

ATTENTION TOBACCO FARMERS

Vector Contract Sign-Up Session

Wednesday, January 10, 1-4

Hoffman Building, Solanco Fairgrounds, Quarryville

or you may sign up at:

Trileaf Tobacco Co., Inc. receiving station

Larry Weaver's Farm

641 Spruce Rd., New Holland

Mon. to Fri., 9am to 4pm



Get 5 or More of Your Neighbors Together and a Rep will come to your farm with contracts. Call us and make an appointment.

Deadline for signing contracts is January 22. Don't wait, do it now!

717/351-9221

717/556-0270

717/354-7477

Agriculture Secretary To Present Lambs To Selected 4-H/FFA Members

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — At the 85th Annual Pennsylvania Farm Show, Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes purchased two registered Dorset ewe lambs. He will present them to 4-H or FFA members exhibiting at the upcoming Junior Sheep Show.

"Pennsylvania youth represent the future of our agriculture industry. 4-H and FFA livestock projects provide opportunities for Pennsylvania youth to experience the responsibilities of ownership and the need to produce food, fiber, and shelter for our democracy. Through these projects, 4-H and FFA members are able to learn the technical aspects of production agriculture, develop an understanding about the business side of agriculture, invest in their education through money earned, learn good showmanship, and have some 'good times,' too," said Hayes.

This livestock project was undertaken by the secretary of agriculture in cooperation with Nix Besser Farm. The two Dorset

ewe lambs are twins out of a grand champion ewe and reserve champion ram at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, both bred and owned by Nix Besser Farm. These high quality lambs will help 4-H or FFA members to support their 4-H and FFA projects.

The lambs will be on display at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Exhibit throughout the Farm Show. Presentation of the registered ewe lambs will be made by the secretary of agriculture to the 4-H or FFA members during the 2001 Junior Livestock Sale Thursday, Jan. 11.

Eligible 4-H and FFA members are required to write a 300-word essay on "Why Would a 4-H or FFA Member Consider a Career in Agriculture?" and are exhibiting their sheep in the Junior Sheep Show.

The PDA exhibit will be located at the Farm Show in the Main Exhibit Hall and will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 6-10 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 11.

Tobacco Referendum Set

YORK (York Co.) — County tobacco growers have a chance to vote whether or not to establish allotments for Type 41 (cigar filler) tobacco.

Eligible producers are those who engaged in production of tobacco during any of the crop years 1996 through 2000.

There is no allotment limitation on this crop since growers in Pennsylvania and other states have voted "no" in previous referenda.

Interested York County tobacco producers can contact the York County FSA office at (717) 755-2966 ext. #2 and request an acreage report card. These cards must be completed and returned to the county office prior to Jan. 12. Growers who return this card will receive a ballot on which to indicate their allotment preference.

Prospects For Livestock In 2001

H. Louis Moore

Ag Economist, Penn State

The size of the corn and soybean crops has been revised downward since the initial crop report in August, but the harvest will still be a bin buster. The corn crop, initially estimated at 10.4 billion bushels, is now estimated at a record 10.2 billion bushels. The previous record corn crop was in 1994 when the harvest reached 10.04 billion bushels.

Since August the soybean crop has been revised downward each month. Currently, the harvest is expected to be 2.82 billion bushels. The previous record crop of 2.74 billion bushels was set in 1998. Soybean production has risen sharply in the last decade. Corn and soybean acreage are nearly equal, whereas acreage planted to barley, oats, and wheat has fallen substantially.

Record grain production will put stress on storage facilities partially because the harvest for the last four years has been near record while exports have declined. This adds to carryover supplies each year. Carryover is not expected to grow much in the next year as domestic use of corn for livestock feed will be a record high while the export market is growing. The corn carryover by September 2001 will be about 1.8 billion bushels.

Grain prices will remain weak in the year ahead, giving another boost to our expanding livestock industry in the U.S. Cheap feed generally results in expansion in livestock and meat production.

This expansion has been particularly evident in the beef industry. At the beginning of each of the past four years, beef supplies have been predicted to fall based on a slightly smaller supply of animals expected to go

into feedlots.

The numbers entering feedlots have increased while slaughter weights increased, resulting in more total beef. At the beginning of 2000, the production of beef for the year was projected to be 24.9 billion pounds, down about 1.3 billion pounds from 1999. Ac-

pounds from this year. Lamb production will continue its long-term decline, reaching 220 million pounds, down 8 million pounds from this year. Per capita consumption of lamb and veal and the U.S. now averages only one pound per year for each of these meats.

There is little evidence to indicate we are moving toward a vegetarian diet.

tual beef production for 2000 is now expected to reach 26.9 billion pounds, up nearly 300 million pounds from the previous year. Projections for 2001 call for beef production to drop to 25.6 billion pounds. Based on this projection, fed beef prices are expected to increase one to five cents per pound in 2001. If supplies increase, fed cattle prices may not increase over the levels of this year.

Pork output fell slightly in the current year but will increase in 2001. Production in 2000 is about 18.9 billion pounds and is expected to increase to 19.4 billion next year, slightly higher than the previous record production of 1999. The price of hogs during the current year will average \$.43 to \$.45 per pound. The price in 2001 will average two to three cents less than this year, with most of the drop coming in the second half of the year. Because feed is very cheap, hog production will continue to be profitable for most producers through 2001.

Veal and lamb production and consumption continue to decline in the U.S. Next year, veal production at about 208 million pounds will be down 18 million

Broilers are competition with red meats. Over the 1990-2000 period, beef production has increased about four billion pounds. Pork output has increased about 3.5 billion pounds. Beef production increased 20 percent during this decade, and pork increased 23 percent. In 1990 broiler production was about four billion pounds less than beef and three billion pounds more than pork.

Broiler production grew from 18.6 billion pounds in 1990 to 30.3 billion pounds in 2000, an increase of 11.7 billion pounds or 63 percent. Broiler exports grew from 1.2 billion pounds in 1990 to 5.3 billion pounds in 2000, while domestic consumption was increasing too. Per capita broiler consumption will total about 78 pounds this year, up eight pounds from a decade ago.

The ten-year economic boom has helped the nation's meat industry. This year each person will consume about 221 pounds of meat, up 11 pounds from a decade earlier. There is little evidence to indicate we are moving toward a vegetarian diet.