

### FAST-GROWING FOOD INDUSTRY

The food industry is expected to grow 1.6 percent per year, surpassing \$800 billion in the year 2005. Food service could capture all of the \$100 billion in incremental sales. New concepts such as broad menu fast-food chains and supermarkets' extensive prepared food offerings are likely to be the fastest-growing segments.

The beef industry has identified ways to build beef meal occasions and sales through the development of convenient meal solutions and home meal replacement. Industry leaders are also partnering with food service outlets to increase beef offerings through promotion and new product development.

#### Protection From The Sun

In photographs, television and film, the dominant image of a farmer usually includes a baseball hat — a fashion choice that could be unhealthy in the long run, according to an expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Agricultural baseball caps, called "gimme" hats because they usually feature advertising for seed companies or heavy equipment manufacturers, provide little protection from the sun, said Dennis Murphy, professor of agricultural engineering. "Baseball caps don't have a wide enough brim to offer much protection," Murphy said.

Sunshine is crucial for crops, but for farmers, prolonged unprotected exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays can lead to skin cancers. Using the correct headwear could mean the difference between life and death.

Baseball caps, by far the most popular farming hat, really only protect the front part of the face, Murphy said. Wide-brimmed hats — such as cowboy hats, Australian bush hats, and straw hats — are worn by Amish farmers — are an improvement, but even

wide-brimmed hats are not foolproof.

"You really need a hat that will protect the neck, ears and temples," Murphy said.

The best style to wear is commonly known as the "French Foreign Legion" hat. This style features the generous brim of a baseball cap and adds a protective cloth to cover the neck and ears.

Another style to consider is the deerstalker cap, a double-brimmed style that covers the neck. The deerstalker style is most commonly associated with the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes.

According to medical statistics, more than 600,000 Americans will be diagnosed with skin cancer this year. Murphy says common sites for skin cancer include the face, tips of ears, hands, neck, forearms, and lips — areas that farmers typically leave uncovered.

To prevent skin cancer, farmers should use sunscreen regularly. Murphy suggests using a product with an SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 15, which will block 94 percent of the ultraviolet B rays most likely to cause skin cancer. The SPF factor is a rating that multiplies the protection naturally provided by the skin. For example, if your skin normally burns after an hour, using an SPF 15 sunscreen allows you 15 hours of exposure before burning.

Murphy recommends dressing safely as well. Wear lightweight long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Light-colored clothing reflects heat and sunlight. Workers never should go shirtless.

Sunglasses also are a must. Prolonged exposure to the sun can damage retinas, corneas, and the lens of the eye.

The sun is strongest between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Dermatologists recommend not working during these hours, but this is not a practical solution for most farmers, which is why the use of sunscreen and protective headwear by farmer is so important.

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#### Strategic Deworming

A workable method of controlling internal parasites is termed strategic deworming. This implies there is specific timing for treatment. In our area, a strategic deworming program will include treatment 4-6 weeks after the cattle go to grass, and then a second treatment in early November.

There is some discussion about the need to deworm mature beef cows. There will be a benefit in milk production and cow condition (and its influence on reproduction) if a deworming program is instituted and maintained for a few years. Eventually, parasite loads will be reduced to the extent treatment can be discontinued and monitored through fecal samples until there is a buildup again.

The spring deworming coincides with a good time to ear tag, castrate, implant, and vaccinate calves for clostridial diseases. Therefore, the trouble of the trip through the chute can be a very profitable one.

There are several good products on the market that can be administered by injection, pour-on, or pastes. The least desirable form of delivery is feeding the product because of variations in intake and because of cost. Treatments in the fall can include products for lice and grub control that are combined with the dewormer or can be used separately.

#### Swine Mortality Composting

Penn State Extension Swine Specialist Dr. Ken Kephart has summarized the concept of composting swine mortality in the following paragraphs.

Composting is the aerobic decomposition of organic material by microorganisms. Because many aspects of composting are in exact, the process can occur over a wide range of conditions and with many materials.

For optimum composting, there should be 20 to 40 times as much

carbon as nitrogen. Moisture content should be 40 to 65 percent. Particle size should be 1/4 to 1/2 inches in diameter. The pH of the mix should lie between 5.5 and 9.0, and there should be at least 5 percent oxygen in the pile.

