

# Ag Community Responds

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takes shape.

In a statement Thursday, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Guy Donaldson extended sympathy and prayers to families affected by the "senseless acts of violence."

"Our nation experienced a terrible reminder of the fragility of life. The spirit embodied by the thousands of volunteers who have come forward to provide whatever aid and comfort they can, is one that is familiar to America's farm families. We have faith that the spirit and unified purpose of the American people will thwart any threat to our freedom and liberties. And we have faith that our elected leaders will join together to protect and defend our way of life. We join all fellow citizens in giving our hearts to all those affected by this tragedy."

Although economic concerns — including agriculture — have been secondary to the human toll of the attacks, some analysts and leaders in the ag community have commented on the broader implications.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes, Jr., said in a statement Thursday, "In addition to the physical threat, Tuesday's terrorism has already had an impact on Pennsylvania's role in the global marketplace. The Department of Agriculture was contacted on Wednesday by a buyer from Singapore to indefinitely cancel his business trip to Pennsylvania later this month because of Tuesday's terrorism. Without any doubt, the threat of terror-

ism will have a negative impact."

Penn State agricultural economist Jim Dunn spoke Wednesday on the potential impact on ag commerce, even while waiting news on the fate of several of his colleagues that had been employed at the World Trade Center (WTC).

"I'm a lot more concerned about the people involved," he said.

According to Dunn, some significant outcomes of the attack that could affect our agriculture are that the New York Commodity Exchange and a dairy futures trading center were located in the WTC.

"A lot of brokerage offices in the trade center included those that trade ag commodities," Dunn said.

Also located in the WTC were many firms that provide financial services such as loans and bonds to agribusinesses.

"There will be very difficult times (for the companies involved)," he said.

Although the destruction of ag trading and financial centers creates "an information problem," and will disrupt transactions, Dunn pointed out that the actual production and flow of ag products should not be greatly affected.

"Agriculture is ultimately determined by what is done on the farm," he said.

Hayes issued this warning in his statement: "Society should not believe our agriculture will always be spared from the actions of terrorists and their guerrilla attacks. Agro-terrorism is a threat. Our livestock, crops, and food supply can be seriously harmed by terrorists and unconventional combatants."

Michael Swanson, an ag economist for Wells Fargo bank, commented on the destruction.

"This is one more thing that complicates our trade relations with countries around the world," he said. "Trade is based on so much more than dollars and sense. It's based on relationships between governments and ordinary things like the ability of people to jump on a plane and travel from one place to another. Our farmers are really hooked up to this worldwide network of trade. If a market is closed to us, it has a deep impact."

*At Lancaster Farming, we sympathize with all victims and families affected by Tuesday's tragedies, and stand behind national and worldwide efforts to bring justice to those responsible. All of us are proud to be Americans.*

# Merger Discussions

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and Virginia members indicated it would be counterproductive to continue merger discussions."

"The meetings we have held with our Maryland and Virginia members indicate there is a significant level of member concern regarding a full merger," Maryland and Virginia General Manager Robert Shore said. "With that in mind, we agreed that it would be appropriate to discontinue merger discussions. We will, however, continue to explore ways our cooperatives can work together to benefit members."

Gherly said the initial merger discussions, and continuing discussions regarding future busi-

ness relationships, are based on shared cooperative commitments and the increasing importance of size, scale and geographic reach to dairy industry success.

"All four cooperatives involved in these discussions share a commitment to preserving and expanding market access for members' milk, adding value to that milk and generating positive returns for members," Gherly said. "We will continue to explore ways that we can work together to achieve those goals. Our focus will be to develop business relationships that generate new efficiencies and enhanced market strength, putting our farmer-owned cooperatives in a better position to compete effectively and deliver maximum value to members and customers."

Officials of the four cooperatives voiced a commitment to continuing the work of Advantage Dairy Group, an East Coast milk-marketing joint venture established in January 2000 and involving Maryland and Virginia, Land O'Lakes, Lone Star, Arkansas Dairy, and Southeast Milk, Inc. (which was not involved in the merger discussions).

Lone Star Milk Producers General Manager Jim Baird added that Advantage Dairy Group is a prime example of cooperatives working together to compete more effectively, and it was a common desire to expand on that successful relationship that spurred interest in a merger plan.

"We have a proven record of working together," Baird said, "and we will continue the successful efforts of Advantage Dairy Group."

Land O'Lakes ([www.landolakesinc.com](http://www.landolakesinc.com)) is a national, farmer-owned food and agricultural cooperative, with sales approaching \$6 billion.

Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association (<http://www.mdvamilk.com>) is a milk marketing and processing cooperative which markets milk for nearly 1,600 dairy farmers in 10 states from Pennsylvania to Alabama.

Lone Star Milk Producers, Windthorst, Texas, markets 700 million pounds of milk for 130 dairy farmers in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Arkansas Dairy Cooperative Association, Damascus, Ark., represents 300 million pounds of milk and 185 producers in Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma.

## Va. Broilers And Fryers

Harrisonburg, Va.

September 11, 2001

Report Supplied By USDA

Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was moderate. Demand was moderate. Live supplies were moderate for plant needs with an estimated slaughter of 1,357,000 compared to 1,377,000 last Tuesday. Weights were desirable. Processing schedules moderate. Actual slaughter for Sept. 3-7 totaled 6,444,186 head, average weight 4.76 lb.

Negotiated F.O.B. dock prices, 2 pounds and heavier ice-packed broilers and fryers, trucklot sales of US Grade A or equivalent were steady to higher at .54-.68 per pound, less than trucklot sales .57-.76 per pound.

Estimated Slaughter Of Broiler/Fryers In Virginia, Sept. 11, 2001 (In Thousands). 7 of 7 plants reporting. Estimated 09/05: 1,444. Actual 09/07: 1,407; Avg. Weight 09/07: 4.72 lb. Actual 08/31: 1,377; Avg. Weight 08/31: 4.91.

## Young Turkey Parts And Bulk Meat

Des Moines, Iowa

September 10, 2001

Report Supplied By USDA

NATIONAL YOUNG TURKEY PARTS AND BULK MEAT, Frozen, unless specified, cents per lb, delivered first receivers, part and full trucklots, as of September 10. Trade sentiment on bulk parts was steady to firm with drums in the strongest position. Inquiry continued active on bulk parts with interest centered mostly on tom items. Offerings of tom bulk parts ranged from instances light to short of buyers' needs. Hen parts offerings were light and generally held with confidence, except for hen necks which showed some spot availability. Trading slow on all items.

DOMESTIC TRADING: BREASTS, 4-8 lbs: Grade A avg. 103.06, 127,000 lbs; Plant Grade avg. 95.00, 8,000 lbs. DRUMSTICKS: TOM - avg. 34.47, 95,000 lbs.; HEN avg. 32.00, 35,000 lbs. WINGS, FULL-CUT: TOM - avg. 30.00, 6,000 lbs.; HEN 35.00, 40,000 lbs.

WINGS, V-TYPE: TOM - avg. 34.39, 66,000 lbs.; HEN - avg. 50.57, 70,000 lbs. NECKS: TOM avg. 30.55, 31,000 lbs.; HEN - avg. 30.00, 29,000 lbs. BREASTS, B/S, TOM - 165.00; 20,000 lbs; TOM-FRESH - 185-187.00, avg. 186.00, 80,000 lbs. THIGH MEAT, avg. 67.00; 80,000 lbs. BREAST TRIM MEAT - avg. 119.86, 140,000 lbs. TENDERLOINS - no quote. DESTAPPED TENDERS-FRESH - avg. 157.00, 40,000 lbs. WING MEAT WITH SKIN - avg. 72.67, 120,000 lbs. MECHANICALLY SEPARATED - FRESH - avg. 17.14, 430,000 lbs.

EXPORT TRADING: DRUMSTICKS: TOMS - avg. 32.89, 280,000 lbs. WINGS V-TYPE: - TOMS - none. TAILS - avg. 29.00, 80,000 lbs. MECHANICALLY SEPARATED: avg. 17.00, 80,000 lbs. THIGH MEAT - FROZEN - avg. 66.10, 408,000 lbs.

## National Canner Fowl Market

Atlanta, Ga.

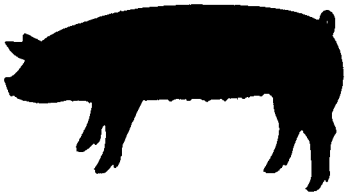
September 7, 2001

Report Supplied By USDA

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET: Majority of prices were unchanged to slightly higher on both light and heavy canners, when compared to a week earlier. Trading was moderate for a mostly moderate to fairly good demand. Offerings were generally adequate for current trade needs. The undertone was mostly steady.

Cents per pound, current negotiations with out freight cost LIGHT CANNER HENS: Line run without necks: 23-25. HEAVY CANNER HENS: Without necks: 31-38, majority 31.5-32.

Cents per pound, current negotiations freight cost included: LIGHT CANNER HENS: Line run without necks 24.75-29.5 majority 24.75-25 HEAVY CANNER HENS: Without necks: 32-40, majority 32.5-33.



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