

Pa. Food Industries Work Together For Growth

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — They make everything from birthday cakes to beef jerky. Now leaders of Pennsylvania's food processing and manufacturing industries are coming together to make the commonwealth a stronger economic powerhouse through a special initiative coordinated by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"We hope to strengthen the food processing and manufacturing sector's contribution to the economic development of Pennsylvania," said Robert Steele, dean of the college. "Pennsylvania is the largest food processing state in the Northeast and ranks among the top five states nationally, but because the industry is so segmented, people often don't recognize its importance."

Still in its formative stages, the Food Industry Initiative in Pennsylvania brings leaders from industry, academia, and government together to strengthen their connections. The group is addressing issues of common concern, such as workforce training, legislation/regulation, and science/technology — "areas that affect the industry's profitability and viability," said Patricia Heuser, director of college relations, who oversees the project.

"Our group formed in response to the governor's 'Technology 21 Initiative,' which identified six business sectors that could develop family-sustaining, high-technology jobs in the commonwealth," Heuser said. "Agribusiness, including food processing and manufacturing, was one of the six sectors selected."

"An important aspect of 'Technology 21' is to have industry itself recommend how to develop its

growth," Heuser said. "One recommendation was for industry to become more collectively joined to present a common voice about its issues and needs to state government."

"The food processing and manufacturing industry has seven or eight trade associations that address the needs of their specific groups — the bakers, confectioners, milk dealers, and others — but they tend not to be able to take on industrywide issues."

One objective is to develop a centralized system for industry access to research, education, and outreach resources at Penn State, with links to other institutional resources in the state. "Academic institutions like Penn State often have services available that can address problems in research, technology transfer, education and workforce training," said Heuser. "The problem for industry is knowing where to look."

"When we looked at education, research and technical support resources, we were surprised to discover that Penn State alone has more than 100 sites that could provide services to that industry, but no centralized way for industry to get at those resources," Heuser said. "Many government programs throughout the state also could benefit the food manufacturers, but manufacturers don't know how to connect with them. The governor hopes to see industry, government and academia work together to maximize the potential that we all agree is there."

The initiative is helping to start discussions with state government representatives in the departments of agriculture, community and economic development, labor and industry and other agencies. Along

with the Governor's Action Team and the Governor's Policy Office, the project will identify government resources and help to coordinate program connections to the industry.

The Food Industry Initiative in Pennsylvania also is facilitating an industry-driven alliance. Leaders from companies and trade associations have started to define how an alliance could best serve the needs

of all segments of the industry.

Serving as facilitators for the initiative are Robert Bowman, president of Antis Food Products Inc., Lancaster, representing industry; Paul Wangness, senior associate dean in the College of Agricultural Sciences, representing academia; and Mary Bender, director of the policy office in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, representing government.

The Food Industry Initiative is supported by a grant from the Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Central and Northern Pennsylvania with matching support from Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

For more information on the initiative, contact Claudine Nuemberger, project coordinator, at (814) 863-5846 or via e-mail at CXN8@PSU.EDU.

USDA Reopens Comment Period On Establishing Olive Oil Promotion, Research, And Information Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA announced that it is reopening the comment period on a proposal for a national research and promotion program for olive oil.

Kathleen A. Merrigan, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said, "Allowing the olive oil industry more time to comment on the proposed rule will ensure that all interested persons are heard and give the industry more time to consider the effects of a research and promotion program for olive oil."

The program would enable olive oil handlers and importers to develop, finance, and manage a coordinated generic promotion program to maintain and expand markets

for olive oil.

Notice of reopening the comment period was published in the Nov. 3 issue of the Federal Register. Comments must be received by Dec. 3. The proposed rule on the program was published in the Aug. 26 Federal Register with a 60-day comment period ending on Oct. 25. Comments should be mailed in triplicate to the Research and Promotion Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, STOP 0244, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0244; tel. (888) 720-9917; fax (202) 205-2800; or e-mailed to malinda.farmer@usda.gov. Copies of the proposed rule may be

requested from the same address or viewed on the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/fv/rpdocketlist.htm. AMS encourages all eligible individuals to participate in its committee and board activities. It is USDA's policy that membership on industry-governed boards and committees accurately reflect the diversity of individuals served by the programs. For further information contact Oliver L. Flake, Research and Promotion Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, Stop 0244, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 2535-S, Washington, D.C. 20250-0244; telephone (202) 720-5976 or fax (202) 205-2800 or e-mail to oliver.flake@usda.gov.

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CASE 2470, 4x4 w/duals, 500 hrs. on engine & trans, 175 hp., no 3 pt., no PTO, \$5,000. 410-833-9091

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1948 Cub Tractor w/ Blade, Plow, Sickle Bar, Corn Planter, Disc, Harrow & Cultivators. Good Running Cond. \$2500 For All. 717-367-2163.

JD 24T Hay baler V6 Condition. Lv Mess. 717-677-9185

1988 Case Int'l 685 Diesel, 60 HP 2325/Hrs w/3pth, PTO, Adj, Front Axle, Remote Outlet, EXCELLENT Condition. \$10,750 856-769-3183.

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IH 1486, Pink Stripe, Cab, Air, Feild Ready 717-464-2874. LEHMAN TRACTOR.

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JD 2840, one owner, local trade in, runs good, only \$8,200. Loader avail for \$950. Trade accepted, financing avail. Zeisloff Eq. 800-919-3322.

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JD B Tractor w/Rear Mount, JD Sickle Bar Mower, Exc Cond. \$1,800/obo; 10' Oliver Disk G Shape \$650/obo Call 717-445-9382.

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JD 2950 MFWD w/260 ldr. 10 1/2' Sunflower disc, 20" blades, excellent cond. 610-775-2568 or 777-1918.

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