Because a pig carcass is high in water content and nitrogen (protein), you will need to add dry material and a source of carbon. Something like sawdust or straw works well. Many producers also add a small amount of manure to the mixture as a "starter culture" to enhance the process.

Build a two-stage system of bins. Load the primary bins with a layer of dry material (usually one foot), a layer of carcasses; continue layering until the bin is full. Be sure that the pile is covered with at least one foot of dry material after the layering is completed. A small amount of manure can be added to the layers of pigs if desired.

As the composting process starts, the temperature in the pile should rise to at least 120° F. (preferably 140°). If the mixture fails to reach these temperatures, there may be too much water, or not enough oxygen. After three to four weeks, move the pile to a secondary bin. This frees up space in your primary bin for more carcasses and the moving process will re-introduce air into the mixture.

Three to four weeks after mov-

ing the material to the secondary bin, the composting should be completed, and you can land-apply the remaining material. Actual composting times will vary depending upon your conditions.

Provide 30 square feet of bin space per 1,000 pounds of carcass composted annually, including primary and secondary bins. Making the primary bins no larger than 12 x 16 (or at least making a long-narrow windrow for the primary composting area) will help air circulation. A field project conducted in Lebanon County used primary bins that were about 6 x 7, and used a large area (resembling an aisle) behind the primary bins as one large secondary bin. This seemed to work well.

Don't allow moisture to enter the mixture. Composting can proceed without a roof, but if there are extended periods of rain or wet snow, the pile may get soggy and compacted, which will shut down the composting process. Some producers have successfully composted animals without a cover by using long straw or corn stalks to shed rain water.

Don't completely enclose the facility. The composting process will release a lot of moisture, so the facility should be open on three or four sides. Cold weather will not be a problem as long as the pigs are not frozen when they're added to the pile.

## Foundation Name Changes

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The charitable foundation formerly known as the Curtice Burns/Pro-Fac Foundation has been renamed The Agrilink Foods/Pro-Fac Foundation. This new name reflects a corporate name change last September from Curtice Burns Foods to Agrilink Foods.

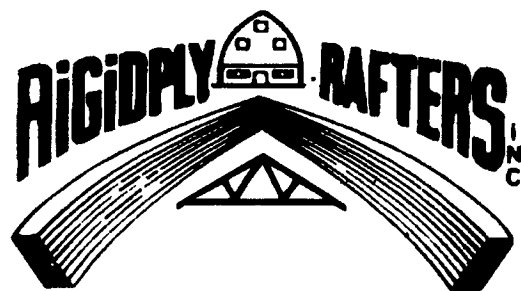
Snyder of Berlin, in Berlin, Pa., is an AgriLink business and the

community receives funds from the Foundation.

Created in 1966, the Foundation provides grants to not-for-profit programs operating in communities where Agrilink Foods has facilities or where Pro-Fac members are located. Primary giving areas include health, community service, education, youth, agricultural research and cultural programs.

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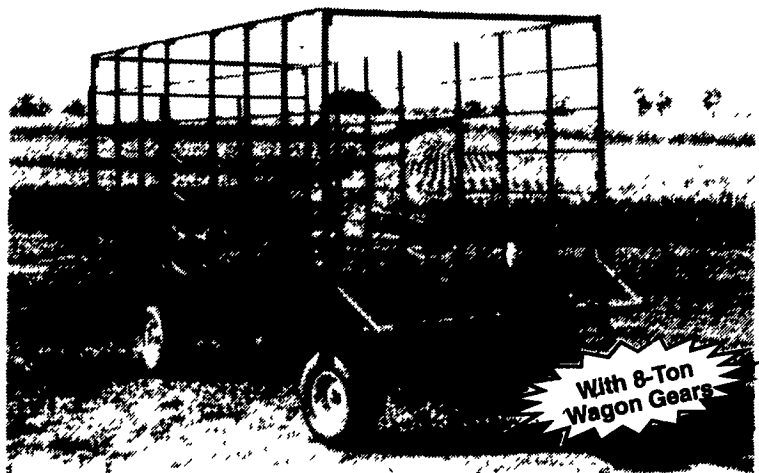
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