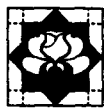


# Agriculture Insights

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## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN RUSSIA FOR THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

The globalization of agriculture is one of the biggest challenges agriculture continues to face. Future growth in international markets shows promising signs for U.S. agriculture, which produces more than half of the world's food production, while providing a quarter of the world's total agricultural exports.

Our country's population spends between 10-11 percent of its household budget on food. This helps illustrate enormous potential for food exports to developing countries such as Russia, which spends between 80-90 percent of its household

budget on food and has a market of 150 million customers.

Russia's economy is showing a positive growth trend with a new measure of stability after nearly a decade of an unstable economy. Their import market is growing and shows signs of possibly repeat its 1994 growth pattern, when it became the fastest growing food market in the world. Thanks to high oil prices, Russia expects a seven percent annual growth rate in 2001.

The Ruble devaluation has dramatically lowered local business costs. Foreign direct investment from the European Union is growing, which will continue to help strengthen Russia's economy. The administration of President Putin has declared its intention to improve the busi-

ness climate and seek more foreign investment.

The third-quarter report for the 2000 U.S. agricultural exporters to Russia is \$120 million, from which poultry encompassed a 70 percent share. There are signs that Russia's imports may expand past the single commodity stage. This may include niche markets in the food processing industry. Multinational food processors are sourcing more raw materials locally. Russia is likely to regain its place as a strong and dynamic market for U.S. agricultural and food exports because the limited capability of Russia's agricultural industry to meet their domestic demand for food products.

To better inform the agriculture industry and other interested businesses about the opportunities and benefits of exporting to Russia, The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be hosting an informative seminar, "Investment Opportunities in Russia for the American Agriculture Industry," Friday, March 16 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. This seminar is coordinated by the USDA and the Pennsylvania Russia Business Council and sponsored in part by the South-central Pennsylvania International Network (SPIN). The event will present

information on the current Russian agribusiness market and how Mid-Atlantic area businesses can safely explore these opportunities.

The seminar is ideal for any businesses that offer products or services related to agriculture, businesses that are interested in the Russian market, or individuals interested in investment opportunities in Russia. Representatives from the USDA along with selected technical experts from the field will be present to discuss these many opportunities.

Following this seminar, the USDA and U.S. Agriculture International Development (USAID) will sponsor a trade

mission to Russia (specifically Rostov, Samara, and Lipetsk) to explore new trade opportunities. These agencies have worked for several years to pave the way for U.S. investment and trade in selected Russian regions.

The cost of the seminar is \$35 for Lancaster Chamber and PRBC members and \$45 for non-members. To register or for more program details, visit the Chamber Website at [www.lancaster-chamber.com](http://www.lancaster-chamber.com) or contact Brent Landis at (717) 397-3531, ext. 134, or e-mail [blandis@lcci.com](mailto:blandis@lcci.com). You can visit the Pennsylvania-Russia Business Council Website for more information at [www.fita.org/prbc](http://www.fita.org/prbc).

## Penn State Dairy Housing Plans: Second Edition

ITHACA, N.Y. — Good dairy housing provides animals with a clean, dry, and comfortable area for resting, eating, drinking, and exercising. In addition, it is cost-effective to build and maintain, provides safe and efficient working conditions for caretakers, and protects the environment.

*Penn State Dairy Housing Plans*, NRAES-85, (originally published January 1998), offers 29 plans developed by faculty and staff of the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at The Pennsylvania State University and Penn

State Cooperative Extension. The plans provide information that can help plan a more successful freestall barn, heifer barn, or dry cow and maternity housing facility.

A revision of *Penn State Freestall and Heifer Housing Plans* (1994), this 106-page publication offers 12 freestall housing plans, six heifer housing plans, four dry cow and maternity housing plans, and seven plans for details and components. For this edition all plans have been revised to incorporate the latest recommendations for freestall design, ventilation, and cow movement. Also in this edition are introductory discussions for each section and a list of suggested readings.

The freestall section offers plans for various two-row, three-row, four-row, and six-row freestall barns. Included in the heifer section are plans for bedded pack housing, counter-slope housing, single-slope housing, and three types of heifer freestall barns. The section on dry cow and maternity housing contains ideas for housing dry cows in bedded pack groups, multiple pen barns with drive-through feeding, pre-fresh/maternity pen areas, convalescence areas, and post-fresh housing facilities.

Included in the detail and components section are sidewall curtains/drainage, watering locations, floor surfaces, feed barriers, freestalls, and ventilation openings. The plans are drawn for specific numbers of animals, but in most cases they can be changed to accommodate the numbers of cows or heifers needing housing.

It is available for \$15 per copy (plus shipping and handling) from NRAES. For more information or a free publication catalog, contact NRAES by phone at (607) 255-7654, by fax at (607) 254-8770, or by e-mail at [nraes@cornell](mailto:nraes@cornell). Visit the Web site at [www.nraes.org](http://www.nraes.org).

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