

# AGRICULTURE IN CONNECTICUT IN 2007 AND 2008



College of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

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In Memory of  
**Dr. William "Al" Allen Cowan**  
(1920-April 4, 2009)  
Professor Emeritus,  
Department of Animal Science

In addition to shedding light on agriculture in Connecticut, we hope that this newsletter lives up to the high standards set by Dr. Cowan's original series of 27 years.

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## Connecticut Agriculture is Alive and Well!

In his last *Agriculture in Connecticut* 2006 report, Al Cowan noted that "Most citizens and even many in agriculture, are not aware of agriculture's diversity, scope and importance" in New England. As this report goes to press, what Al wrote then is still true: "It is dynamic, still evolving and changing...and continuing to make significant contributions to the life of Connecticut citizens."

An important aspect of this contribution is agriculture's economic impact. In 2007, without accounting for differences in the number of farms or land in farms, Connecticut ranks third in New England in total market value of agricultural products sold at \$551,553,000. Number one is Vermont and number two is Maine. However, Connecticut ranks first in terms of market value per farm and per acre, as the following table illustrates:

**Table 1 – 2007 Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: Rankings per Acre and per Farm**

State	Total Market Value (\$1,000)	Land in Farms		Number of			Rank
		(Acres)	Per Acre	Farms	Per Farm	Rank	
Vermont	\$673,713	1,233,313	\$546	4	6,984	\$96,465	2
Maine	617,190	1,347,566	458	5	8,136	75,859	3
<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>551,553</b>	<b>405,616</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4,916</b>	<b>112,195</b>	<b>1</b>
Massachusetts	489,820	517,879	946	3	7,691	63,687	4
New Hampshire	199,051	471,911	422	6	4,166	47,780	6
Rhode Island	65,908	67,819	972	2	1,219	54,067	5

Data for 2008 preserves the number three spot for Connecticut in terms of agricultural products sold at \$600,589,000—an increase of \$49,036,000 or 8.9%. Unfortunately, data for land in farms and number of farms were not available for 2008. However, it is interesting to note that between 2006 and 2007, land in farms in Connecticut actually increased by more than 5,000 acres and the total number of farms by over 700, with the average farm size remaining at approximately 82 acres—by far consisting of small and medium size family farm operations.

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As Table 2 illustrates, between 2007 and 2008, Connecticut has seen its net farm income increase by close to 25% - pushing it into the number two spot in New England in terms of ranking based on said statistic. Attesting to the continuing diversity of Connecticut agriculture: the contribution of crops, animals, and services and forestry to final agricultural output have remained consistent across 2007 and 2008 at 58%, 26%, and 18% respectively.

**Table 2 – 2007 and 2008 Farm Income and Value Added Data**

Net Income Rank	State	Net Income (\$1,000)	Final Agricultural Sector Output (\$1,000)	From Crops (\$1,000)	From Animals (\$1,000)	From Services & Forestry (\$1,000)
<b>2007</b>						
1	Vermont	\$225,136	\$774,970	\$110,130	\$597,706	\$67,134
2	Maine	179,748	732,922	351,473	298,606	82,843
<b>3</b>	<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>139,490</b>	<b>680,031</b>	<b>394,246</b>	<b>179,984</b>	<b>105,801</b>
4	Massachusetts	108,100	647,727	372,954	121,339	153,435
5	New Hampshire	37,600	251,873	108,987	94,283	48,602
6	Rhode Island	20,112	82,483	55,765	10,103	16,614
<b>2008</b>						
1	Massachusetts	\$178,653	\$728,588	\$451,406	\$112,785	\$164,397
<b>2</b>	<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>176,978</b>	<b>728,223</b>	<b>419,996</b>	<b>190,327</b>	<b>117,901</b>
3	Maine	167,230	743,916	325,547	335,208	83,160
4	Vermont	164,743	754,533	112,498	570,061	71,975
5	New Hampshire	46,083	269,799	119,754	97,280	52,765
6	Rhode Island	16,553	86,744	57,357	10,549	18,839

CONNECTICUT HAS SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER PER-ACRE AND PER-FARM MARKET VALUES, AND RANKS FIRST OUT OF THE SIX NEW ENGLAND STATES IN SALES PER ACRE AND FARM.

Zooming in on Connecticut, Table 3 illustrates the diversity of Connecticut agriculture, ranging from nursery, greenhouse, turfgrass, dairy cows and goat operations to tobacco leaf, fruit and vegetables, aquaculture, cattle, and horse farms.

