

## Northampton Takes First In All Categories Of Potato Contest

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Students age 8-18 competed in the 4-H Potato Grading and Identification Contest at the 86th Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Three different stations were set up for the competition and students were asked to identify class, grades, and defects found in potatoes. In the end, all three categories were added up and scores were tallied up according to correct number of answers.

The first table held 40 defective potatoes, each potato having a different defect. Defects consisted of air cracks, blight, bruises, cuts, cry rot, greening, growth crack, grub or slug, hollow heart, misshapen, scab, Rhizoctonia, rodent, second growth, shriveling, skin checks, sprouts, sunburn, wet breakdown and wireworm and wiregrass. Some defects were obvious while others were hard to catch.

The second table held classes of a group of five or six potatoes lying on a plate. The table was also split into two halves, the A Class and the B Class. The stu-

dents were asked to place the potatoes in the best order by ripeness for both groups. This section of the grading contest accounted for 50 out of the 500 possible points.

The final test was a race against the clock, as students rushed around a table of 100 potatoes and marked off those potatoes that were out of grade. Five points were deducted for each minute over the first 60 seconds of the race. This section was probably the hardest for the students to grade out of all three of the tests.

Individual and group scores are as follows:

A Team: 1. Northampton, 1382.5. 2. Lehigh, 1289.0. 3. Adams, 1259.5.

B Team: 1. Northampton, 1265.5. 2. Lehigh B2, 1225.5. 3. Lehigh B1, 1182.0.

Individuals: 1. Andrew Hower, Northampton, 468.0. 2. Travis Hahn, Northampton, 464.0. 3. Crissy Van Schoirk, Northampton, 450.5.

## Supreme Champion Hampshire Earns Top Dollar At Sale

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Wetzel family from Rossiter claimed \$5,700 for their supreme champion consignment at the 86th Bred Gilt Sale at the 2002 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

This amount has set a new Farm Show Record for the gilt sale, the last high being \$2,425 back in 1991.

This prize-winning Hampshire, a daughter sired by TV08 Sweet, serviced and due in March to Billboard 4-3, was noted by Judge Al Christian as a "fine representative of the breed."

He said that Hampshires, developed in America with breeding of European decent, are popular

in market hog show rings and are excellent market animals because of the breed's tendency toward lean muscle. This animal was no exception, presenting herself as "a spectacular individual excelling in frame size, length of body, and muscle volume."

The second high seller was the reserve champion Hampshire, also owned by Ken Wetzel and family. The gilt bought \$1,050 by John Tigner Jr. of Hartley, Del.

The 2002 Bred Gilt Sale, which immediately followed the selection of supreme champion, averaged \$424 on 177 head of hogs, and drew in buyers from 13 different states.

## Senate Version Of Farm Bill: Analysis Of The Daschle Substitute

Kenneth W. Bailey  
Penn State

The Farm Bill is working its way through the U.S. Congress. The House completed their version last year, which contained only an extension of the dairy price support program. The Senate ended the year without an agreement on their version of the farm bill.

A number of critical issues remain unresolved, including the dairy title. The current Senate version of the Farm Bill contains a dairy title that uses counter cyclical program payments that increase when milk prices decline. That bill, referred to as the "Daschle Substitute," represents a compromise from an earlier bill called Harkin Senate Bill no. 1731. The dairy title to the Daschle Substitute has strong implications for the Northeast dairy industry.

**Dairy Provisions In The 'Daschle Substitute'**  
The dairy title to the Daschle Farm Bill contains three separate programs:

1. Milk Price Support Program
2. Dairy Market Loss Assistance Program
3. Northeast Dairy Market Loss Program

The current Milk Price Support Program is extended under this bill from May 31, 2002 to Dec. 31, 2006. Thus the program that supports market prices for butter, nonfat dry milk and cheese is extended an additional four years and seven months.

The Dairy Market Loss Assistance Program provides counter cyclical payments to producers located outside the Northeast whenever the all-milk price in any quarter falls below a rolling five-year average price. The payment rate is equal to 40 percent of the amount by which the average price of milk in a given quarter falls below the average price of milk for the same quarter during the previous five years. So, if

the all-milk price in the current quarter is \$13 per hundredweight (CWT) and the five-year average all-milk price for the same quarter was \$15 per CWT, the payment rate would be \$0.80 per CWT  $((\$15 - \$13) \times 0.4)$ .

The Dairy Market Loss Assistance Program contains three program limitations. First, it is for producers located outside the Northeast (to be explained below). Second, the payment rate for an individual producer is subject to a production base equal to average milk marketings for fiscal years 1999 through 2001, or eight million pounds, whichever is lower. Third, total payments under the program have a budgetary ceiling of \$1.5 billion for the period Dec. 1, 2001 through Sept. 30, 2005.

Finally, the Northeast Dairy Market Loss Program essentially provides a federal payment whenever the federal order Class I price for Boston falls below \$16.94 per CWT. Thus the federal order Class I price — which rises and falls with market forces — is unaffected by this new program. The program is for producers located in the 12 Northeast states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.

The Northeast Dairy Market Loss Program works by providing a federal payment each month equal to 45 percent of the positive difference between \$16.94 and the Boston Class I price. For example, suppose the Class I price of milk in Boston in a given month is \$15.94 per CWT. The program payment would be equal to \$0.45  $((\$16.94 - \$15.94) \times 0.45)$ . No program payments are made if the monthly Class I price for milk in Boston exceeds \$16.94 per CWT. Producers under this program face the same annual production caps

outlined above (eight million pounds per farm per year). The program also has a budget ceiling of \$500 million over the period Dec. 1, 2001 through Sept. 30, 2005.

An analysis of the Northeast Dairy Market Loss Program is provided below for the FY-2002 marketing year. According to the bill, program benefits the first year are only available during the months December 2001 through September 2002 (10 months). Analysis for the rest of the bill and for the remaining period, marketing years FY-2003 - FY-2005, is available on my Website: <http://dairyoutlook.aers.psu.edu/>.

### Northeast Dairy Market Loss Program

An analysis of the Northeast Dairy Market Loss Program requires a forecast of the Class I price of milk for Boston for the current fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2001 through Sept. 30, 2002). Based on this forecast, the average payment rate under the program is estimated to be \$0.77 per CWT for the 10-month period December 2001 - September 2002.

The next step is to compute the base level of milk marketings and percent of milk eligible for the program payments for each of the 12 Northeast states. Producers are eligible to receive program payments on average marketings for fiscal years 1999 through 2001 subject to the eight million pound cap.

The applicable state level production base was computed in Table 1. Data from USDA's Milk Production report for 2000 indicates that about 88 percent of the milk produced in the Northeast was from farms with less than 500 cows. These Northeast dairy farms marketed less than eight million pounds per year.

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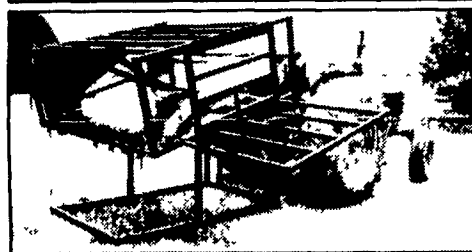
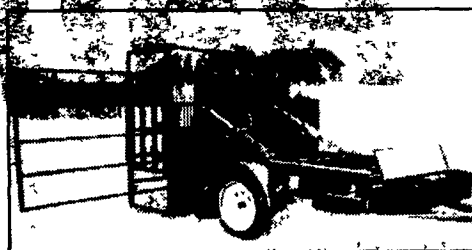


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