

# Keystone Cornucopia To Celebrate Agriculture's Bounty

HARRISBURG — The cornucopia, a Latin term which has come to signify prosperity, has also evolved into a symbol for America's agricultural bounty.

This symbolism was considered when naming the state's only dinner which offers a tribute to the entire agricultural and food industry community, according to Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organization President Ivo V. Otto, Jr.

Otto noted that the final plans are underway for the annual feast, set for Monday, Feb. 9 at the Hershey Convention Center. The event begins with a 6 p.m.

reception, followed by a 7 p.m. buffet.

Keystone Cornucopia tickets will be available at the door for \$30 per person. However, a \$5 discount is available to people who mention this newspaper when placing their order. Otto said the discount has been extended from Feb. 4 because the ticket order phone number was inadvertently not included in ads which ran prior to that date.

"We feature Pennsylvania-produced foods stuffs," Otto said, "and offer an environment for fellowship. We also use this dinner as an occasion to offer a deep 'thank you' to the State Legislature

for its past and future support."

"Even though we invite legislators to be our guests, we do not see this dinner as a forum to seek approval for specific pieces of legislation or policy. There are other times and other dinners for that purpose. This dinner is a celebration!" he continued.

Industry, farmer, legislative and regulatory government response have been positive, Otto said.

This year's event will feature a few changes from year's past, he continued. All ticket holders will be assigned seating, thus alleviating congestion in the move from reception to dinner and also

allowing the State Council to seat legislators with appropriate constituents.

Moreover, both elected and appointed ag leaders will be seated at a head table, again a departure from recent years.

Featured speaker for the event is Lane Palmer, editor emeritus of "Farm Journal." Palmer has recently returned from a tour of New Zealand and Australia and will incorporate observations about their agriculture into his remarks.

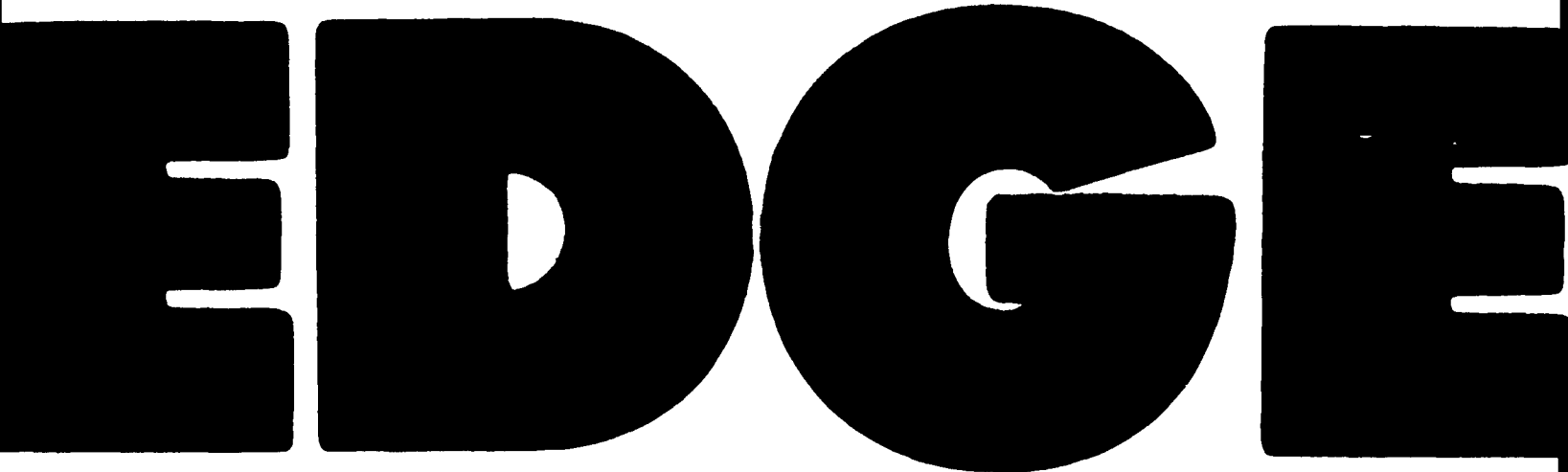
For the uninitiated, Pennsylvania ranks first in the nation in both fresh and processing

mushrooms as well as number of potato chip and pretzel plants, meat slaughtering plants and licensed bakeries.

Turning to the state's leading ag sector, dairy, Pennsylvania ranks second in the production of ice cream, sherbert and frozen dairy products while pulling a respectable fifth in butter production, milk and number of milk cows.

The thriving dairy industry also provides raw products for veal herds, where Pennsylvania has the third largest number in the country.

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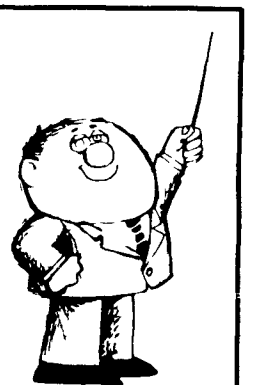
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