## **Publication Examines Small-Scale Processing**

MILLHEIM (Centre Co.) -Small-scale processing, a hot topic among producers, is the subject of a recently completed publication by Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) and Cornell University's Farming Alternatives program.

The "Adding Value for Sustainability" guidebook, a comprehensive publication on the subject of small-scale processing, is available for \$8.50. The guidebook is an easy-to-follow, step-by-step guide to how producers can successfully incorporate value-added products into their operation.

Value-adding offers producers the potential to recapture a larger share of the food dollar. The producer's share of the food dollar has decreased from 46 percent in 1913 to 24 percent in 1997. By processing raw agricultural products into higher value consumer-ready products, producers have the opportunity to retain their income.

Value-added products can (1) offer a higher return than a raw product, (2) open new markets, (3) create brand recognition, and (4) add variety to a farm operation.

The guidebook outlines the struggles, opportunities, and lessons learned by four successful producers whose products include hot pepper jellies, pastured poultry, goat cheese, and fruit vinegars, sauces. and preserves

Agencies and communities working together to support value-adding activity through food processing incubators. trade associations, and new generation cooperatives is explained. Extensive lists of resources are provided. The guidebook is appropriate for cooperative extension agents, other agricultural professionals, producers, and others interested

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in small-scale processing enterprise development.

For more information or to order a guidebook, send \$8.50 per guidebook plus \$3 per guidebook for shipping and handling to Kirsten Markley, PASA, PO Box 419, Millheim, PA 16854, ksm6@psu.edu, at (814) 349-9856. Please make checks payable to "PASA."

Or you can order from Joan Padula, Farming Alternatives Program, Department of Rural Sociology, 17 Warren Hall,

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, (607) 255-9832, jmp32@cornell.edu. Please make checks payable to "Cornell University."





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