



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
 Dannel P. Malloy, Governor  
 Steven K. Revczky, Commissioner



Linda Piotrowicz, Editor  
 Wednesday, December 12, 2012

## **NOTES from the DEPARTMENT**

### **WATER QUALITY IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION**

*By Mark Zotti, Marketing and Inspection Representative*

Like the human body, fruits and vegetables are composed mostly of water. Throughout the growing process, agricultural producers rely upon water for irrigating, fertigating (fertilizing using irrigation), drinking, washing, and cleaning. The quality of that water affects the overall quality of the consumed product. Proper testing and management is required to maintain this important tool and reduce the risk for microbial contamination.

It would be ideal if all water met drinking water standards, but that is unrealistic for most untreated surface water. Testing is the only way to know for sure if water is appropriate for its intended uses. This sounds simple enough, but when dealing with water in an agricultural operation, different uses may allow for different water quality standards. The first step in assessing on-farm water is to identify its use. This will help determine what the test results need to show.

Producers take great care when harvesting product and preparing it for sale. No one would knowingly apply contaminated water to a product. Water used just prior to harvest and through post-harvest activities should be tested to verify that it meets the State of Connecticut Drinking Water Standards.

The quality of the water used during post-harvest activities should be closely monitored. This includes water used in dump tanks, water baths, or final rinses. Foodborne illnesses have been linked to poor-quality water used in post-harvest practices. A variation between the temperature of the water and the fruit/vegetable coming in contact with that water can cause the product to absorb the water.

If there are any bacteria in that water, they, too, will be absorbed, leading to a potential foodborne illness. Many farm operations have temperature monitoring systems and/or water treatment systems that maintain water quality.

Any water used for drinking and hand-washing should also meet drinking water standards. For more information about drinking water standards and for a list of water-testing laboratories, see the

drinking water section of the Connecticut Department of Public Health's website at [http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3139&q=387304&dphNav=|&dphNav\\_GID=1824](http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3139&q=387304&dphNav=|&dphNav_GID=1824).

Water used during other parts of an agricultural production process also needs to be evaluated. The quality of the water used in irrigation, fertigation, and spray applications will be determined by the crop, the type of application method, the amount of time between application and harvest, and post-harvest handling practices. It is important that growers take these items into consideration when assessing their water, its uses, and the quality of the water needed.

It is also important to note that certain agricultural products have a higher risk of contamination. Producers should take greater care when assessing water and growing practices on such items.

Fortunately water in Connecticut is fairly accessible. Understanding water sources, quality, and uses can help develop an on-farm strategy to maximize production along with the safest growing techniques. This will start with the water source.

Water sources fall into one of three categories: surface water, ground water, and municipal water.

Surface water used in farming operations generally comes from a stream, river, lake, or farm pond. The quality of this water often varies and may be subject to temporary contamination from a variety of factors. Potential contaminants can vary from previous land use, wastewater discharge, or upstream runoff.

These sources can be difficult to protect from outside contaminants and should be tested frequently before and throughout peak usage. In Connecticut, it is recommended that all surface water be tested at least three times:

1. prior to usage;
2. during peak usage;
3. prior to the end of usage.

*(continued on Page 4)*



**WHOLESALE HERBS  
U.S./INTERNATIONAL**

	Low	High
BASIL, 1lb, HI	6.00	8.00
CLRY ROOT, 20lb, CN	18.00	22.00
CILANTRO, 30s, AZ	10.00	14.00
HRSRDSH, 5lb, MS	19.00	19.00
MINT, Crtns, 12s, FL	10.00	12.00
OREGANO, 1lb, FL	7.00	8.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION**

December 10, 2012

Hogs sold by actual weights, prices quoted by hundred weight.

