

## USDA Price Reporting Fix Good News For The Cattle Industry

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A United States Department of Agriculture report, released Monday, proposes changes that will increase the amount of price reporting information disseminated and is expected to improve the reporting program overall, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) said.

Chuck Lambert, NCBA Chief Economist, said "NCBA is pleased that USDA responded to industry concerns about the limited amount of information being released and adopted cattle

producers' recommendations for change.

The USDA mandatory price reporting system went into effect on April 2, 2001 with a restrictive guideline which prevented USDA from releasing pricing data if less than three packing companies report it, or if any one company represented more than 60 percent of any line of report to USDA.

"NCBA applauds Secretary Veneman for her quick response and equitable solution," said NCBA President Lynn Cornwell, a cattle rancher from Glasgow,

Montana. "This new proposed system will allow greater access to pricing information."

The USDA report, from an internal price reporting review team appointed by Secretary Veneman in mid-May, covers a number of aspects of the price reporting system.

Additional industry recommendations are being reviewed and considered. Price reporting information is a valuable tool in price discovery and is used, by cattle producers, for making important business decisions.

## Vegetative Mulch Reduces Pesticide, Soil Losses In Runoff

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As a mulch in vegetable production, the cover crop hairy vetch greatly reduces pesticide runoff and soil erosion, making it an excellent alternative to plastic mulch often used by vegetable growers.

This finding was presented recently by Agricultural Research Service scientist Pamela Rice during a USDA meeting of the American Chemical Society in San Diego, Calif. Rice is with the ARS Soil and Water Management Research Unit, based at the University of Minnesota at St. Paul.

Vegetable growers now often use plastic (polyethylene) mulch to maintain soil moisture and control weeds. When it rains, however, the plastic increases surface runoff because 50-75 percent of the field is covered with plastic that will not allow rain to penetrate into the soil. The runoff contains eroded soil and agricultural chemicals that may have potential harmful effects on organisms in nearby streams and rivers.

In a three-year collaborative study, Rice and co-workers at the

Environmental Quality Lab and the Sustainable Agricultural Systems Lab at the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., have developed a more sustainable vegetable production system that uses hairy vetch, a vegetative mulch. ARS has demonstrated that hairy vetch is economical and can effectively control weeds.

The study compared runoff and soil erosion from field plots using vegetative and plastic mulch. Fields with plastic mulch lost two to four times more water and up to 10 times more sediment than the plots using hairy vetch mulch.

## We Salute Our Farming Industry

## NPPC Board Approves Plans For 2002 World Pork Expo

DES MOINES, Iowa — Plans for the 2002 World Pork Expo were approved at the National Pork Producers Council Board of Directors meeting June 7.

The 2002 World Pork Expo is scheduled for June 6-8 in Des Moines, Iowa. The NPPC board of directors named a task force to evaluate ways to enhance the 15-year-old event.

NPPC President Barb Determan, a pork producer from Early, Iowa, will lead the team to evaluate all aspects of hosting World Pork Expo, including biosecurity - particularly ways to safeguard against the spread of Foreign Animal Diseases, educational opportunities to offer and identifying ways to deliver information to pork producers.

"Expo is a great opportunity for pork producers to gather and access the latest information they need on their farms," Determan said.

At an NPPC Board of Directors meeting in April, the decision was made to cancel the 2001 World Pork Expo in an effort to be proactive in preventing the introduction of Foot-and-Mouth Disease to the United States. The disease, which has devastated agriculture in Europe this year, has not been in the United States since 1929.

"We did not want to take any risk of a possible outbreak potentially spread through the hosting of World Pork Expo, an event attended by pork producers and pork industry leaders from around the world," Determan said.

"We have seen tremendous devastation in countries around

the world from Foot-and-Mouth Disease outbreaks. In Great Britain, 3.2 million animals have been destroyed. Farmers' futures are in doubt and the tourism industry has been crushed financially due to travel restrictions."

Part of the information that could have been shared at expo is being mailed directly to pork producers. The World Pork Expo 2001 Official Souvenir Program and Directory will be mailed to pork producers.

