

# Susquehanna River Celebration To Examine State's Bay Connection

HARRISBURG — Did you know that during the ice age, the Chesapeake Bay was the Susquehanna River? Or that even today, the Susquehanna supplies 51 percent of the fresh water entering the Bay?

At the 1986 Susquehanna River Celebration on June 14 at Riverfront Park, these and many more facts about the Susquehanna and Chesapeake can be learned. Education about the Susquehanna-Chesapeake connection is especially important since scientists recently discovered that pollution from the Susquehanna is contributing significantly to the bay's decline. A major problem was found to be fertilizer and manure runoff from Pennsylvania agricultural lands.

Displays and expertise about the bay will be provided by the Citizens Program for the Chesapeake Bay, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Department of Environmental Resources' Bay Trivia Quiz Board and Mobile Nutrient Lab, the Dauphin County Conservation District, the Soil Conservation Service's Farming for a Cleaner Chesapeake display and others. In the Theatre Tent,

bay related programs including the slide presentation "Chesapeake Bay: Barren or Bountiful" will be given.

Musician and Folklorist Tom Wisner will be singing and telling tales of bay watermen, skipjacks, ecology and man's use of the bay several times during the event.

A milk cow will be at the celebration and may provide some insight as to how manure is causing problems in the bay. The Department of Environmental Resources' Mobile Nutrient Lab will perform testing of Susquehanna River water throughout the day for nutrients and may be willing to analyze cow

manure if asked by a participant.

If you are a farmer, the Department of Environmental Resources staff will bring you up to date on the Commonwealth's Chesapeake Bay Program and can tell you if you're in an area that is eligible for cost-sharing funds to improve soil conservation or manure handling practices on your

farm.

Every one of us contributes in some way to the Bay's problems. The 1986 Susquehanna River Celebration can provide you with the knowledge and insight necessary to reduce your impact on your local creek, the Susquehanna and the Chesapeake Bay.

## Schools To Receive Bonus Flour Under USDA Program

WASHINGTON — School lunch and breakfast programs will be able to receive unlimited amounts of flour under a new program announced recently by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Effective immediately, according to Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng, states may receive an unlimited amount of flour for their schools once they use the amount of flour they traditionally receive. The additional, or bonus, flour will not be counted as part of the states' regular allotment of USDA donated foods.

"We are taking this step in an effort to increase flour consumption and reduce the stockpile of surplus wheat that USDA is

holding. We believe we have found a way to use extra flour in our schools without causing excessive displacement of commercial sales," said Secretary Lyng.

Last year, schools ordered over 180 million pounds of USDA flour valued at \$22 million. Much of it is used in school kitchens to make bread, rolls and other bakery items. Some is sent to commercial food processors and made into items such as pizza dough and hamburger buns under processing

agreements negotiated by the schools and states. This announcement is being made now so schools may make plans for next year.

"By making flour available to states only after they use their usual amounts, we will minimize the displacement of commercial sales. So, farmers will not be hurt by USDA introducing wheat on the market from Commodity Credit Corporation stocks," Lyng said.

In addition to state and local

processing agreements, USDA operates a National Commodity Processing System. As with the state systems, national commodity processors will be eligible to receive free "bonus" flour for sales made in states that have exceeded traditional usage levels.

Making the free flour contingent on states reaching traditional use levels will ensure that total flour use actually increases.

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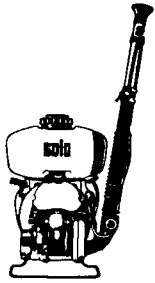
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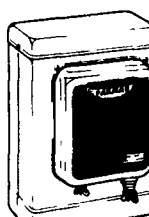
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