

# New Millennium Begins At 2000 Mid-Atlantic Fruit, Vegetable Convention

**HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.)** — There is no better place for fruit and vegetable growers in Pennsylvania to start the new millennium than at the 2000 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Hershey Jan. 25 - 27.

More than 1,800 persons, mostly fruit and vegetable growers from throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, and other states, are expected to gather at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. The event is jointly sponsored by the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, the Maryland State Horticultural Society, and the New Jersey State Horticulture Society.

The Gream American Hall at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center will host the Trade Show with more than 130 exhibitors. Five and sometimes six concurrent education-

al sessions will be offered on all three days of the convention.

On the first day of the convention, sessions on tree fruit, sweet corn, basics of vegetable production, greenhouse vegetables, potatoes, season extension technology, mulches, labor/regulatory issues, cole crops, and sustainable growing will be offered. Sessions on the second day will focus on stone fruit, direct marketing, strawberry plasticulture, processing crops, peppers, bedding plants, perennials, irrigation, alternative tillage, and fumigation/pesticide application. The last day will feature tree fruit, tomatoes, vine crops, small fruit, cut flowers, and value-added vegetables.

A special hands-on computer workshop will be conducted throughout the first two days of the convention. Growers will be able to see firsthand demonstrations of agricultural soft-

ware programs and the use of the Internet.

The processing tomato growers with the highest yields for the 1999 season will be honored at the annual Tomato Awards Luncheon on the opening day, Jan. 25. That evening, Pennsylvania fruit and vegetable growers will be treated to a reception hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association. The annual Fruit and Vegetable Growers Banquet will follow with recognitions and entertainment.

For more information on the vegetable program and registration, contact William Troxell, Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, (717) 694-3596. For more information on the fruit program and registration, contact Maureen Irvin, State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, (717)

677-4182. Persons registered for either the fruit or vegetable program can attend all the sessions offered (fruit, vegetable, and small fruit sessions) and the trade show. Registration either through the mail or at the door is required to attend both the trade show and educational sessions.

Upcoming Meetings — Bill Lamont, Department of Horti-

culture.

Local — December 7, 1999: Western Pennsylvania Vegetable and Berry Growers Seminar, Days Inn, Butler, Pa. 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Contact: Westmoreland County Extension, Eric Oesterling (724) 837-1402.

January 19, 2000: Ctap (computer technology for agricultural producers) Expo Sheraton Inn, Warrendale, Pa. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Contact: Don Fretts, Fayette County Cooperative Extension (724) 438-0111.

## Conference Jan. 31-Feb.2


(Continued from Page 8)

trees, wreaths, and greenery products. These sessions are for anyone interested in adding income to their business through sales of Christmas trees and wreaths, not just Christmas Tree growers.


Also important to this conference is the vendor Trade

Show. For the 2000 conference, the trade show is being expanded. The trade show has room to add many more vendors than in previous years and the conference committee and board of directors are putting on a push to increase the number of vendors and add different product lines to the show.

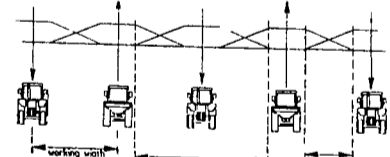
For more information on the 2000 NYS Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference, contact Diane Eggert at (315) 656-9977 or email her at [diane99@dreamscape.com](mailto:diane99@dreamscape.com).




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