



Connecticut Department of Agriculture

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor; Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
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Marketing & Technology Bureau, (860) 713-2503

Linda Piotrowicz, Interim Editor
Wednesday, April 6, 2011

NOTES from the DEPARTMENT . . .

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION INVESTIGATES NEW SPECIALTY CROPS

By Dr. Abigail A. Maynard, Department of Forestry and Horticulture, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Investigation of new crops is essential to provide new opportunities for farmers during a time of changing agriculture in Connecticut. Tobacco and dairy farming in Connecticut have declined dramatically in the last four decades. According to the USDA Census of Agriculture, acreage of tobacco declined from 8700 acres in 1965 to 3100 acres in 2007. The number of Connecticut's dairy farms has declined from 452 in 1986 to 269 in 2007. Although the numbers are unknown, some tobacco and dairy farms converted to other crops including vegetables, nursery stock, and Christmas trees; and some diversified to provide supplemental income. Today, about 11,000 acres in Connecticut are devoted to vegetable production. Seventy-nine percent of these farms are less than 100 acres in size; sixty-three percent are less than 50 acres in size. With these numerous small farms, there is a need for growers to find a diversity of high-value niche crops.

Small farm sizes in Connecticut have also resulted in marketing shifts from wholesale contracts with local supermarkets to direct retail sales. Approximately 440 farms offer direct sales through roadside stands and sales rooms, where a variety of fruit, vegetables, nursery stock, and Christmas trees are offered. About 36 of these are open all year. Nearly 30% of these farms offer pick-your-own fruit and vegetables to reduce the cost of harvest labor. These savings are passed on to the consumer.

The development of a network of farmers' markets in Connecticut's major urban centers and densely populated suburbs is an important segment of direct sales of vegetables to consumers. All produce sold at farmers' markets must be "Connecticut Grown." Farm-fresh produce is offered at reasonable prices to urbanites who cannot travel to the farms. Niche crops valued by diverse ethnic groups are generally sold at these markets. According to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, there were 115 farmers' markets in 2010, attended by over 400 farmers compared to 87 markets in 2007, a 32% increase.

As the popularity of farmers' markets in Connecticut have surged, so too has the need for growers to find a diversity of high-

value niche crops. Consumers used to a wide variety of fruits and vegetables in large supermarkets are seeking a greater diversity of ethnic and specialty crops at farmers' markets and roadside stands. A recent survey of vegetable growers by The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station showed that over 70 vegetable crops are currently being grown in Connecticut. Since 1982, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has been investigating specialty crops to provide new opportunities for Connecticut's farmers. Over 40 fruits and vegetables have been studied resulting in over 50 publications. Some of the crops studied in the New Crops Program include globe artichoke, heirloom tomatoes, radicchio, specialty melons, sweet potato, okra, and tomatillas. Research included variety trials and experiments to determine the best cultural methods for growing each crop in Connecticut. Crops that were chosen have a high market value and an existing or expanding market that would readily accommodate these commodities.

Recent research in the New Crops Program has concentrated on vegetables of interest to ethnic populations, such as calabaza, jilo, and vegetable amaranth (callaloo). According to the 2009 census, 11% of Connecticut's residents are of Hispanic heritage and 16% are of Italian ancestry (ranking it first in the United States). The Asian population grew 42% from 2000 to 2006. The greatest concentrations of these ethnic groups are in Hartford, New Haven, and Fairfield Counties where many of the farmers' markets are located. In addition, there is a large Brazilian population in the Waterbury-Danbury area. These ethnic groups wish to continue consumption of vegetables that are customarily in their diets, thereby giving farmers opportunities for production of crops with a ready market. Ethnic vegetables also appeal to high-end buyers for whom ethnic vegetables are not everyday fare, but who enjoy gourmet produce and culinary variety. Many farmers wish to diversify their operations by growing specialty crops, but there has been little information on the culture of these vegetables in Connecticut. It is also important that cultural techniques for these vegetables be adapted to Connecticut's soils and climate.

Currently, seven specialty vegetables and two specialty fruits are being studied as part of the New Crops Program at our Lockwood Farm in Hamden and at our Valley Laboratory in Windsor.

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NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA

April 4, 2011

Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA Grade A and Grade A, white eggs in cartons, warehouse, centers per dozen.

