

# Mid-Atlantic Fruit, Vegetable Convention Set

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — Fruit and vegetable growers from all over the Mid-Atlantic will be "Planting for the New Millennium" here at the 2000 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention Jan. 25-27.

More than 1,800 people, 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 for the convention.

The Great American Hall at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center will host the trade show with more than 130 exhibitors. Five and sometimes six concurrent educational sessions will be offered all three days of the convention.

On the first day of the convention, sessions on tree fruit (including discussions of fire blight, varieties and ethephon), 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 (including discussions of pesticide efficiency and the plum pox virus affecting stone fruit), direct marketing, strawberry plasticul-

ture, processing crops, peppers, bedding plants, perennials, irrigation, alternative tillage, and fumigation.

The last day will feature tree fruit (including discussions of new mating disrupters, new strategies with limited organic phosphates and IPM programs), tomatoes, vine crops, small fruit, cut flowers, and value-added vegetables sessions.

A special Computer Use Workshop will be conducted throughout the first two days of the convention. Growers will be able to see demonstrations of agricultural software programs and the use of the Internet.

Many pesticide applicator update training credits are available to growers attending the sessions. The program covers nearly every aspect of fruit, vegetable and berry production. Commercial growers should not pass up this great educational opportunity.

On the first evening, fruit and vegetable growers will be treated to a reception hosted primarily 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. The processing tomato growers with

the highest yields for the 1999 season will be honored at the annual Tomato Awards Luncheon on the closing day, Jan. 27.

For more information on the fruit program and registration, contact Maureen Irvin, State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, (717) 677-4184; William Tietjen, New Jersey State Horticultural Society, (908) 475-6505; or Richard Heflebower, Maryland State Horticultural Society, (301) 432-2768 ext. 324.

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

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

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, although growers from other states are welcome.

# Quick Receives Award

TUNKHANNOCK (Wyoming Co.) — David Quick was recently awarded the Susquehanna County Extension Recognition Award at the joint annual meeting of Susquehanna/Wyoming County Cooperative Extension at the Carriage Inn in Tunkhannock.

Quick received a standing ovation from the audience to show their appreciation of all the volunteer time he has given to extension.

Quick's involvement with extension began as a 4-H member in Wayne County. He became a Susquehanna County 4-H leader in 1964 with the Rushville Community Club and continues today as a 4-H resource leader in Susquehanna County.

The Rushville Community Club 4-H meetings were often held at Quick's farm. These meetings included project work as well as picnics and baseball games.

The Rushville 4-H Club members did a variety of 4-H projects, including dairy. Quick always

made sure club members got their 4-H projects to roundup, flowers, vegetables, dairy animals, etc. He continues to announce the 4-H dairy shows and makes his Jersey herd available to the county 4-H dairy judging teams.

Quick has been involved with the cooperative extension for many years. He has served on either the county, regional, or state boards for 27 years. He has held office of president and vice president on the county and regional boards and was treasurer on the county board.

Quick has also been on many extension board committees as a member or chairperson and has held a number of state extension responsibilities. In 1996 he represented Penn State Cooperative Extension in Washington, D.C. with a select number of others from across the U.S. He has also been a member of the Farm City Feast committee for many years and helped with the organization of Dairy Day.

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## Farmers Can Postpone Taxes From Cattle Sales Because Of Drought

ALTOONA (Blair Co.) — Farmers who sell more cattle than usual this year because of the drought, should be aware that special provisions are available to deal with the income tax consequences of herd reductions.

Proceeds reported from sales of livestock because of drought conditions can be delayed one year. All livestock held for sale, whether purchased or raised, qualify for the postponement.

If more livestock are sold in 1999 than would normally have been sold, the sale of the additional animals may be reported in 2000, provided the taxpayer's principal business is farming, the cash method of accounting is used and, under the farm's usual business practices, the sale would not

have occurred in 1999 were it not for the drought.

Gains from sales of livestock held for breeding purposes can also be postponed. If cows, bulls or replacement heifers are sold because of drought, these sales can be treated as an involuntary conversion.

The grains from sales of breeding livestock can be postponed, provided replacement stock of similar kind is purchased within two years from nonfamily members, and the cost of the replacement stock must exceed the sale value of the breeding cattle sold because of drought.

Only livestock sold in excess of the amount normally sold can be considered involuntary conversions. For example, a producer

who normally culls five cows annually but sells 15 cows in 1999 because of the drought can elect to postpone the gain on 10 of the cows.

Refer to the Farmer's Tax Guide, IRS Publication 225, for more details on how to postpone gains due to weather-related sales. The publication is available on-line at <http://www.irs.ustreas.gov> or call the IRS at (800)-829-3676.

Two federal programs are available that may benefit cow/calf producers. Both of these programs are administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency.

Emergency conservation program: during drought, the emergency conservation program can provide cost-share funds for emergency water assistance to livestock. Cost share assistance up to 64 percent can be applied for, with a limit of \$20,000/farm, at the county FSA office. The state office can approve up to \$62,500 per farm. Requests of less than \$20,000 are evaluated and approved by county FSA committees.

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- mination (1996)
- MWPS-14 Private Water Systems \$7.00 (1987)
- NRAES-47 Private Drinking Water Supplies \$8.00 (1991)
- NRAES-48 Home Water Treatment \$15.00 (1995)
- Farmstead Assessment. #3 Pequea-Mill Creek Information Series. College of Ag. Sci., Cooperative Extension.
- How to Interpret a Water Analysis Report. F103, Ag. and Biological Engineering, College of Ag. Sci., Cooperative Extension

**References**

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