49-54	220-300 lbs	59.00-62.00
	300-400 lbs	59.50-60.00
45-49	220-300 lbs	55.00-58.00
	270-300 lbs	n/a
	300-400 lbs	51.00-54.00
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	47.00-49.50
	500-700 lbs	50.00-54.00
Boars:	300-700lbs	17.00-20.00

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, December 10, 2012

Live animals brought the following ave. prices per cwt.

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	32.00	40.00
61-75 lbs.	52.00	60.00
76-90 lbs.	65.00	72.00
91-105 lbs.	80.00	85.00
106 lbs. & up	92.50	95.00
Farm Calves	97.50	102.50
Starter Calves	35.00	45.00
Veal Calves	65.00	77.50
Open Heifers	71.00	100.00
Beef Steers	77.50	97.50
Beef Heifers	65.00	90.00
Feeder Steers	84.00	127.50
Stock Bulls	82.50	100.50
Beef Bulls	86.00	91.00
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	Two at	60.00
Goats each	65.00	190.00
Kid Goats	55.00	90.00
Canners	Up to	63.75
Cutters	64.00	66.75
Utility Grade Cows	67.50	70.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	3.00	18.00
Rabbits each	4.00	17.00
Chickens each	8.00	21.00
Ducks each	Five at	40.00
Feeder Pigs	120.00	180.00
Lambs	105.00	135.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES  
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	Low	High
APPLE, Empr, 96ct, fcy	26.00	26.00
APPLE, Gala, 100ct, fcy	26.00	26.00
APPLE, Gala, 12-3lb, fcy, 2-1/2"	24.00	24.00
APPLE, Gld del, 100ct, fcy	26.00	26.00
APPLE, Mac, 80ct, fcy	27.00	27.00
APPLE, Mac, 96ct, fcy	26.00	26.00
APPLE, Mac, 120ct, fcy	25.00	25.00
APPLE, Mac, 12-3lb, fcy, 2-1/2"	21.00	21.00
APPLE, Rd del, 100ct, fcy	25.00	25.00
CRANBRRY, 24-12oz, Hwe md	32.00	34.00
CIDER, 4/1gal	23.00	23.00
CIDER, 9 1/2gal	27.00	27.00
PARSNIPS, 25lb	21.00	21.00
POTATOES, 10lb, szA	2.00	2.00
POTATOES, 10/5lb	11.00	13.00
POTATOES, Rsst, 90ct	11.00	11.00
RUTABAGA, 50lb	14.00	14.00
SQUASH, Bttrnt, 1-1/9	10.00	13.00
SQUASH, Bttrnt, bin, per lb	.18	.23
TOMATOES, Vn ripe, 25lb, gh, loose	14.00	16.00
TOMATOES, Vn ripe, 12lb, gh	26.00	27.00
SQUASH, Acrn, 1-1/9bu	10.00	13.00
TURNIPS, 25lb, Prpl top	10.00	10.00

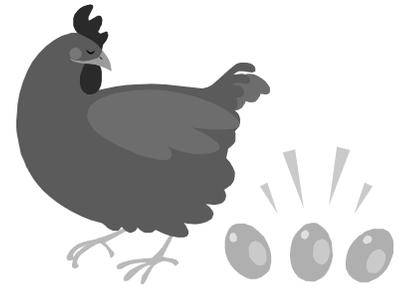


(Boston Terminal and wholesale grower prices)

**NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

December 10, 2012

	Bulk/	High/	Low Dressing
<b>SLAUGHTER COWS:</b>			
Breakers	75-80% lean		
	64.00-69.00	70.00-73.50	58.00-63.50
Boners	80-85% lean		
	62.00-66.00	67.00-72.50	55.00-61.00
Lean	85-90% lean		
	58.00-64.00	65.00-67.00	52.00-58.00
<b>CALVES: All prices per cwt.</b>			
Graded Bull Calves			
	No.1 80-135lbs	110.00-122.00	
	No.2 95-120lbs	100.00-110.00	
	No.3- 95-120lbs	80.00-95.00	
Slaughter bulls	975--1825lb	88.00-93.00	
Holstein Heifers No.1	90-110lb	110.00-135.00	
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:</b>			
Wooled & Shorn Choice and Prime 2-3			
	50-60lbs	167.00-190.00	
	60-70lbs	160.00-168.00	
	70-80lbs	n/a	
	80-90lbs	n/a	
	90-105lbs	n/a	



