

AAMA Recommends Grape Price Boost

The American Association has recommended a minimum price of

12 cents per pound for U. S. No. 1 16-Brix Concord grapes subject to regional price adjustments which may be announced by state associations, according to Harold J. Hartley, AAMA general manager.

"Growers are faced with rapidly increasing costs," Hartley said in making the announcement. "For the past five years the AAMA has recommended price increases of 10 percent to 20 percent a year in an effort to keep up with increasing production costs. This year's recommended price increase is a continuation of this effort.

"Growers feel that a modest 2 cents per pound increase for Concord grapes is reasonable. In fact," he continued, "it demonstrates growers' awareness of the nation's current sensitivity to food costs. Other processor costs have increased much more rapidly. Sugar, for example, has increased over 20 cents per pound in the last year."

The AAMA acts as common marketing agent for the marketing associations affiliated with state Farm Bureaus in Michigan, Ohio,

Record Mushroom Production

Production of mushrooms in Pennsylvania reached a record high 164.0 million pounds for the year ending June 30, 1974, according to the Crop Reporting Service. This was 13 percent above a year earlier and represents 59 percent of all U. S. grown mushrooms. Of the 164.0 million pounds produced, 117.7 million pounds were used in processing and 46.3 million pounds were sold for fresh market.

The value of the 1973-74 crop was \$63.8 million, up 8 percent from the 1972-73 value. The average price received by growers for the crop year ending June 30,

1974 was 38.9 cents per pound, compared with 40.7 cents a year earlier. Average fresh market price for the past season was 51.4 cents per pound and the average processing price was 33.9 cents per pound.

Production for the year ending June 30, 1974 was grown on 59.5 million square feet of bed and tray area with average yield of 2.76 pounds per square foot. This compares with a year ago growing area of 55.0 million square feet and average yield of 2.65 pounds. Growers

intend to fill 62.0 million square feet of production area during the year beginning July 1, 1974.

Nationally, mushroom production was a record high of 279.5 million pounds for the year ended June 30, 1974. This was 10 percent above a year earlier. Of this total, 177.2 million pounds were used in processing and 102.3 million pounds were sold for fresh market. Value of production was \$123.4 million, up 12 percent from the previous year.

Public Access Program For Chester County

Our neighboring county to the east, Chester, has been approved to operate the Public Access Program for Hunting & Fishing for the third year. It provides selected farms in Chester County for the public to hunt or fish.

These farms will display an orange colored sign, 12" x 18", with large black letters HUNTING or FISHING.

Please stop at the farm headquarters and advise

that you desire to hunt or fish. The Farmer in turn will give you a users card which you should complete and drop in the nearest mailbox. This will help the program officials evaluate the success of this pilot program.

This pilot program is operated in 10 states and 5 counties in each state. Chester County was chosen as one of Pennsylvania's 5 counties because it is located near a large metropolitan area. The other counties in Penna. operating this program are Adams, Lycoming, Armstrong, and Mercer.

Should you be interested in hunting or fishing on one of these farms in Chester County you can contact the Lancaster County ASCS Office, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, Pa. 17601. Their phone number is 717-397-6235.

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