

## 'Decisions 2002' Seminar Jan. 29

ALLENTOWN (Lehigh Co.) — The year 2001 might go down in history as the most traumatic year for many farmers, particularly those who have not put much emphasis on marketing.

Management of farm businesses is taking more time and concentration with specialized talents. Agriculture is rapidly becoming more specialized in the areas of financial management, agronomics, animal science, and commodity marketing.

When will farm prices start back up? More importantly, how can you profit from price moves?

These and other questions will be addressed by the "Decisions 2002" seminar on Jan. 29 at the Days Inn and Conference Center on Rt. 309 outside of Allentown.

The "Decisions 2002" Seminar will be providing effective market analysis and marketing strategies for all innovative producers. Featured speaker, Scott Davis, is in-

ternationally known for his agricultural marketing insight. Davis started on a progressive grain and livestock farm in Iowa and was graduated from Iowa State University. He has been with Pro Farmer since 1991 where he is senior market analyst. Davis writes a daily marketing column at AgWeb and Pro Farmer Today.

Paul Deanno, KYW-TV meteorologist, will discuss the long-term weather forecast. Deanno will outline the weather implications for this region, the midwest, and the world. Deanno is a Philadelphia native and was graduated from Syracuse University. In addition to his award-winning weather broadcasting, Paul produces the KYW-3 weathercasts and environmental reports.

Contact John Berry, agricultural marketing agent at (610) 391-9840 or jwb15@psu.edu for additional information.

## Fifty-Eight Counties Eligible For USDA Emergency Farm Loans

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman has named 58 counties in Pennsylvania as eligible for USDA emergency farm loans due to losses caused by very low precipitation during the summer of 2001.

"Low precipitation during the growing season causes many challenges for producers," said Veneman. "These loans will help producers minimize the impact of production losses."

Adams, Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Centre, Chester, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Elk, Erie, Forest, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana,

Jefferson, Juniata, Lancaster, Lawrence, Lebanon, Lycoming, Mercer, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Schuylkill, Snyder, Somerset, Union, Venango, Warren, Washington, Westmoreland, and York counties were named as primary disaster areas on Dec. 5. Also eligible because they are contiguous are Bradford, Cameron, Carbon, Crawford, Delaware, Fayette, Greene, Lehigh, Luzerne, McKean, Montgomery, Potter, Sullivan, and Tioga counties.

This designation makes all qualified farm operators in primary and contiguous disaster counties eligible for low-interest EM loans from the Farm Service Agency, provided eligibility re-

quirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of this declaration to apply for the loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

FSA has a variety of programs available, in addition to the emergency loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity. Interested farmers may contact their local FSA offices for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures. Additional information is also available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/disaster/assistance1.htm>.

## Dec. 1 Cattle On Feed Slightly Below Year Ago

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the U.S. for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.9 million head Dec. 1, 2001. The inventory was slightly below December 1, 2000 but 1 percent above December 1, 1999, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.91 million, 5 percent below 2000 and 12 percent below 1999. Net placements

were 1.83 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 655,000, 600-699 pounds were 588,000, 700-799 pounds were 381,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 284,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.80 million, 1 percent below 2000 and 1,000 head below 1999.

Other disappearance totaled 80,000 during November, 24 percent below 2000, and 4 percent below 1999.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Commercial red meat production for the U.S. totaled 3.97 billion pounds in November, up 1 percent from the 3.92 billion pounds produced in November 2000 and a record high for November, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

November 2000 contained 22 weekdays (including two holi-

days) and four Saturdays. November 2001 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and four Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.20 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year and a new record high for November. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.90 million head, down 1 percent from November 2000. The average live weight was up 25 pounds from

87,000 head, down 6 percent from November 2000. The average live weight was 12 pounds below last year, at 309 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.73 billion pounds, a record high for November and up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.72 million head, slightly below November 2000. The average live weight was 4 pounds above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 20 million pounds, was down 3 percent from November 2000. Sheep slaughter totaled 287,000 head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, unchanged from November a year ago.

January-November red meat production was 41.8 billion pounds, 2 percent below the previous year. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 10 percent, pork was up 1 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.

the previous year, at 1,255 pounds.

Veal production totaled 16 million pounds, a record low for November and 10 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled

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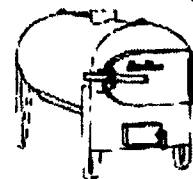
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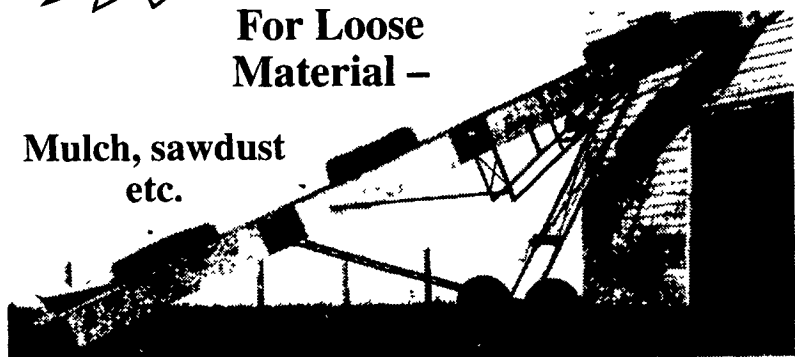
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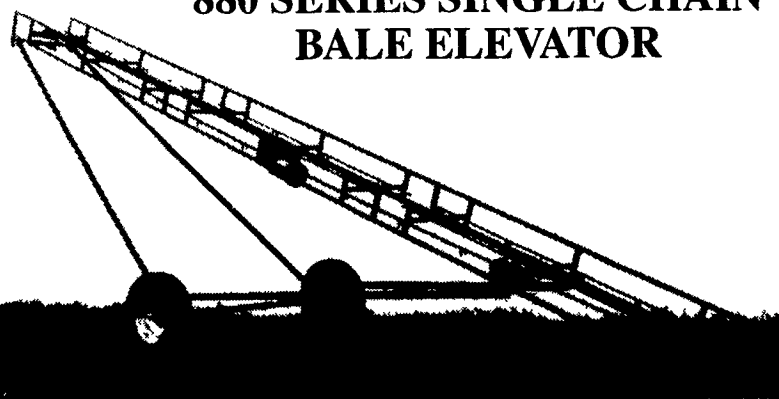
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