**WEEKLY NEW ENGLAND  
SHELL EGGS**

Prices paid per dozen. Grade A brown eggs in cartons, delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.77-1.87
LARGE	1.66-1.76
MEDIUM	1.22-1.32

**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA**

December 10, 2012

Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA Grade A and Grade A, white eggs in cartons, per dozen. (Range)

EXTRA LARGE	1.38-1.42
LARGE	1.36-1.40
MEDIUM	1.11-1.15

**PENNSYLVANIA GRAIN SUMMARY**

December 10, 2012

Eastern/Central Pennsylvania

Corn No 2 (per bu)	6.92-7.87
Wheat No 2 (per bu)	7.50-9.31
Oats No 2 (per bu)	4.15-6.00
Soybeans No 2 (per bu)	13.00-14.02
Ear Corn (per ton)	185.00-215.00



**Wooled & Shorn Good & Choice 1-3**

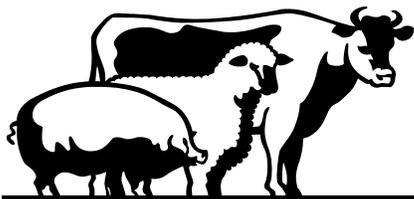
50-60lbs	137.00-150.00
60-100lbs	124.00-148.00
110-130lbs	118.00-130.00

**SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3: Med. Flesh**

90-110lbs	76.00-100.00
110-150lbs	76.00-90.00
Utility 1-2: Thin Flesh	
125-160lbs	56.00-70.00
160-200lb	54.00-62.00

**SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1, sold by the head, on est. weights.**

40-45lbs	76.00-82.00
50-80lbs	112.00-128.00
80-100lbs	126.00-140.00
Nannies/Does: 100-125lbs	126.00-155.00
130-140lbs	132.00-150.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-145lbs	188.00-252.00
150-180lbs	190.00-292.00
Selection 2	
110-145lbs	120.00-200.00



## ADVERTISEMENTS

### FOR SALE

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

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122-R. High Quality Christmas Trees: Fraser-Canaan-Balsam-Nordman-Concolor-Blue Spruce-Meyer Spruce-Discounted Commercial Grades available also! Hartikka Tree Farms (800)508-5099

[www.treeman2.com](http://www.treeman2.com)

145-R Christmas greens, wreaths, roping, kissing balls, many sizes and varieties. Samples gladly shown. 203-457-1344.

155-R. Blue Slope Sawdust. Sawdust, Bagged Shavings, Compost, picked up or delivered. Phone 860-642-7084. [blueslopesawdust@hotmail.com](mailto:blueslopesawdust@hotmail.com)

157-R. Three Hereford Heifers, 18-20 months, breed, \$950 each. 860-536-2588.

158 1939 International H. 100% mechanically sound. Needs Paint. Good Christmas present. 860-857-3702.

159. Welder, Sears Craftsman. Cream separator, manual or PTO operation. Rabbit supplies (housing/feeder). Negotiable prices. 860-345-4302, leave message.

### MISCELLANEOUS

7-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-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

**The Connecticut Week Agricultural Report offers affordable classified advertisements for your farm-related needs. See Page 4 for details and rates, or call Jane Slupecki at 860-713-258 for more information.**

### FREE FOOD HUB WEBINAR DEC 17

Farm Credit East will host a free webinar, *Food Hubs: What are They? Why do They Matter to the Northeast?*, on Monday, December 17, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.

With the increasing interest in local food, there has been a great deal of discussion about how to connect local and regional farmers with consumers. Some of this discussion has centered around "food hubs."

