

Americans To Celebrate Agriculture On March 20

EPHRATA (Lancaster) — In just nine more days, on March 20, spring will be here. As everyone celebrates the advent of another growing season, President George Bush, Congress, and Pennsylvania Governor Robert Casey are encouraging Americans to salute agriculture.

March 20, National Agriculture Day, is the kick-off to a week-long national celebration of the farming industry and related agribusinesses.

In his proclamation Casey writes, "Agriculture remains the Commonwealth's number-one industry. Across Pennsylvania, the family farm continues to be at the core of our economic and social heritage...Our farmers continue to make Pennsylvania a Commonwealth that works."

Pennsylvanians can take pride in the efforts of farmers within their state. Pennsylvania is among the top five states in production of

many agricultural products. Listed below are some of Pennsylvania's agricultural accomplishments.

•Lancaster County is the number one agricultural county east of the Mississippi, ranking 11th nationally. Chester County ranks 46th nationally in farm production.

•Pennsylvania ranks number one in production of mushrooms, potato chips, pretzels, and milk chocolate; second in production of ice cream and total frozen dairy products; third in production of milk sherbet, veal, eggs, and corn for silage; fourth in production of laying chickens, peaches, wholesale floriculture crops, Italian cheese, grapes, and ice milk; and fifth in cut flowers, apples, butter, milk cow, milk production, export of dairy products, creamed cottage cheese, and fresh tomatoes.

•The average value per acre of Pennsylvania farmland, with buildings included, was \$1,819 as of February 1, 1988, eighth highest

in the country.

•Farms create employment for nearly 20 percent of Pennsylvania's 5.4 million workforce. The percentage includes producers, growers and processors, as well as those providing the machinery, supplies, and services essential to farm production.

•Pennsylvania's 56,500 farm

families annually produce \$3.2 billion in crops and livestock, thereby stimulating \$35 billion in related economic activity (based on 1987 data).

•Poultry farmers produced 4.85 billion eggs valued at \$173.9 million; and commercial turkey growers raised 8 million birds in 1987.

A national fact: The national

civilian per capita consumption of major food commodities in 1986 was 140.3 pounds of meat; 14.7 pounds of fish; 103.8 pounds of poultry and eggs; 272.3 pounds of dairy products; 156 pounds of fresh and processed fruits; 157.9 pounds of vegetables; 155.5 pounds of grains; and 127.9 pounds of fats and oils.

Atlantic District 26 Locals To Meet

SOUTHAMPTON (Bucks) — The Chambersburg and Mercersburg Locals of Atlantic Dairy Cooperative District 26 will hold their annual dinner meeting March 10 at 7 p.m. at the Kauffman's Ruritan Building.

Robert B. McSparran, a Peach Bottom dairy farmer and president of Atlantic, will be the guest speaker. McSparran will report on cooperative business and dairy issues.

During the meeting, Quality Milk Awards will be presented to Raymond E. and Leah F. Rodes, Waynesboro, and Richard E. and Helen Hoffeditz, Mercersburg. Both members qualified for Atlantic's quality premium for all 12 months during the 1987-1988 fiscal year.

Membership awards will also be presented to the following: 25 years -- Antrim Spring Farms, Harold, Rodney and Roger Crider,

Chambersburg; Mabel and Raymond Bricker, Chambersburg; Martin, Elva and Myron Burkholder, Pleasant Hall; Wayne and Carolyn Martin, Shippensburg; Michael I. and V. Myers Metcalfe, Mercersburg; and Fred and Lois Meyers, Leon and Deana Meyers, Chambersburg; 50 years -- Charles W. and Edna M. Knoll, Chambersburg.

COMING SOON...



THREE BIG DAYS!

March 22 - 23 - 25

Closed Good Friday, March 24

Details To Follow!

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