a weekday morning as one Korean family picked apples and another shopped in the farm stand. Drazen said his Korean customers often buy large quantities so they can give some to family and friends as gifts, a tradition that he also sees being practiced by his many Eastern European customers.

Beside the expansion of the apple orchard, Drazen also planted about 1,000 blueberry bushes this spring that enabled the farm's first pick-your-own harvest.

He also planted about 200 new peach trees that were developed in Canada and designed to withstand colder temperatures and frost.

To accommodate the increased production, and assisted by matching grants from the state Department of Agriculture, the farm has expanded its drip-

irrigation system and its cold-storage room and is building a new packing shed behind the retail stand.

"We have a lot going on," Drazen said with a slight smile as he showed a visitor around the farm. "Or maybe we're gluttons for punishment."

The CT Apple Marketing Board's (CAMB) website, www.ctapples.org, offers information on the state's growers and apple varieties, as well as a free digital app that can be downloaded from Google Play or the iTunes store.

The app features interactive maps leading to orchards and information on apple varieties that customers can use right in the orchards while picking.

There are also Kids' Resource and Teacher's Resource pages to find activities and posters to download for free.

More information is available at the CAMB Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and Twitter pages.

**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.

83-R. John Deere loader; yellow machine, gas, chains, 1 -1/4 yard bucket. Well maintained. \$5,000.00. 860-933-6918.

84-R. Farm Truck: 1999 Chevy K-3500, 4 wheel drive, towing package, hydraulic/electric Meyers snowplow. Frame good. \$5,800.00. 860-481-0029.

86-R. Bright, clean rye straw, round bales ore squares. Also, rye seed for cover crop. 860-355-1264.

85-R. Willington, 47.29 acres. Two hay fields and pond. 540' frontage on Route 44. Property backs onto Nipmuck/blue trail and Willington Conservation area. Six-minute drive to UCONN center. 860-872-6637 or 860614-5954.

87. Registered 5 year old Jersey cow. Would make great family cow. Calved once already. Bred and due in October. \$1,100. 860-688-2341.

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.

89-R. 1/2 bushel apple baskets. Truck load sale: 1,000 or more = \$2 each. 500 or more = \$3 each. Less than 500 = \$4 each. Call Doug 860-657-4172.

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.

81-R. Lynn Blackmer, Nationwide Farm Master Certified Agent, Woodstock, CT. Farm (most any type of agriculture), commercial/business, life insurance and more! Cell: 860-377-8947. Early morning, evening, or weekend appointments available.



FARM VIABILITY GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE NOVEMBER 13

Grant guidelines and applications for the Department of Agriculture's Farm Viability Grant program are available online and must be submitted by November 13.

The Farm Viability Grant can provide matching funds to Connecticut municipalities, groups of municipalities, regional councils of governments, and/or agricultural non-profit organizations for projects that foster agricultural viability. Please note this program may be limited by the availability of funding.

The maximum award under this program is \$49,999. Applicants must provide a 40% match through cash or in-kind services.

Previously funded projects have included town-owned farm improvements, efforts related to farmland preservation, the purchase of processing equipment to increasing the availability of Connecticut Grown products year-round in schools, and a host of other efforts that foster agriculture viability.

Grant guidelines and forms can be found at

www.CTGrown.gov/grants.

Workshops on how to write a project plan and apply for the grant will be held in three locations:

- East of the River: Thursday, October 5, 2017 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Tolland County Extension Center at 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT.
- West of the River: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the United Way Northern Fairfield County Office, 301 Main Street, Suite 2-5, Danbury CT.
- Central Connecticut: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the Connecticut Farm Bureau at 78 Beaver Road, Suite 2A, Wethersfield, CT.

Please RSVP at least 24 hours prior to the meeting to Mark Hood, 860-713-2530 or Mark.Hood@ct.gov. Directions and parking information will be emailed to all meeting attendees.

Top left: Won Hee Lee arranging fruit on sale at the Drazen Orchards farm stand.

Middle: A row of mature Empire trees on left and newly-planted Honeycrisp on right.

Bottom: A graphic that is part of the Dept. of Agriculture's promotion of Connecticut Grown apples this month on social media and broadcast and internet radio.

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.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701, Hartford CT 06103.

Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2017.

VOL. XCVII, No. 35 Sept. 13, 2017

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