EXTRA LARGE	114-117
LARGE	110-114
MEDIUM	98-100

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, Conn., April 4, 2011

Live animals brought the following average prices / cwt. (provided by Middlesex Livestock Auction)

There will be an Easter Lamb and Kid Goat Sale on Monday, April 18, 2:00 pm sharp, at the Middlesex Auction.

Bob Calves:	Low	High
45-60 lbs.	31.00	40.00
61-75 lbs.	45.00	55.00
76-90 lbs.	65.00	75.00
91-105 lbs.	77.50	82.50
106 lbs. & up	85.00	100.00
Farm Calves	105.00	155.00
Started Calves	42.50	48.00
Veal Calves	65.00	117.50
Open Heifers	65.00	96.00
Beef Heifers	71.50	105.00
Feeder Steers	94.00	112.00
Beef Steers	79.00	86.00
Stock Bulls	65.00	100.00
Beef Bulls	78.00	81.00
Sows	One at	42.00
Lambs each	65.00	185.00
Goats each	75.00	140.00
Kid Goats each	40.00	72.50
Canners	Up to	65.50
Cutters	66.00	71.00
Utility Grade Cows	72.00	79.00
Rabbits each	7.00	35.00
Chickens each	6.00	25.00
Ducks each	10.00	23.00

ORGANIC FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

APPLES, Fuji, 88ct, WA	47.50	47.50
APPLES, Gala, 113ct xfcy, WA	46.75	46.75
BANANAS, 40lb, CR	26.50	26.50
BEETS, 25lb sacks, CA	41.00	41.50
BOK CHOY, 35lb, FL	27.50	27.50
CILANTRO, 30s, GA	27.75	27.75
LEMONS, 110ct, CA	41.25	41.25
MESCLUN, 3lb	19.75	19.75
MUSHROOMS, Prtbla, 5lb, md	18.00	18.50
MUSHROOMS, Shtke, 3lb, md-ig, PA	22.00	23.00
MUSHROOM, White, 10lb, ig, PA	21.00	23.00
ONION, 40lb, md, WA	29.00	29.00
ORANGES, Navel, 72ct, CA	28.25	28.25
PEARS, Bartlett, 90sz, ARG	47.50	47.50
PEPPER, Bell, Green, .xl, FL	62.25	62.25
SPINACH, 4lb, AZ	17.00	17.00
STRAWBERRIES, 8/1lb, CA	30.00	30.50
SWISS CHARD, 24s, CA	18.00	19.00

NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Monday, April 4, 2011

Bulk/ High/ Low Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:

Breakers 75-80%lean	73.00-77.50	67.50-71.00
Boners 80-85% lean	71.50-74.00	76.00-81.00
Lean 85-90% lean	67.50-71.00	73.00-76.00
	63.00-67.00	

SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1

1640-1900 lbs 92.00-97.00

FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

APPLE CIDER, 4 one-gallon	18.00	18.00
APPLE CIDER, 9 half-gallons	20.00	20.00
APPLES, Empire 80ct, xfcy	20.00	22.00
APPLES, Macintosh xfcy 100 ct	22.00	23.00
APPLES, Red Delicious, 12/3lb, xfcy	18.00	18.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10lb film	4.50	5.00
LETTUCE, Boston, Greenhouse 12/4oz	14.00	16.00
TOMATOES, Greenhouse 15lb flat	32.00	32.00

SHIPPED IN

ARUGULA, 4lb bag, AZ	10.00	12.00
ASPARAGUS, 11lb lg, CA	18.00	18.00
BEANS, Green Handpicked bu, FL	16.00	18.00
BLACKBERRIES, 12/6oz, MX	16.00	20.00
BROCCOLI, 14ct, FL	13.00	13.00
CABBAGE, Green md,50lb, GA	16.00	17.00
CABBAGE, Nappa 50lb FL	14.00	18.00
CANTALOUPE,9ct, CR	11.00	13.00
CORN, 4 half-dz, FL	16.00	18.00
CUCUMBERS, 1 1/9bu md, MX	36.00	42.00
DATES, 11lb xfcy lg, CA	55.00	55.00
EGGPLANT, Thai, 35lb md, HD	45.00	46.00
ESCAROLE,1 1/9bu, FL	14.00	16.00
KALE,16-18s, SC	11.00	12.00
LEEKs, 12s, SC	18.00	20.00
LEMON, 115ct, CA	19.00	23.00
LETTUCE, Green Leaf, 24ct, AZ	13.00	15.00
MUSHROOM,10LB, White, lg, PA	16.50	17.50
ONION, Yellow Sweet 40lb, ID	16.00	17.00
PEAR,4/5bu,BOSC,100ct, OR	36.00	36.00
PEAS, English, bu, MX	50.00	50.00
PEPPER, Cubanelles, 1 1/9bu, lg, FL	24.00	26.00
PEPPER, Green bell, 1-1/9bu xl, FL	10.00	14.00
POTATOES,50lb, Red, sz A, FL	22.00	25.00
RASPBERRIES, 12/6oz lg, CA	30.00	30.00
RHUBARB, 10lb Greenhouse, MI	33.00	33.00
ROMAINE,24ct, AZ	15.00	18.00
SQUASH, Green 1/2bu md, FL	7.00	10.00
STRAWBERRIES, 8/1lb, FL	14.00	19.00