Join us as James Barham, Ph.D, an agricultural economist with the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, defines what a food hub is. Using examples from around the country, he will talk about what they can bring to a community, how they benefit agriculture, and why they matter to the Northeast.

In addition, Ms. Malini Ram Moraghan, investments managing director from Wholesome Wave, will join us to discuss some specific examples of food hubs they have worked with.

Webinar is free, but registration at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/133756785> is required.

### WATER QUALITY IN FRUIT AND VEG PRODUCTION

*(continued from Page 1)*

Having surface water available can be an asset to farming operations but it is important to monitor its quality and properly use this resource.

Ground water is water that collects below the earth's surface and is retrieved from a well. This type of water can be affected by surface water, so monitoring is important. These water tests should be performed twice a year:

1. before use;
2. during peak usage.

In addition to testing the well water, the well should be properly constructed and frequently inspected to maintain water quality and prevent outside contamination.

Municipal water is water supplied from a controlled water source and is closely monitored to verify it meets the State of Connecticut Drinking Water Standards. This option is often the most expensive but the quality will not impose usage restrictions.

When getting water tested, specify what the testing laboratory is testing for. Many labs provide testing for testing drinking water standards but infrequently test for other water quality standards.

Be specific when requesting what the test results should show. Request a test that identifies the presence of indicator bacteria. These indicator bacteria signify whether there is a presence of potential contamination. Request that test results show two measurements of the indicator bacteria:

1. geometric mean per 100 milliliters (XXX/100ml);
2. single-sample maximum per 100 milliliters (XXX/100ml).

If elevated levels are present, further testing is recommended to determine what specifically the problem may be.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse Planning and Standards Division provides Connecticut Water Quality Standards (WQS) that establish designated uses for surface and ground waters.

The WQS lists surface water classes AA, A, B as approved water supply for agriculture uses. WQS lists different water classes and the criteria (geometric mean/100ml and single-sample maximum/100ml) for each of these classes.

See [http://ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/water/water\\_quality\\_standards/wqs\\_final\\_adopted\\_2\\_25\\_11.pdf](http://ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/water/water_quality_standards/wqs_final_adopted_2_25_11.pdf) for more information about water classes and indicator bacteria levels.

Remember, having a well-protected, good-quality water source is an asset to any agricultural operation. Even with such a resource, proper management tools are needed to maintain the integrity of that source.

Identify the intended uses of that water and get it tested. Poor water quality can be corrected. All producers should look at the products grown and assess their potential for microbial contamination based on production methods.

Unfortunately, there is no way to totally exclude a risk of microbial contamination, but by addressing the water sources and incorporating good agricultural practices, all growers can reduce their risk of microbial contamination.

Water may be a source that can lead to contamination, but it is also a tool that, when properly managed, can be an asset in producing the safest possible fruits and vegetables.

**AGVOCATE MATERIALS NOW AVAILABLE**

Two guides presented at the November 29, 2012, AGvocate workshop in Canterbury are now available for download.

The document presented by Nate Kelly of the Horsley Witten Group can be downloaded at <http://tinyurl.com/farmforestguide>.

It was developed through the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and designed to assist towns better manage accessory businesses in rural areas and to help residents and farmers supplement their income, preserve farm and forest operations, and protect neighbors from unintended impacts.

Nate may be contacted at [nkelly@horsleywitten.com](mailto:nkelly@horsleywitten.com).

The document presented by John Guszowski of CME Associates, Inc., can be downloaded at <http://tinyurl.com/ctlivestockguide>.

This guide presents key considerations for land-use policies encouraging appropriate livestock and other agricultural uses in all types of communities, with suggested regulatory language and key technical resources.

It is the result of a project undertaken by Eastern Connecticut RC&D, in association with the American Farmland Trust, UConn Extension, Connecticut Farm Bureau, and USDA-NRCS.

