

PASA Producer-Only Farmers' Market Debuts

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home to your family," said Bowser.

Standing front of a Pennsylvania Produce - Simply Delicious banner, Secretary Hayes reminded those in attendance of the importance of supporting Pennsylvania farmers and the impact of the "Simply Delicious" Program. "Our men and women involved in agriculture work hard to bring the highest quality, safest food supply to your table. Markets such as Broad Street allow consumers to show their support for Pennsylvania agriculture by buying fresh

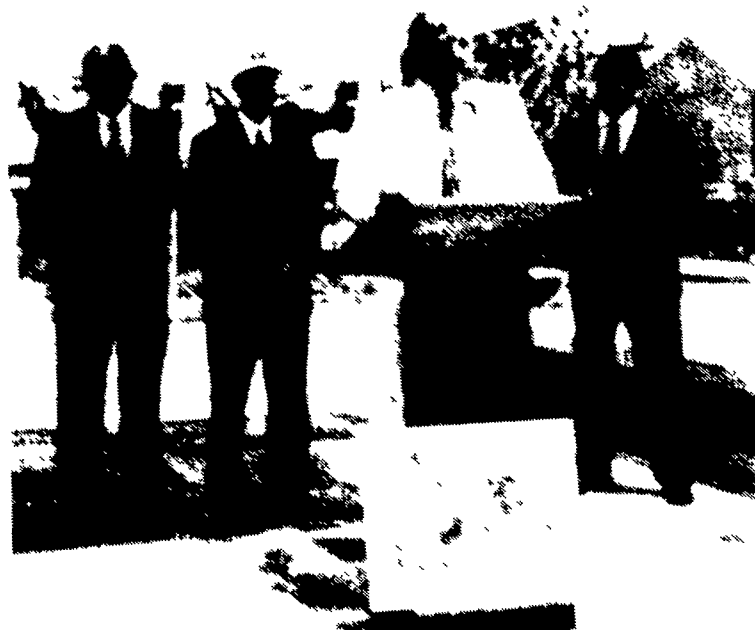
produce grown only a few miles away. This market is the first in the state to make a commitment to both the farmers and consumers that the produce you are buying was grown on farms in this region. PASA is to be commended for that."

PASA formed the farmers' market at Broad Street Market to test their new producer-only guidelines. The PASA guidelines stipulate that producers may only sell products grown or produced themselves.

PASA has undertaken this program to provide assurance to the

consumer that they are indeed buying directly from the farm and to safeguard producers from competing with cheap produce brought in from other parts of the country or world. After the guidelines are tested, evaluated, and revised at the end of this season, PASA and participating producers hope to encourage more farmers' markets in Pennsylvania to adopt these guidelines.

For more information on PASA's Producer-Only Guidelines, contact Kristen Markley at (814) 349-9856.



At the opening of the farmers' market, from left, Wanda Bool, Brina Patch Organic Farms market member; State Rep. Ron Buxton; Sam Hayes; Tim Bowser, executive director PASA; and Mark Bradford, Broad Street Market.

Planning Around Drought Conditions, Again!

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It seems every summer the Northeast is dealing with extremely hot weather and minimal amounts of rain. The best most producers can hope for is thundershowers that hit at strategic times.

This "hit and miss" type of precipitation leaves the crops in some areas in pretty good shape and others in fairly poor condition.

Now is the time to evaluate inventories on first- and second-cutting haycrops and the condition of the corn standing in the field.

Based on an individual farm's outlook, planning for this winter's feeding program is none too early. To take control over what "mother nature" dishes out requires thinking and planning ahead.

- The grain futures right now are predicting relatively low corn and soybeans prices. If forage inventory appears questionable, using all corn for silage and possibly soybeans for silage can be an alternative. Purchasing grains is usually much easier than buying silage.

- Purchasing hay is another alternative. If forage inventories are questionable, now is the time to look at what hay prices are doing and possibly locking in hay for a period of time. The U.S. hay inventory was reported on May 1 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to be up 14 percent from the previous year. The U.S. average hay prices for the middle of May were down 11 percent from last year. In the Northeast, New York and Pennsylvania have rebounded from near record low inventories from last year with reported increases of 26 percent and 62 percent, respectively. Supplies and prices for both locally grown hay and Western hay could make this a viable option to help extend forage inventories.

- There are more and more producers specializing in a certain aspect of dairying, such as heifer raising and crop farming. These producers offer an opportunity to sell various silages, hays, and even total mixed rations. If these specialized producers are in close proximity to an individual's farm, they can provide feed that is reasonably priced. Options available include buying the crop right out of the field and ensiling it or having the feed delivered on a regular basis. Three days is about the limit for storing silage outside of the silc without much heating occurring. This could be extended by a day during the colder winter months.

- During times of forage shortages, rations can be adjusted to include more high-roughage feeds such as straw, or including more by-products into the ration. It is critical to work with a nutritionist during this time to ensure a proper balance of particle size and fiber and nonfiber carbohydrates.

There are many resources available to start checking into what options are viable. A nutritionist, consultant, and extension agent can help evaluate what alternatives may work for an individual.

Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science web page <http://www-das.cas.psu.edu/dcn/> has several new publications to help an-

swer questions. One of the new fact sheets, "Drought-Related Issues In Dairy Cattle Nutrition," can be found under the forage section of the web site.



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