



Connecticut

Name Origin/Native American: Quinnehtukqut
Mohegan for "Beside the Long Tidal River"

Capital: Hartford

Population: 3,503,604

Founded: January 9, 1788 (5th state)

State Bird: Robin

State Tree: White Oak

State Flower: Mountain Laurel

Famous Inventors: Charles Goodyear, Elias Howe,
Eli Whitney, Eli Terry

Number of Counties: 8

Largest City: Bridgeport **Population:** 139,008 (2005)

Nickname: The Constitution State

A Look at Connecticut Agriculture



Climate



- Connecticut's weather is relatively mild
- On average, there are only 12 days a year when the temperature goes above 90°, and about six days when it falls to zero or below.
- The growing season is fairly long, with the first killing frost generally in mid-October and the last in mid-April.
- Despite Connecticut's small size, there is some variety in climate, with temperatures in the northern hills as much as 10° lower than those in the central valley year-round.
- The state has moderate rainfall, with an equal distribution of precipitation among the four seasons.

Soil



- Connecticut soils are glaciated, formed by glacial processes.
- The state soil is Windsor, soils consisting of very deep, excessively drained, rapidly permeable solids formed in glacial meltwater sediments.
- Windsor soils are important for the production of fruit and vegetable crops, silage corn and ornamental shrubs and trees.
- The richest soils in Connecticut are along the Connecticut River in the Connecticut River valley.
- Additional information at <http://soils.usda.gov/survey>

Crops



- Nursery and Greenhouse products are the top crops in Connecticut accounting for 44% of farm receipts.
- Top crop items (acres) include forage (hay, haylage, grass silage and greencrop), corn for silage, and all vegetables.
- Additional information at: [www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/Connecticut/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Connecticut/index.asp)

General



- There are approximately 4,200 farms which encompass 360,000 acres.
- Connecticut is *first* in *New England* in:
 - Milk production per dairy cow
 - Nursery and greenhouse sales
 - Cut Christmas trees sold
 - Horse numbers
 - Value of floriculture crops sold
 - Pear production
 - Tobacco acreage and value
- Connecticut's ranking in the *U.S.* is:
 - 1st in density of Egg Laying Poultry
 - 1st in density of Horses
 - 7th in Wild Blueberries
 - 7th in Tobacco
 - 10th in Pears, Acreage, Yield
 - Oysters – Value: in top 10
 - 11th in Maple Trees tapped
 - 14th in Milk production per dairy cow
- 60% of the land area in Connecticut is in farmland, open space and forest: an important natural resource base and enhancement to the environment.

Animals



- A listing of farm-raised livestock in the order of importance to the Connecticut economy is dairy cows, chickens, horses, beef, sheep, dairy and meat goats, as well as hogs.
- More than 70,000 acres of shellfish farms are now under cultivation in Connecticut's coastal waters accounting for \$15 million plus in farm-gate sales annually.
- Niche markets exist for camilds – alpacas and llamas, broilers, buffalo, turkeys and farm-produced pheasants.



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