

# USDA Issues Proposed Volume Regulation To Assist Cranberry Industry

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA has announced a proposed rule that would regulate the volume of cranberries to be marketed during the 2000-2001 crop year.

The newly proposed rule offers the industry three options to stabilize plummeting prices because of expanded production and mounting inventories. The industry's Cranberry Marketing

Committee met on March 30 and recommended a producer allotment of 85 percent for the new season beginning Sept. 1. The allotment would establish the quantity of cranberries that handlers may purchase from, or handle for growers.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, which oversees the Cranberry Marketing Order, received industry comments following the meeting that suggested that the committee's proposal could inequitably affect some growers. To address these concerns, AMS developed two additional options which also appear in the proposed rule.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture has been working closely with the cranberry industry to offer a useful range of options for producers to consider," said Enrique E. Figueroa, deputy undersecretary for marketing and regulatory programs. "USDA is encouraging growers and handlers to look carefully at the proposal, consider the options, and to submit their comments."

The comment period will officially open with the publication of the marketing order proposal in the Federal Register, and comments will be accepted through June 14. Comments should be addressed to the Docket Clerk, AMS Fruit and Vegetable Programs, USDA

Room 2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; e-mail moab.docketclerk@usda.gov.

The proposed rule can be viewed at [www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab.html](http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab.html).

The eight-member Cranberry Marketing Committee, appointed by the secretary of agriculture, oversees the Cranberry Marketing Order that regulates shipments of cranberries grown in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, and Long Island, N.Y.

Cranberry production in 1999 reached an all-time high of 6.39 million barrels (one barrel

equals 100 pounds of cranberries), 17 percent above the previous year and a 377 percent increase since 1960. In the same 30 years, harvest acreage has expanded 76 percent and growers have increased their yields 171 percent. Meanwhile, consumer demand for cranberries has leveled off, with total U.S. sales peaking in 1994 at 4.7 million barrels and dipping to 4.5 million barrels in 1998. Prices have suffered as a result. Growers have watched prices decline from a peak level in 1996 of \$65.90 per barrel to \$38.80 per barrel in 1998, and returns for the 1999 crop year are expected to fall below \$30, evaporating profits.

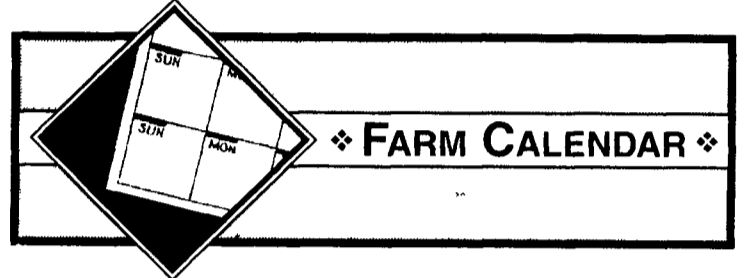
## Search Is On For Dairy Princess Coordinator

DAMASCUS, Md. — The Maryland Dairy Princess Committee is searching for an events coordinator for the state's dairy promotion program. The coordinator position is part-time, with salary commensurate to experience. The deadline for application is Saturday, July 1.

Major responsibilities of the position include scheduling ap-

pearances of state royalty, assisting with major dairy princess training efforts, planning and executing special dairy promotions, and preparing news releases.

To apply, send a letter of interest with a resume and three references to the Maryland Dairy Princess Committee, P.O. Box 405, Damascus, Md. 20872.



(Continued from Page A10)

### Monday, June 12

Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

### Tuesday, June 13

LCPA Golf Tournament, Foxchase Golf Club, 11 a.m.

Oregon Dairy's Family Dairy Days, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., thru June 15.

Southeast Regional Cattle Association Spring Outing, Flagg's Warren Pointe Farm, 5 p.m.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Farm and Home Security Systems, Schantz Farm, Ephrata, 7:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, June 14

Corn/Alfalfa Crop Walk, John Piwowar Farm, Uniontown, 7 p.m.

### Thursday, June 15

Lancaster Holstein Association Field Night, Trout Spring Farm, Lancaster, 6:30 p.m.

Kempton Community Fair, thru June 17.

Scouting Arthropod Pests On Woody Ornamentals, Penn Camp, Camp Kanesatake, Spruce Creek, thru June 22.

### Tuesday, June 20

Two-Day Workshop On Ag Environmental Law and Regulation, Dickinson School of Law, Carlisle, thru June 21.

Stream Bank Fencing Tour, Berrysburg Area, Dauphin County.

### Wednesday, June 21

### Thursday, June 22

Combined Convention of the Pennsylvania Association of Milk Dealers and New York State Dairy Foods, Inc., Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, thru May 23.

Guernsey National Convention, University Park, thru June 26.

Small Grains Field Day, McDowell Farms, 1 p.m.

### Friday, June 23

### Saturday, June 24

Pedal To Preserve 2000, starts at Donegal High School, Mount Joy.

Maryland Grape Growers Field Day, Bill Kirby Vineyard, Cordova, Md.

Pennsylvania Holstein Heifer Sale, Pennsylvania Holstein Farm, Middletown, 11 a.m.

Pond Management For Private Land Users, Beaver Creek Conservation Area, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

### Sunday, June 25

### Monday, June 26

Ambassador Conference, Penn State University, thru June 28.

### Tuesday, June 27

Southern Branch Crop and Livestock Day, Southern Branch, Ohio.

Allegheny County Fair and Exposition, thru July 2.

CCA Alfalfa Production School, Landisville Research Farm.

### Wednesday, June 28

USA Junior Holstein Convention, Columbus, Ohio.

National Holstein Convention, Columbus, Ohio, thru July 1.

New York State Farmers' Direct Marketing Association 5th Annual Summer Bus Tour, Wayne County, starts at Long

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