**UConn WINTER RIDING CLASSES BEGIN JAN 7**

UConn's Department of Animal Science is offering a three-week winter horse riding lesson program open to the public. Lessons begin on January 7, 2013. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Go to [www.animalscience.uconn.edu](http://www.animalscience.uconn.edu) or contact [Alena.Meacham@uconn.edu](mailto:Alena.Meacham@uconn.edu) for more info.

**SIGN UP FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS BY FEB 15**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) has announced that applications for three federal conservation programs will be ranked for possible funding on February 15, 2013.

Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program – Working Lands for Wildlife, and the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program (all authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill), farmers and landowners may get financial and technical assistance to protect soil, water, and other natural resources.

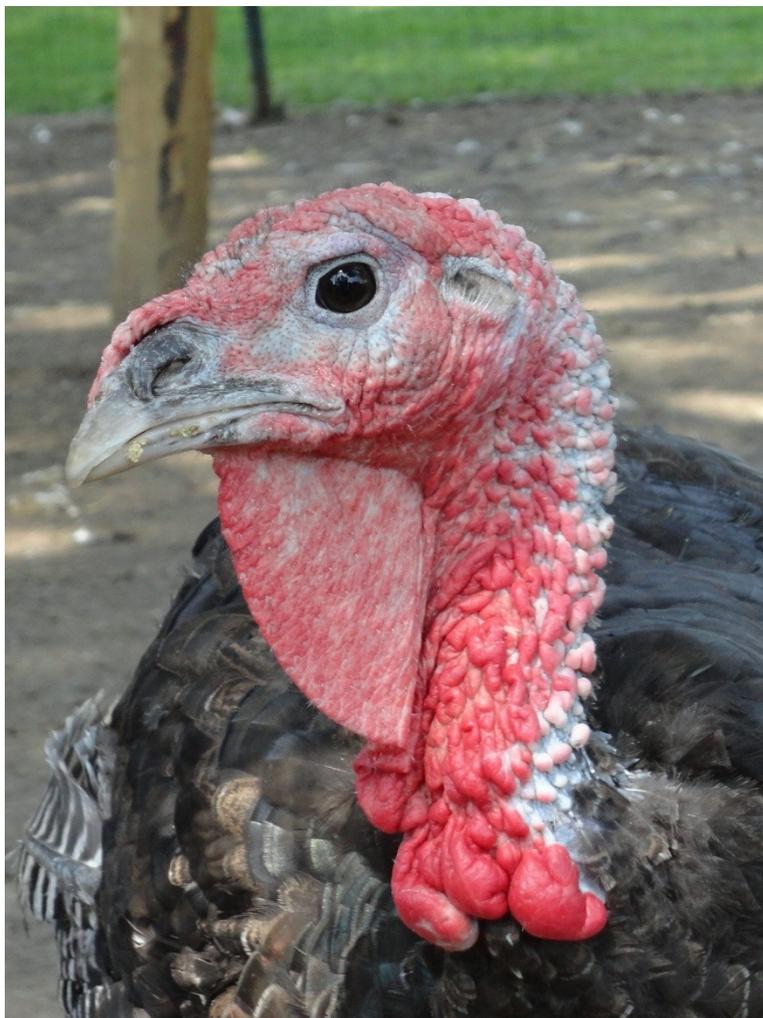
Five national EQIP initiatives will also be available in Connecticut. They include the Long Island Sound Partnership, and the On-Farm Energy, Organic, Seasonal High Tunnel, and New England/New York Forestry Initiatives.

The New England/New York Forestry Initiative is offered to non-industrial, private forest landowners to implement forest management plans on their land.

For more information or to apply, visit [www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/programs](http://www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/programs) or contact your nearest USDA field office.

**NEW ENGLAND MEAT CONFERENCE MAR 22-23**

Save the date! The first New England Meat Conference will be held March 22-23, 2013. A preliminary agenda has been posted at [www.newenglandmeatconference.org](http://www.newenglandmeatconference.org) but is still under developments. Check website often for updates.



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**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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