

Ag Exporters To Benefit From Promotion Program

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania agricultural exporters will benefit from a federal program targeted to emerging markets, according to Agriculture Secretary Charles C. Brosius.

The Emerging Markets Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, provides funding for a broad range of market development activities designed to promote market access and increase export volume.

"Countries with developing economies have tremendous

growth potential which can be beneficial to Pennsylvania agribusinesses wanting to expand their export activities," Brosius said. "The Ridge Administration is committed to opening new opportunities for Pennsylvania products and the Emerging Markets Program can provide resources to support that goal."

As part of the 1996 federal Farm Bill, there is \$10 million available annually for the next seven years. The program offers new approaches to sharing U.S. agricultural expertise through

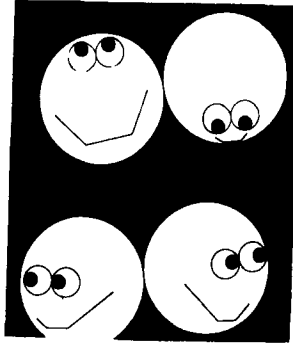
technical assistance, contracts and grants to develop and expand markets for agricultural products. It is geared toward increasing participation by the private sector.

Program activities include agricultural sector and joint venture

assessments, market information systems, commodity exchange development, and resident policy advisers. There will also be training opportunities in importing, agricultural banking and credit, business planning, and sanitary and

phytosanitary requirements.

Assistance in completion of funding proposals for the project is available from the department's Bureau of Market Development. For more information, call (717) 783-3181.



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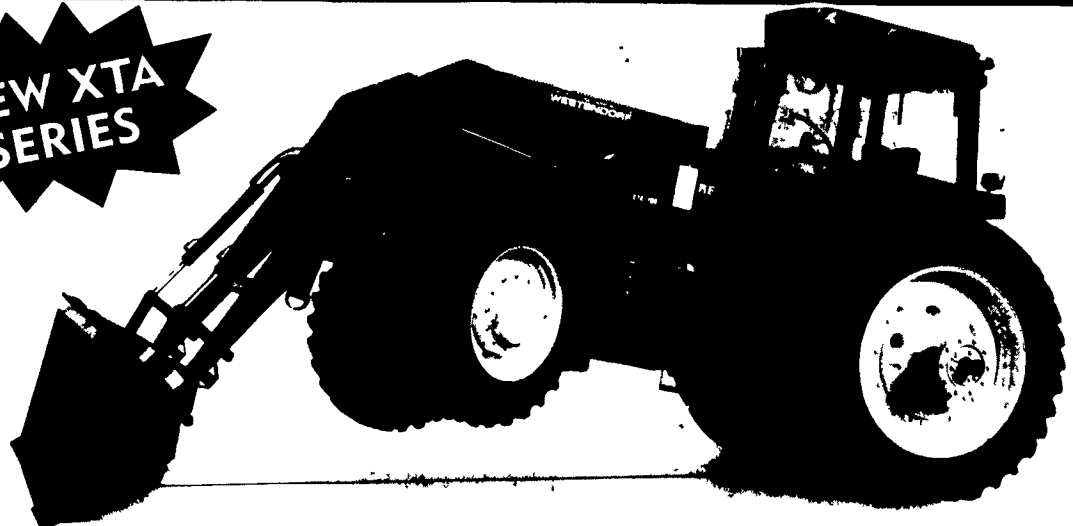


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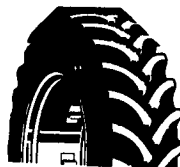
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