Above quotations are based on Boston Terminal Prices

CALVES: All prices per cwt.

Holstein Bull Calves: Number 1	95-125 lbs 125.00-140.00
	80-90 lbs 110.00-122.00
Holstein Heifers: Number 1	85-115 lbs 110.00-180.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:	
Wooled & Shorn Choice and Prime 2-3	40-60 lbs 259.00-274.00
	60-80 lbs 248.00-280.00
	80-90 lbs 251.00-265.00
	90-110 lbs 238.00-253.00
	110-130 lbs 220.00-235.00
	130-150 214.00-229.00
Wooled & Shorn Choice 2-3	40-60 lbs 225.00-243.00
	60-80 lbs 220.00-245.00
	90-110 lbs 181.00-196.00
	110-130 lbs 190.00-205.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3: Medium Flesh	49-54 220-270 lbs 62.50-64.00
	120-160 lbs 92.00-107.00
	160-200 lbs 91.00-106.00
Utility 1-2: Thin Flesh	120-160 lbs 66.00-80.00
	160-200 lbs 63.00-77.00
	200-300 Lbs 60.00-72

SLAUGHTER GOATS:

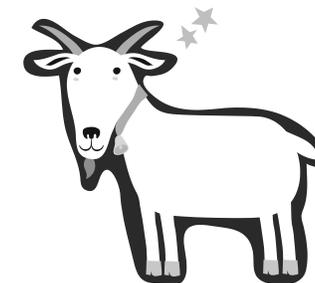
All goats are Selection 1, sold by the head, on estimated weights.
 Kids: 40-60 lbs 118.00-145.00
 60-80 lbs 138.00-158.00
 80-90 lbs 130.00-145.00
 90-100 lbs 150.00-164.00
 100-110 lbs 166.00-166.00
 Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs 106.00-121.00
 130-180 lbs 122.00-137.00
 Bucks/Billies: 100-150 lbs 172.00-187.00
 150 250 lbs 203.00-218.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HOG AUCTION

Monday, April 4, 2011

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

49-54	220-270 lbs	62.50-64.00
	270-300 lbs	60.50-62.50
45-49	220-270 lbs	60.50-62.50
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	50.50-59.50
	500-700 lbs	56.25-63.50
Boars:	300-800 lbs	25.00-28.00



METROPOLITAN AREA USDA

NEW YORK PRICES

WHITE EGGS

TO RETAILERS

For 1 dozen, Grade A eggs on: April 4, 2011

XTRA LARGE	120-124
LARGE	118-122
MEDIUM	105-109

Above quotations based on CARTON sales to retailers.

PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY HAY REPORT

April 4, 2011

Hay and straw market for eastern Pennsylvania. All hay prices paid by dealers at the farm and per ton.

	Premium
Alfalfa	175.00-205.00
Mixed Hay	180.00-215.00
Timothy	140.00-160.00
	Good
Alfalfa	150.00-175.00
Mixed Hay	130.00-160.00
Timothy	120.00-140.00
	Fair
Alfalfa	140.00-150.00
Mixed Hay	120.00-130.00
Timothy	115.00 - 120.00

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

1-R. CT Christmas Tree Growers, CT Sheep Breeders and CT Beekeepers Associations Special Insurance Packages available through Blumenthal/Donahue Insurance Agency--Toll Free 1-800-554-8049, 1-877-267-8323, 1-888-526-8815, ddonahue01@comcast.net or www.hobbyfarmusa.com. Farm Commercial Auto Coverage now available.

