

USDA Grants Protection To 51 New Plant Varieties

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA has issued certificates of protection to developers of 51 new varieties of seed-reproduced plants. They include alfalfa, corn, cotton, fescue, oat, rape, soybean, sunflower, watermelon, wheat, and wheatgrass.

The 51 certificates are being issued under the Plant Variety Protection Act. The certificates require that the varieties be new, distinct, uniform, and stable. The owners will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import and export their products in the United States for the duration of protection.

The 51 certificates are:

- The 53V63, 5347LH, 54H55, 53V08, 57N02, 54V54, 54H69, 53H81, and 53Q60 varieties of alfalfa, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., Johnston, Iowa.
- The ND287 and ND288 varieties of corn, developed by

NDSU Research Foundation, Fargo, N.D.

- The PH38D and PH24M varieties of corn, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., Johnston, Iowa.

- The NuCOTN 64s variety of cotton, developed by Delta and Pine Land Company, Scott, Miss.

- The Polaris variety of fescue, developed by Turf Seed Inc., Hubbard, Ore.

- The Bardur variety of fescue, developed by Barenburg Holland B.V., Oosterhout, Netherlands.

- The Crossfire II variety of fescue, developed by Pickseed West, Inc., Tangent, Ore.

- The IMC 301 variety of rape, developed by Cargil, Incorporated, developed by Wayzata, Minn.

- The 90B31, 91B12, 93B35, 91B53, 95B32, 95B53, 93B54, 93B07, 92B95, 92B38, 93B65, 92B74, 9452, and 92B24 varieties

of soybean, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., Johnston, Iowa.

- The A5404, AG1101, AG4902, AG3702, AG3303, AG4101, and AG4402 varieties of soybean, developed by Asgrow Seed Company LLC, Ames, Iowa.

- The S25-J5 variety of soybean, developed by Novartis Seeds, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn.

- The MN0902CN variety of soybean, developed by Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, St. Paul, Minn.

- The PF090R variety of sunflower, developed by Panner Seed Ltd., Dorset, United Kingdom.

- The # 790 HQ variety of watermelon, developed by Abbott & Cobb, Inc., Feasterville, Pa.

- The 25R18 variety of common wheat, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., Windfall, Ind.

- The Reeder and Parshall varieties of common wheat, developed by NDSU Research Foundation, Fargo, N.D.

- The Pristine variety of common wheat, developed by Western Plant Breeders, Inc., Bozeman, Mont.

- The Crimson variety of common wheat, developed by South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, Brookings, S.D.; the Goldfield variety of common wheat, developed by Agricultural Research Programs Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.; and the Rodeo variety of oat, developed by The Board of Trustees of

the University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

- The Rush variety of wheatgrass, developed by USDA-NRCS Aberdeen Plant Materials Center, Aberdeen, Idaho.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service administers the Plant Variety Protection Act, which provides time limited marketing protection to developers of new and distinct seed-reproduced and tuber-propagated plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

For more information about the Plant Variety Protection Act, contact the Plant Variety Protection Office at (301) 504-5518, (301) 504-5291 (fax), or www.ams.usda.gov/science/PVPO/pvp.htm (Website).

Funds To Defray Organic Certification Costs Available To Producers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA recently announced the availability of \$1 million in fiscal year 2001 funds to share the cost of organic certification in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Each producer is eligible for reimbursement of up to 70 percent of its cost of certification, not to exceed \$500.

The cost-share program will assist eligible organic crop and livestock producers in transitioning into the new National Organic Program and provide an incentive for early adoption of the national standards by certifying agents and producers.

To be eligible, a production operation must be located within one of the states named above and must have been certified by a certifying agent as of December 21, 2000.

Funds will be distributed to the states on a pro-rata basis, depending on the number of certified organic producers within each state. Each state is allowed 4 percent of the total amount granted as an administration fee.

Applications by states for federal assistance and cooperative agreements must be requested from and submitted to Robert

Pooler, Marketing Specialist, National Organic Program, USDA/AMS/TMP/NOP, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2510-South, Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20090-6456, (202) 690-3655, fax: (202) 205-7808, or e-mail bob.pooler@usda.gov. Additional information may be found at the National Organic Program's homepage at www.ams.usda.gov/nop.

USDA Announces Adjustments In 2001 Purchase Prices For Milk And Milk Products

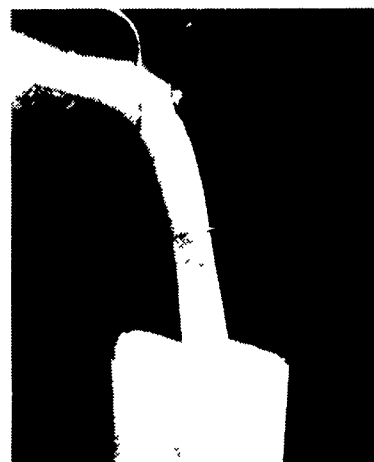
WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA announced Thursday that its Commodity Credit Corporation will increase the price it pays for butter by 19.99 cents to \$0.8548 per pound, and decrease the price of nonfat dry milk by 10.32 cents to \$0.9000 per pound.

The purchase prices for block cheddar and barrel cheese remain unchanged at \$1.1314 and \$1.1014 per pound, respectively. The 2001 Appropriations Bill extended the price support program through calendar year 2001 at the 2000 support price of \$9.90 per hundredweight of milk with an annual average milk fat content of 3.67 percent. The changes are effective May 31.

The decision to change the butter and nonfat dry milk prices was based on an accumulation of nonfat dry milk stocks in quantities well above USDA's ability to use the product; the level of expenditures to USDA, and signifi-

cant market distortions. The Agricultural Market Transition Act permits the USDA to adjust the balance between the purchase prices of butter and nonfat dry milk twice each calendar year under the Milk Price Support Program.

Further terms and conditions for purchases of dairy products will be announced later.



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