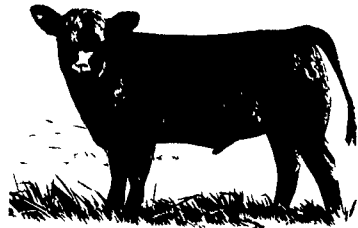


Pennsylvania Maple Syrup Production Up 47 Percent

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania's 2001 maple syrup production is estimated at 69,000 gallons, up 47 percent from last year's production of 47,000 gallons, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. The value of the syrup produced is estimated at \$1.75 million.

Nationally, maple syrup production in 2001 totaled 1.05 million gallons, down 15 percent from last year. The estimated crop value is \$28.2 million, down 17 percent from last year. Vermont leads all states with production totaling 275,000 gallons.



Feeder Cattle Prices Impacted By Varied Factors

ITHACA, N.Y. — An evaluation of feeder cattle prices in the fall of 1997 and 1998 at sale barns in Iowa and Missouri was completed to determine the value of source verification (SV) and pooling to feeder cattle buyers (2000 Iowa State University Beef Cattle Research Report).

In order to account for the price difference due to SV and pooling, one must factor in all sources of price variation. Feeder cattle prices are impacted by a combination of lot characteristics (calf weight, number of head, source verification) and market forces (price of corn and fed cattle).

While there are some variation between years and between steers and heifers, equations developed explained most of the variation in feeder price. The value of an additional animal in a lot increased at a decreasing rate. In other words increasing lot size from 10 to 50 head increased price to a greater extent than increasing the lot size from 100 to 150 head. This increase was about a penny

per hundred for every one head increase in the number added to the lot. Source verification increased price \$1-\$2 per hundred over non-source verified cattle, depending on year and sex. For example, a pooled group of 90 head of 550 pound steers received \$6.30 per CWT (\$34.65 per head) more than 10 head of similar steers in a non-source verified sale during the same year in the same auction market, all else being equal.

Similar results were obtained at the Fall 2000 New York Pooled Weaning and Marketing Program Sale. Steers and heifers weighing 663 pounds and 599 pounds, respectively sold at a premium to most other sales bringing \$.86 per pound (steers) and \$.80 per pound (heifers). The 42 head of steers and heifers were pooled from four farms and backgrounded for 45 days before being sold.

To participate in the Fall 2001 program, contact Mike Baker at (607) 255-5923 or E-mail: mjb28@cornell.edu.

George Thornton To Lead Agriliance

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Agriliance, LLC recently named George Thornton president and chief executive officer. Thornton has more than 28 years of experience in the agriculture industry including executive, finance, sales, and marketing positions in the U.S., Latin America, Asia, and Australia. He has held senior leadership positions with Griffin Corporation, ICI Americas, and American Cyanamid Company, among others. Most recently, Thornton was chief executive officer of Agweb.com.

Thornton's appointment to the newly created position will be effective July 16. He will office at Agriliance's corporate headquarters in the CHS Cooperatives building in Inver Grove Heights,

Minn. Thornton succeeds Agriliance co-presidents Al Giese and Stan Riemann, who will remain within the existing cooperative system. Giese will continue as vice president at Land O'Lakes, Inc. and Riemann will head Farmland Industries fertilizer manufacturing.

Agriliance, LLC, is the agronomy marketing joint venture between Land O'Lakes, Inc., Arden Hills, Minn.; CHS Cooperatives, St. Paul, Minn.; and Farmland Industries, Kansas City, Mo. Agriliance markets crop nutrients, crop protection products, information management, and crop technical services to farmers and ranchers through local cooperatives and independent dealers in all 50 states, Canada and Mexico.

Wool Forum Will Provide Information Marketing

DENVER, Colo. — An American Sheep Industry Wool Forum will provide participants information on domestic and international marketing of American wool, as well as an opportunity for input into wool marketing programs.

The forum is being sponsored by the American Sheep Industry Association's (ASI) American Wool Council and will be held in Denver, Colo., Aug. 16-17.

The international session on Aug. 16 will feature speakers discussing marketing wool on an international basis, including international financing, freight forwarding, e-commerce and marketing conditions in various wool importing countries.

The Aug. 17th session will provide forum participants with an

opportunity to identify key issues in the U.S. wool industry. Information also will be presented on current wool programs being implemented through the Wool Trust Fund, which is the current funding source and program focus for the American Wool Council.

"In addition to participating in the international session, forum attendees will be able to help create and shape the future direction of American wool marketing programs," said Rita Kourlis Samuelson, ASI's international wool/pelt marketing director.

For more information about the wool forum, contact Kay Kitts at (303) 771-3500, ext. 18, or through e-mail at kay@sheepusa.org.

Lamb Information Center, Summer Barbecue Promotion Launched

DENVER, Colo. — Consumers, media and culinary professionals who need information about American lamb, whether about purchasing tips, preparation methods or recipes, now have a designated one-stop center to obtain answers.

The new American Lamb Information Center was recently launched by the American Sheep Industry Association's American

Lamb Council. The information center is a media resource designed to provide information about fresh American lamb.

Information provided by the center includes recipes, photography, purchasing tips, cut information and preparation advice. The American Lamb Information Center phone number is (877) 747-4566.

"The American Lamb Information Center will be a great resource for anyone — consumers, media chefs, etc. — who are looking for more information on American lamb and ways to incorporate it into meals," said American Lamb Promotion Director Paul Rodgers.

The American Lamb Council also has launched a new promotion program called "Simple Summer Entertaining With the Great Flavor of Fresh American Lamb." The promotion focuses on American lamb's mild flavor and texture, which make it an ideal grilling meat and a welcome change from or-

dinary barbecue fare. The promotion features several recipes, including Grilled Mediterranean Lamb Chops with Olive and Tomato Butter. The recipes also include "wine notes" from the Wine Market Council with wine recommendations for each recipe.

News about the information center and the promotion was recently distributed to 500 top food writers in the United States. The

information center and summer promotion are part of lamb promotion activities being conducted by the American Lamb Council through a one-year marketing grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. T

The grant is part of an industry assistance package awarded following the successful 201 trade action against lamb imports.

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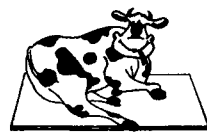
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