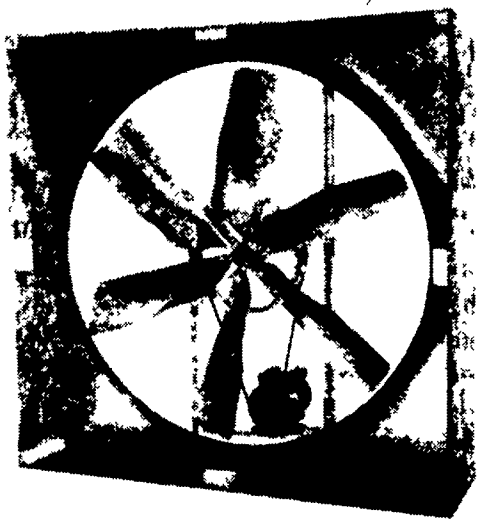
The 104-page magazine includes information about check-off-funded programs that would have been highlighted at expo and how to find more information about educational opportunities.

## Pennsylvania Winter Wheat Production Down 26 Percent

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Winter wheat production in Pennsylvania is forecast at 7.68 million bushels, down 26 percent from last year's production of 10.34 million bushels. Farmers expect to harvest 160,000 acres with an average yield of 48 bushels per acre.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.32 billion bushels, down two percent from May 1, and 15 percent below 2,000 to the lowest level since 1978. Based on conditions as of June 1, the U.S. yield is forecast at 41.2 bushels per acre. This is down 0.6 bushel from the last forecast. Producers expect to harvest 32.09 million acres, down from 35.02 million acres a year ago.

## WHAT A "COOL" DEAL



# SPECIALLY PRICED

**AMERICAN Coolair® NCF52 FANS**

- 52 INCH IN BOX/WITHOUT MOTOR **\$204.75**
- 52 INCH IN BOX/WITH MOTOR **\$328.77**

**HERSHEY**  
EQUIPMENT CO., INC.

Your Partner in Agri-Business

255 Plane Tree Drive, Lancaster, Pa 17602  
Toll Free 800-HEC-0988 Fax (717) 291-1534

Email address-partsservice@Hequip.com

We are open Mon. - Fri. 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. • Our Service Department is Available 24 Hours a Day

### SPECIAL SALE

We are currently overstocked on grain bin & feed hopper bins, bolts & nuts

Grade 8 Hex Bin Bolts	3/8x1"	<b>.06¢ ea.</b>
Grade 8 Hex Bin Bolts	5/16x3/4	<b>.04¢ ea.</b>
Grade 5 Hex Bin Bolts	3/8"	<b>.015¢ ea.</b>
Grade 5 Hex Nuts	5/16"	<b>.015¢ ea.</b>

Power Washing  
Painting - Sandblasting  
Specializing In Farm  
Buildings, Fences, Roofs,  
Feed Mills, Etc.  
Aerial Equipment

**AMOS FISHER**

5269 Paes Rd., New Holland, PA 17557  
717-354-9856 717-951-2527 Mobile



### ATTENTION: ALL LAND OWNERS

If you want to dramatically increase your net worth, you should subdivide your land. We are the only contract land developer. We develop the land for you. You sell as much or as little, if and when you choose.

Call Lynn  
610/488-6835 w/inquiries

### FIBERGLASS FARM GATES



Contact Your Nearest Dealer:

Paul B Zimmerman, Inc.  
50 Woodcorner Rd  
Ephrata PA  
717-738-7350  
John A Zook  
Rt 30, Gap, PA  
Zook's Farm Store  
Honey Brook, PA  
Gideon K King  
Elam Road  
Kinzer PA  
D & J Farm Store  
Hess Road  
Quarryville PA

Zimmerman Farm Service  
Bethel PA  
717-933 4114  
Huber's Animal Health  
Myerstown, PA  
717-866-2246  
Umbergers of Fontana  
Rt 322  
Annville PA  
717-867-5161  
Pleasant Valley Store  
Sprout Rd  
Kirkwood PA



David S King Ironworker  
Manufacturer of  
Church Bench  
folding hinges

SCOTCHMAN BEWO  
CIRCULAR COLD SAW

Rovendale Ag  
Watsonstown, PA  
570 538 9564

Valley Road Hardware  
Christiana PA  
610-593-7285

David S. King Railroad  
St Myerstown PA  
717 866-6556