2-R. Farm Insurance for all types of farming at very competitive rates. 1-800-554-8049, 1-877-267-8323, ddonahue01@comcast.net or www.hobbyfarmusa.com, Blumenthal/Donahue Insurance Agency. Farm Commercial Auto Coverage now available.

4-R. Gallagher High Tensile and portable electric fencing for farms, deer control, gardens. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

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

9-R. Rough sawn lumber, fence boards, trailer planks, tomato stakes, custom and portable sawing 203-788-2430.

11-R. Hay – excellent 1st cut, plastic wrapped round bales \$40. 860-886-0716.

33-R. Premium mulches. Natural, dark brown, black and vibrant colors. Call for pricing, orders and delivery. Contact Charles Leigus (860) 301-0673.

60-R. Hay 4x5 round bales, square bales 1st cut \$4. & 2nd \$5. 3 yr. Hereford with club calf heifer 1-26, \$1,000. 860-537-1974.

63-R. Hay, 2nd cut grass, livestock and mulch, few 4x4 round bales. 203-484-0664.

66-R. New Holland baler twine 9000 natural fiber \$28 per bale picked up at farm. Call 860-668-2181.

70-R. Hay, 1st cut \$4.00/bale. Feeder calves .90/lb live. Firewood, cut and split \$150/cord – you pick up. 860-916-9449.

71-R. JD 6310 4x4 640 loader - \$27,000. 6405 2wd 620 loader, low hours - \$26,000. IH 986 4-post with roof - \$8,500. JD 750 2wd with loader - \$4,500. JD 5320 2wd low hours - \$13,500. Farmall 300, JD B, Massey 375, JD and IH front and rear wheel weights. 203-530-4953.

72-R. NH 575 balers with throwers, 3 to choose from - \$12,000 and up. NH 258 hydraulic drive rake - \$3,500. IH reset plows 710, 720 4 & 5 bottom. JD 336 with kicker, real sharp \$5,000. NH 311 baler with chute and hitch \$4,500. 2 Case IH 8430 round balers \$6,500 and \$7,500. NH BR 730 round baler like new \$10,500. Case IH SBX 520 baler same as NH 565 like new \$8,000. JD Wheel harrow, kicker wagons new and used. Kuhn 4-star hydraulic fold tedder. New Morra 4-star hydraulic fold tedder \$4,500. New Pequay 11-foot rotary rake \$6,000. NH 256, 258 rakes 5-ton fertilizer spreader \$3,000. Call 203-530-4953.

73-R. Rye straw clean, seedless, excellent for garden mulch. Newly seed lawns, erosion control, animal bedding. 860-289-5188; 860-289-5055.

75-R. Kiln dry sawdust for bedding. Excellent for cows and horses. Good rates. Trailer load. Call for price in your area @ 860-974-3853.

76-R. JD 1219 haybine-\$1500.00. Many extra parts, runs well, stored indoors. 860-437-7828; tomnancy8934@sbcglobal.net.

77-R. Horse drawn manure spreader \$350.00. Small 4'X7' car trailer needs work, \$125.00. Call 860-274-8473.

78. 27" 8HP snowblower \$625.00. JD Model 200 reconditioned \$1800.00. Ford single bottom plow \$175.00. Ford double bottom plow \$350.00. 7' disc harrow 16" \$350.00. Lawn roller \$80.00. Stall mats 5'X9'X1/2" \$85.00. Furnace HSTRAM Model 75 \$1200.00. Leaf blower 5HP Yard Man \$225.00. Chain saw Stihl (new) \$200.00. Horse drawn dirt scoop \$75.00. Craftman arc welder \$185.00. Call Pete 860-918-8515 or 860-228-9685.

79-R. 30 acres of farmland, 2 tobacco barns for rent or lease in Enfield, CT. Call 1-860-763-1973 or 1-860-749-9053. Leave message.

80. Plug planter for sale. 3PH, good condition, extra sprockets. \$600.00. Call 860-742-5717.

WANTED

51-R. Golden Jubilee parts wanted, carburetor and drawbar, also 9N-2N parts wanted 6 volt generator, distributor and drawbar, also pieces of angle iron and steel. Please call Bill 860-653-0491.