**Table 3 – 2007 Market Value by Commodity Groups**

Agricultural Commodity Group	Value (\$1,000)	% of Total
<b>Crops</b>		
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	\$269,221	48.8%
Milk and other dairy products from cows	72,338	13.1%
Tobacco	56,976	10.3%
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	30,230	5.5%
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	28,641	5.2%
Other crops and hay	12,464	2.3%
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	3,840	0.7%
<b>Livestock (including aquaculture)</b>		
Poultry and eggs	\$45,274	8.2%
Aquaculture	15,142	2.7%
Cattle and calves	9,405	1.7%
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	4,868	0.9%
Other animals and other animal products	3,154	0.6%
<b>All Commodities</b>	<b>\$551,553</b>	<b>100%</b>

Sales of crops and livestock accounted for approximately 73% and 27% of total sales respectively, the largest commodity sectors being the “green” industries (nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod), the dairy industry, and tobacco. Honorable mentions of Connecticut’s position in New England for selected agricultural commodities are given on the next page.



# Connecticut Rankings in New England

## First in:

- Pear production
- Broadleaf and shade grown tobacco
  - Production and value of production
  - Acres harvested and yield per acre
- Market value of nursery, greenhouse, and floriculture sales
- Market value of cut Christmas trees and short-rotation woody crops sold
- Final agricultural sector output from crops (\$394 million)
- Horses per square mile (3rd in the U.S.)



## Second in:

- Total value of milk produced per square mile
- Net farm income (2008)
- Total eggs produced and value of egg production
- Corn silage production
- Total value of trout sales
- Number of farms per square mile
- Acres of sweet corn planted per square mile
- Total value of milk produced per cow
- Peach Production

## Third in:

- Total milk production and value of milk produced
- Horses per capita

CONNECTICUT RANKS FIRST IN NEW ENGLAND IN NURSERY AND GREENHOUSE SALES AND HORSE DENSITY AND SECOND IN NET FARM INCOME AND NUMBER OF FARMS PER SQUARE MILE.

BY ANY MEASURE, CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE CONTINUES TO THRIVE!

As of July 2007, there were over 3.5 million people living in Connecticut or roughly 25% of the total population of New England. For being the second most populous yet second geographically smallest state in New England, Connecticut's agriculture is doing exceedingly well as illustrated with the following "per capita" statistics for Connecticut in 2007:

- 1 head of cattle for every 67 people
- 1 milk cow for every 184 people
- 1 hog for every 875 people
- Slightly less than 1 chicken per person
- Around 6 pounds of apples per person
- 1 acre of farmland for every 9 people
- 1 acre of woodland for every 28 people
- \$4.32 of aquaculture products sold per person (based on USDA data)
- \$76.87 of nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod sold per person
- \$20.65 of milk and other dairy products from cows sold per person

The contribution of agriculture goes beyond the farm gate, as illustrated for the dairy industry on page 4, and it also plays an important non-pecuniary role in preserving open space and the quality of life. In a nutshell, "agriculture is not dead in Connecticut" (Cowan, Connecticut Agriculture in 2006). Relying on high value added operations, and small and medium family farms, overall, by any measure, agriculture in Connecticut continues to thrive!

## The Dairy Industry in Connecticut



According to a 2007 report by two state agencies and The University of Connecticut:

- Connecticut's dairy industry (including processing) generated an estimated \$1 billion in statewide sales and accounted for approximately 3,500 jobs taking into account effects on related businesses
- Dairy processing establishments had direct sales of nearly \$500 million, with about half of that being sales of cheese and yogurt, and the remaining in fluid milk manufacturing and ice cream and frozen desserts
- 25 dairy processing establishments including 11 milk bottlers and 4 cheese manufacturers

### Additional Dairy Farming Statistics for 2007:

- 159 dairy farms located in 75 CT towns
- CT dairy farms operated 72,000 acres of land accounting for 20% of the state's land in farms
- In 2007, CT dairy farms had direct sales of \$76 million
- 19,000 milk cows produced 355 million pounds of milk or 18,684 pounds per cow

This report is based on data from the following sources:

1. Cowan, W.A., *Agriculture in Connecticut 2006*, (publication date unknown), Department of Animal Science, Storrs, CT.
2. Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and University of Connecticut Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics Research Report: *The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Connecticut's Dairy Industry*, Hartford, CT, January 2009
3. New England Agricultural Statistics, 2007 (published in June 2008)
4. Shah, F. et. al., *Connecticut's Horse Industry: A Demographic and Economic Analysis*, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Connecticut, July 2006
5. 2007 Census of Agriculture conducted and maintained by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
6. 2007 and 2008 USDA Economic Research State Fact Sheets, Washington, D.C.



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