

# Grants For Farmers From Northeast SARE

BURLINGTON, Vt. — The application deadline for the 2001 Farmer/Grower grants is Dec. 4, 2000, and all interested producers in the Northeast are encouraged to submit their proposals.

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (Northeast SARE) program supports farmers who want to move toward more sustainable and innovative production and marketing practices.

Grants in 2000 averaged

\$4,350 and supported a broad range of projects in agroforestry, marketing, on-farm demonstrations, and improved production practices on 62 farms across the region. The region is made up of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

To find out more, or to get an application, call the Northeast SARE office at (802) 656-0471.

# Penn State To Conduct Dairy Nutrition Workshop

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — The Dairy and Animal Science Department at Penn State will conduct a two-day dairy nutrition workshop here at the Holiday Inn.

The workshop, Nov. 14-15, will feature a variety of speakers from Penn State as well as other noted speakers.

The first day will feature Dr. Bill Weiss of the Ohio State University, along with Drs. Gabriella Varga and Jud Heinrichs. They will give updates on nutrition in the areas of the lactating cow, dry cow, and heifer.

In the afternoon, a variety of workshop sessions will cover topics on computer ration balancing, forage quality, water quality, interpretations of DHIA records, an update on NCR, and commenting on farm labor management.

There will be a trade show of feed industry suppliers and other allied industries of interest to nutritionists.

The second morning of the workshop will be devoted to nutrition interactions related to lactating cow health, dry cow health, facilities, reproduction, and reproductive diseases. Dr. Mike O'Connor, Dan McFar-

land, Dr. David Griswold, and Dr. David Wolfgang of Penn State, and Dr. Elliot Block of Church and Dwight Corp. will cover these topics.

The afternoon will again feature a variety of workshops featuring case studies related to nutrition and health or reproduction. A computer lab will feature a feed cost control program and another workshop will cover getting feeding strategies accomplished on the farm.

For more information, call Virginia Ishler at (814) 863-3912 or email her at vishler@das.psu.edu.

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# USDA Increases Fees For Services

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA announced recently that current laboratory service fees will increase for testing of agricultural commodities.

The increase is needed to strengthen the program's operating reserve and to alleviate the increased costs associated with analytical testing services. Major factors contributing to the need for the fee changes include increased employee salaries and supply costs. Current fees have been in effect since April 1998.

All tests listed in the fee schedules will increase by 24.1 percent. In addition, the hourly rates for analyses not listed in the fee schedules will increase from \$36.26 to \$45.00. Laboratory fees for aflatoxin analysis will be adjusted according to the procedure used.

Like other voluntary user-fee programs, USDA provides analytical testing services in order to facilitate the marketing and quality standards of agricultural commodities in domestic and international commerce.

Copies of the fee schedules will be posted on the Internet Website at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/science.htm>. Hard copies of the fee schedules are available from James Falk, Science and Technology Program, AMS, USDA, Rm. 3521-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. For more information, call (202) 690-4089 or email [james.falk@usda.gov](mailto:james.falk@usda.gov).

