

# Penn State Survey Looks At What It Takes To Support Farming

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Farmers in southeastern Pennsylvania are getting a chance to tell state legislators their views on farmland preservation and supporting agribusiness as part of a study by researchers in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"The state's put a lot of time and energy into preserving farm-

land with the hope of preserving agriculture," said Timothy Kelsey, associate professor of agricultural economics. "But even if we preserve the land, will farmers have everything they need? Will they have a place to sell their product? We want to see if the amount of farmland has an influence on the number of farms and the number of agribusiness

firms that are able to survive in Pennsylvania."

"Co-dependence of Pennsylvania's Agribusinesses, Farms, and Farmland," a research project funded in part by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, examines the economic ties between farming operations, farmland preservation, and agribusiness sustainability. The research group mailed written surveys to farm-

ers and agribusinesses in southeastern Pennsylvania, and will follow with a series of face-to-face interviews with selected agribusiness owners. The data will help legislators make future decisions.

According to Kelsey, the state's current initiative to save farmland is just part of a larger challenge. "Keeping agriculture as a viable industry requires a

critical balance of farmland preservation, agribusiness support, and farm profitability," he said. "If you lose a lot of farms in a community, that makes it hard for agribusiness to stay in business. If you lose agribusiness, that makes it hard for farmers, because they can't get supplies locally. So if you want to keep agriculture, you have to keep both of them."

## USDA To Conduct National Agricultural Transportation Summit

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman recently announced that USDA will host a national summit on Agricultural Transporta-

tion Challenges for the 21st Century, Nov. 28-29 at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel in St. Louis, Mo. The summit was originally scheduled to

take place Oct. 2-3.

"As I have stated many times, no matter how good our agricultural products are, if we cannot move them, we cannot sell them.

That means that an affordable, reliable transportation network is an indispensable ingredient in the future

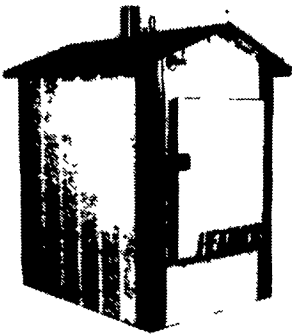
strength and competitiveness of American agriculture and our rural communities," said Glickman.

At the summit, USDA will highlight long-term agricultural transportation challenges and consider how those challenges can be addressed through a long-term agricultural transportation

strategy.

The summit is open to the public. There will be a registration fee of \$75 to cover the cost of materials and meals. A tentative agenda, registration form, and hotel information are available on the web at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/summit>.

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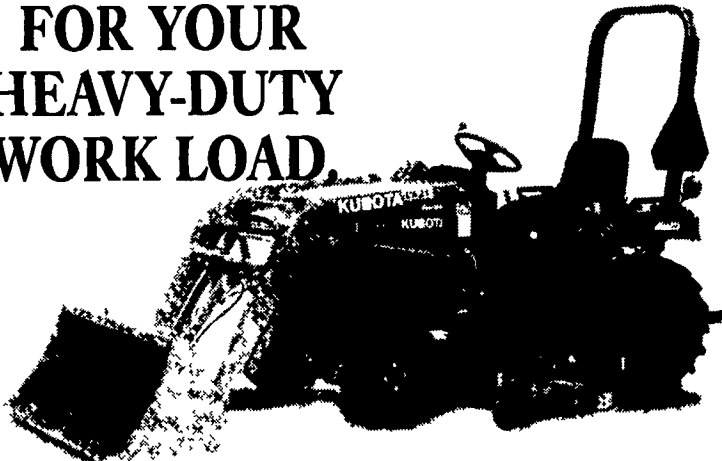


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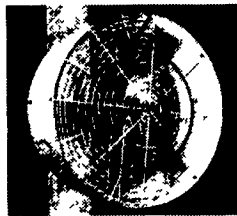
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