62-R. Prides Corner Farms is a diversified 500 acre wholesale production nursery located in Lebanon, CT that produces plants for customers in the Northeast & Mid-Atlantic region. Our product lineup includes perennials, grasses, herbs, native plants, trees, shrubs, & edible ornamentals. We are actively seeking individuals for Foreperson Trainees and Grower Interns. Qualified applicants will be enthusiastic, positive minded people that like working outdoors and have an interest in plants. We provide on-the-job training for these full-time career opportunities with benefits. A great team environment! Give us a call or email. Human Resources HR@pridescorner.com 1-860-642-3081 www.pridescorner.com

69-R. Cow manure wanted for garden. Would like it loaded. Please call 203 217-4508.

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.

59-R. Cropland for lease. Willington near Exit 69 I84. Thirty (30) acres, consisting of several fields suitable for hay, no-till silage, etc. Must use NCRS guidance. Winter cover crop and liability insurance required. \$750 per year. Long term lease. Evelyne Parizek, o.a. Parizek Realty 860-429-9984.

68-R. For rent in Enfield – 4-acre tobacco shed with land. Call 860-841-4480.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS AND LISTENING SESSIONS FOR SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT APPLICANTS

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is requesting grant applications for projects that solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined by the USDA as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, maple syrup, honey, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture). Projects cannot exceed \$75,000, can last for up to three years, and must impact and produce measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public rather than a single organization, institution, or individual. Submitted projects cannot begin until October 1, 2011.

Training workshops are being held on how to write a successful application and develop a quality project in accordance with USDA guidelines. The first half hour of each workshop is a listening session to identify key priority issues to Connecticut agriculture. The final listening session and workshop will be held Monday, April 11, 2011, 1:00-3:00 p.m., at the Litchfield County Extension Center, Torrington. If this is the first time ever applying for grant funds or applying for this particular federal grant, attendance is encouraged.

During this workshop you'll learn:

- the definition of specialty crops and which crops qualify
- examples of acceptable and unacceptable projects
- the required application format
- tips for writing a successful grant application
- key points each applicant's project must highlight
- evaluation criteria by the review panel
- timeline of events after applications are submitted
- reporting requirements if awarded

For complete application guidelines and more information on the listening session/training workshop, please visit the Department of Agriculture's website www.ctgown.gov or www.ct.gov/doag and click 'Specialty Crop Block Grant-FB Program' or contact Jaime Smith at 860-713-2559 or jaime.smith@ct.gov. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on May, 17, 2011.

AGRITOURISM BROCHURE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Agritourism Brochure Distribution Program allows farms with an agritourism component to have their brochures placed in Connecticut's five major welcome centers (Darien, Westbrook, North Stonington, West Willington, and Hartford). A freestanding brochure rack in each center is dedicated to this program.

The monthly participation fee varies based on the delivery locations and schedule (see program guidelines for details). Space is limited to 24 brochures per center per month.

Applications for the 2011-2012 Agriculture Brochure Distribution Program season will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and must be received (not postmarked) by April 15, 2011. The first delivery will occur in May 2011. Monthly deliveries will continue through April 2012.

The guidelines/criteria and enrollment form for 2011-2012 are available on the Department's website, www.CTGrown.gov. Go to "Programs and Services" and click on "Agritourism Brochure Distribution Program."

Please contact Linda Piotrowicz at 860-713-2558 or linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov with any questions or for more information.

UConn COLLEGE OF AG AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE 2011 SUMMER HORSE RIDING LESSONS

Dressage, Hunt Seat, Western & Polo: Lessons are open to the general public—children who are age 11 or older and adults. Beginner to advanced levels will be offered. There will be (4) 3-week sessions during the summer; \$210.00 to \$315.00 per session (visit website for Polo fees).

Trail Riding: Session I May 3, 5, 10, 12, 24 & 26; Session II June 20, 22, July 5, 7, 19 & 21; Session III August 9, 11, 16, 18, 23 & 25. Offered to the intermediate or higher level rider. Must be 13 years of age or older. The rider may choose Hunt Seat or Western style. Ride the UConn trail system and learn best practices trail riding, including how to follow markings. \$270 per person.

