

# An Open Letter To Pork Producers

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### 3) What can individual pork producers do?

While we can offer you no silver bullets in your personal struggle for survival during this crisis we do believe the following can have a direct and positive effect on the current crisis facing every pork producer

These actions include

- ❖ **Contact your local retailer and encourage them to regularly feature pork. Sample draft letters and addresses are available at the NPPC website (www.nppc.org).**
- ❖ **If your retailer is part of a retail chain, please contact the corporate office (NPPC has addresses) and request them to regularly feature pork.**
- ❖ **Ask retailers to participate in the NPPC "Couponing Initiative"**
- ❖ **Contact your packer and encourage them to participate in the NPPC "Couponing Initiative".**
- ❖ **Market hogs as light as possible and still capture premiums in your respective packers' buying grid.**
- ❖ **Participate in grilling or in-store promotions to encourage consumers to purchase pork.**
- ❖ **Think about donating a hog to charity or marketing pork directly to your neighbors through a local locker facility.**
- ❖ **This is an opportunity to send letters to your local newspaper editor stressing the value of pork.**

In closing, we fully understand that the current hog market is a disaster for all pork

producers Be assured that NPPC is doing everything in our power to address and ultimately resolve this economic crisis If you have comments, questions, or additional ideas please feel free to contact any of the members of the NPPC Board of Directors Together, we will solve this crisis!

Sincerely,  
NPPC Board of Directors

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## Ag Preservation Board Approves Farmland

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) - Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. announced that the Agricultural Land Preservation Board has approved easement purchases for 10 farms across the commonwealth.

"The addition of these 10 farms demonstrates Gov. Tom Ridge's commitment to ensuring Pennsylvania's agricultural heritage is passed down to future generations," said Hayes, who chairs the board.

Created in 1989, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Land Preservation Board is responsible for the oversight of the state Farmland Preservation Program. The program allows the state and counties to purchase development rights,

referred to as easements, to guarantee that farms will remain as agricultural land.

Including one county-owned easement accepted today, the Farmland Preservation Program has protected 1,013 farms in 41 counties encompassing 127,288 acres.

Following is a list of the 10 properties, including owner, municipality, acreage, and purchase cost;

#### Berks County:

•Nevin E. and Audrey S. Mast, Oley Township, 119 acres, \$238,600.

•Earl D. and Laura K. Rhoads, Oley Township, 67 acres, \$134,600.

•Wilmer L. and Grace M. Richard, Oley Township, 75 acres, \$150,000.

•Rothermel Estate Farm,

Oley Township, 151 acres, \$302,200.

#### Dauphin County:

•Norwood and Miriam Hoover, Mifflin Township, 129 acres, \$159,801.

#### Lehigh County:

•Ralph and Christman Estate Farm, Upper Macungie Township, 151 acres, \$453,284.

#### Mercer County

•Gary A. Rhodes, Fairview Township, 97 acres, \$97,120.

#### Perry County

•H. Russel and Marian R. Raub, Penn Township, 277 acres, \$189,406.

#### Union County:

•Edward B., Leroy Jr. and Richard Frontz, Gregg Township, 90 acres, \$65,780.

•Daniel Z. and Pauline Reiff, Buffalo Township, 105 acres.

## October Milk Production Up

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) - Milk production in Pennsylvania during October 1998 totaled 896 million pounds, up .3 percent from last year, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS).

The number of milk cows in the state during the month averaged 633,000 head, down 2,000 from September, and 7,000 less than October 1997. Production per cow averaged 1,415 pounds

in October, 35 pounds more than September, and 20 pounds more than October 1997.

Milk production in the 20 states surveyed during October 1998 totaled 11.1 billion pounds, 1.3 percent above production in these states in October 1997.

The number of milk cows averaged 7.75 million head, down 3,000 head from a year earlier and -2,000 less than September 1998. Production per cow averaged 1,436 pounds for October, 20 pounds above

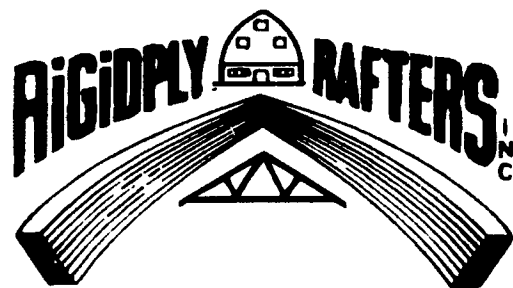
October 1997.

During the July-September period, the 20 major states produced 85.8 percent of the nation's production.

If producers in the remaining 30 states not surveyed monthly followed the trend shown by the 20 reporting states, United States milk production for October would be 13 billion pounds.

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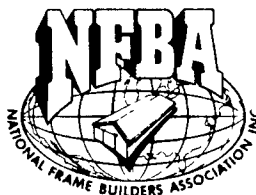


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