

Lancaster Farming

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Eastern Shore Poultry Manure Successful As Poinsettia Potting Mix



Dr. John Bouwkamp, associate professor, horticulture dept., University of Maryland, holds a news conference to show the success of composted poultry manure as a pot-

ting mix for poinsettias. The research project is part of the Future Harvest Project at the University. Photo by Marshall Cohen.

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Mid-Atlantic consumers may soon have another good reason to purchase poinsettias during the holidays beyond their traditional and cherished use as festive and colorful seasonal plant displays.

A three-year study on the effectiveness of composted poultry litter as a potting mix for poinsettias and other plants is conclusively demonstrating the great potential of composting to rid and reuse chicken manure from the Eastern Shore, prevent future *Pfiesteria* outbreaks, and save a dwindling natural resource.

In a demonstration today by the Future Harvest Project at a University of Maryland laboratory in College Park, researchers showed how poinsettias produced on composted poultry manure from one of the Eastern Shore's two composting facilities have grown as well as or better than those from commercial potting mixes that rely heavily on peat moss, a virtually nonrenewable resource. Future Harvest researchers said

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Publication Deadlines For Next Three Weeks

Next week is Christmas and then comes New Year. And the second week in January farm families get ready to make their annual trip to Harrisburg for the Pennsylvania Farm Show. For *Lancaster Farming*, this means many of the advertising and

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Lancaster Turkey Flock Has Avian Influenza

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Lancaster Co.) — State Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes Jr. on Wednesday afternoon announced that the H7N2 avian influenza virus has been positively detected in a 24,800-bird northern Lancaster County turkey flock.

At a general press conference held in the state Department of Agriculture Building in Harrisburg, Secretary Hayes told media news reporters that on Tuesday evening, lab results confirmed that the flock — consisting of 13,000,

10-week-old birds, and 11,800, 10-day-old birds — tested positive for the non-pathogenic H7N2 strain of avian influenza.

It is a non-threatening disease for humans.

The turkeys are slated for disposal, and a farm-specific quarantine has been imposed.

As of presstime, a team from the

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Grace and Lyle Mellott, Needmore, Fulton County, show one of their Boer does and 2-month-old kid. The Mellotts make more money on meat goats than on any other standard animal enterprise. See story page A20. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.



Seasons Greetings

Everyone on the staff at *Lancaster Farming* wishes you and yours a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Beautiful cows make the every day work around the dairy farm more enjoyable. This week we feature some of these cows—the All-Maryland Holstein winners. To introduce these show girls, we have Savage-Leigh Lyle Gwen-ET, the All-Md. 100,000lb. cow owned by Wayne and Cindee Savage, Knoxville, Md. For the photographs of the other winners see page A27 to A29.