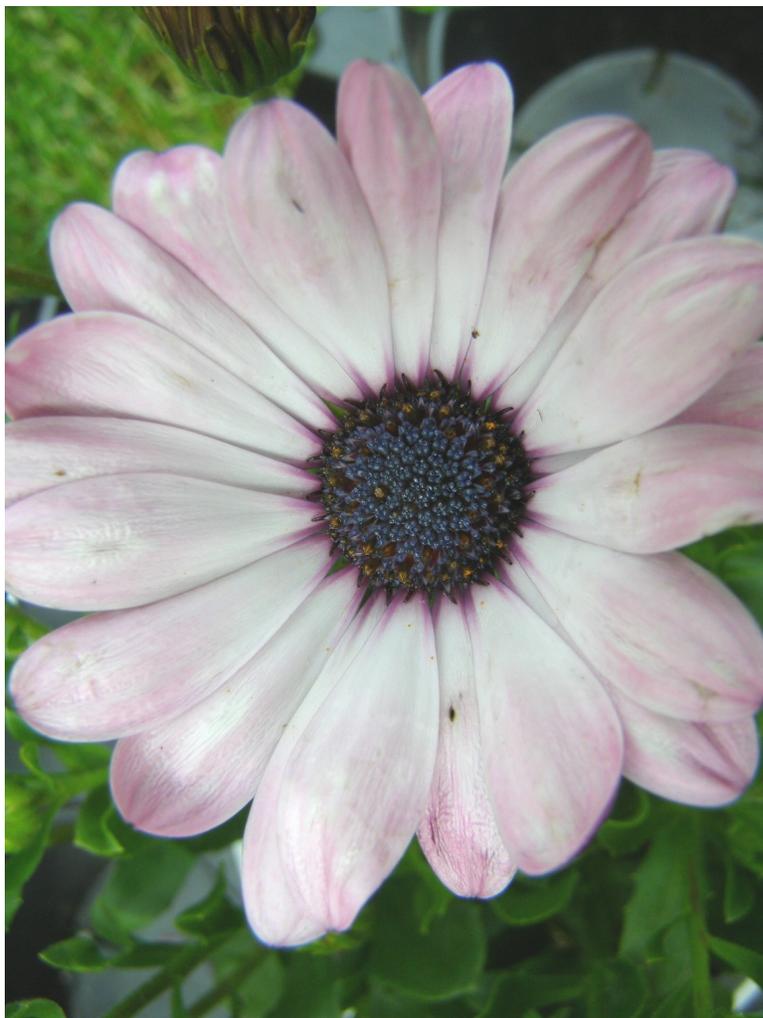
For registration form, prices, and scheduling, please visit www.animalscience.uconn.edu. Forward questions to Kathy.Noyes@uconn.edu. First lessons begin in May. Registrants are urged to register quickly; classes fill fast.

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION INVESTIGATES NEW SPECIALTY CROPS

(continued from Page 1)

These include, among others, pak choi, specialty eggplant, edamame, calabaza, specialty pumpkins, specialty peppers, and beach plums. Some of the New Crops Program research is being supported by a Specialty Crop Block Grant from the Farm Bill through the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. Results of these trials and other previous trials are and will be distributed to growers through Station fact sheets and bulletins. Armed with cultural information and the suitable varieties to grow, farmers can grow many of these crops, not normally seen in Connecticut, successfully and profitably.

For additional information about these crops and others in the New Crops program, please contact me at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven (203-974-8516) or visit the Experiment Station website: www.ct.gov/caes.



Advertising Rates: Fifteen words or less \$3.75 per insertion. For ads of more than 15 words, 25 cents per word per insertion. Initial letters, hyphenated words, phone numbers, and addresses, etc., are counted separately. Print or type copy. Publication on a specific date cannot be guaranteed. Advertisements will be published on a first-come, first-served basis. Ads must be received by noon the Friday before a publication date to be considered for insertion. Only ads of an agricultural nature with a Connecticut phone number will be accepted. Remittance with copy required. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Regulation & Inspection	Dr. Bruce Sherman 860-713-2504
Farmland Preservation	Joseph Dippel 860-713-2511
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Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report (ISSN: 1059-8723, USPS 129-340) is published weekly, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, the last week of June, one week in September, and when the Governor closes state offices, for \$20.00 per year by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. Periodicals postage paid at Hartford, CT. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. **Subscriptions expire annually on NOVEMBER 30.**

VOL. XCI
No. 14
April 6, 2011