

# Lancaster Farming

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## Red Meat Exports Expected To Continue Growth

EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor

PHILADELPHIA—U.S. beef, pork, lamb and variety meat exports have more than doubled during the last decade, totaling a record \$2.6 billion in 1991. That's the report given by officials at the U.S. Meat Export Federation meeting here Thursday.

While consumption of red meat has decreased in the domestic market, exports have shown tremendous increases that have

helped to keep the meat industry strong.

"With domestic markets for red meat flattening, exports present a tremendous opportunity for U.S. meat and fed grain producers and their allied industries," said Phil Seng, USMEF president and CEO. "U.S. beef and variety meat exports in 1991 accounted for more than eight percent of total domestic production by value."

Seng released a study by the Federation that projects the impact

of U.S. beef and pork exports on the U.S. cattle and hog industries through the end of the century. This study shows that U.S. red meat exports are expected to increase by 250 percent by the year 2,000.

Already this year, meat exports have exceeded last year in each of the first four months. This trend is expected to continue.

Japan is the largest importer of U.S. beef, veal, pork and variety  
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## Study Compares New Broiler Buildings To Old

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff  
MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.)

— If you look at the data, then tunnel-ventilated broiler houses may be "in," and the naturally ventilated houses, at least for the time being, are "out."

That's the conclusion reached in a study undertaken by Penn State's Department of Ag Economics and Rural Sociology. The findings were presented on Monday by Dr. Milton Madison, Penn State ag economist, at the Poultry Management and Health Seminar.

More than 29 broiler industry representatives heard why more research is needed to validate some of the findings about the tunnel-ventilated houses as compared to naturally ventilated.

The study, which examined the performance of the houses on growout against other, older houses within the same companies, did not "cross-compare" results with different companies.

Three companies

In all, three companies were examined — Pennfield, Tyson,

and Farmer's Pride. The Pennfield study compared three houses against all of their older structures, according to Madison. The Tyson study compared six of the new housing types against 120 of the older houses and the Farmer's Pride study compared three houses to 150 of the older structures.

The Pennfield study involved curtain-sided houses measuring 44 feet by 500 feet at a cost of \$113,000. The cost of construction for the curtain-sided houses, not including excavation and well  
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## DelVal FFA Students Help Others

EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor

DOYLESTOWN (Bucks Co.)

— More than 20 million Americans know some form of hunger each week. The latest government figures indicate the need for food rose 26 percent last year.

To farm families that produce food and eat abundantly, these figures seem hard to believe. Most farmers don't know many people who go to bed hungry. But these people are real, they are in our communities, and if given the opportunity, many would love to grow their own food.

That's why Scott Barnett, senior at Delaware Valley College, has become involved in several pilot programs at college. In these programs, farmers donate excess veggies to local food banks and teach the recipients of these donations to grow their own food.

The programs, called "Adopt A Plot" and "Grow A Row," were initiated by Vilma Frattone, president, Terra Vision Foundation and embraced by DelVal's ag training center. Through the sponsorship of Professor Donald Claycomb and the FFA chapter at the college, the programs are growing beyond expectation.

"A number of the students donate their time for these projects," Barnett said. "The whole idea is education. The college has  
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For Scott Barnett, to help disadvantaged people learn to grow their own food gives him a good feeling. Barnett is one of the FFA students at Delaware Valley College who volunteer time to help others.



A portrait of a farm family, the Ammons are, from left, Christine, Mike, Ellen, Bill, and Hellen. The family mascot, Rowdy, joins the gathering.

## Faith, Farming Inseparable For Ammons

GAIL E. STROCK  
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LEWISTOWN (Mifflin Co.)

— When Noah stepped out of the ark, he was given a promise by God — "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Perhaps that is why Bill Ammon of Lewistown says to "have faith, be a good steward, and be diligent in your work."

Because as surely as the seedtime comes, so will the harvest.

The Ammon farm has seen the seasons come and go for five generations. On the banks of the Juniata River, Bill and Helen Ammon farm the riverbottom ground as

good stewards should, earning Cooperator of the Year in 1988 and Farm Family of the Year for Conservation in 1991.

In 1990, they installed a 60-foot by 12-foot manure system to protect against run-off into the Juniata River.

"We're probably putting half of the nitrogen on our corn we normally did, so it saved on fertilizer," Bill said. "Plus, it's more convenient. You don't have to haul twice a day in the winter. It's a good conservation practice. You don't have the manure run-off."

Ammons sow a lot of rye as a cover crop and spread the manure on that. As part of the Chesapeake Bay Program, Ammon farms with  
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## PMMB Weighs Conflicting Testimony

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)

— The three members of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) must weigh conflicting testimony from various farm organizations as they decide what to do about the current \$1.30 market add-on the board imposes on farm milk prices.

Those members — J. Robert Derry of Penn Run, Don Lanius of York and Leon Wilkinson of Landenberg — are expected to issue a decision June 18 following an unusually lengthy hearing on the issue in late May, according to Tom Kugel, a board spokesman.

The current premium is set to expire at the end of the month. The Mid-Atlantic area's major

dairy cooperatives, led by Atlantic Dairy Cooperative, the region's largest, testified in favor of reducing the so-called over-order premium to 80 cents a hundredweight during the two-day hearing.

However, two of the state's general farm organizations, the Pennsylvania Farmers Association and the Pennsylvania Farmers Union, backed a continuation of the current \$1.30 premium in their testimony.

A third group, the Pennsylvania State Grange, testified in support of a \$1.05 level, which was where the premium stood for months before it was raised to \$1.30 in February in response to testimony about the impact of last summer's drought.  
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