

Agriculture Community Provides Assistance At Ground Zero

'Pork For New York' Program Launched

A new campaign, dubbed "Pork for New York," will feed the thousands of workers at New York City's "Ground Zero" with commodity products, especially needed pork.

The goal is to collect donations and then purchase meat to feed the relief workers.

A restaurant in New York City, Nino's, has been feeding people since September 11. Nino's, which is one of the closest restaurants to "Ground Zero," has closed its doors to the public and volunteered to feed the firefighters, police workers, the military personnel, and "anyone else who comes to help clean up — they're feeding 3,000-5,000 every day," said Reno Thomas, Beavertown, who with his brother, Park Thomas, created the initiative. Both men are retired from the hog industry.

"Nino's has been absorbing the cost of providing all of these meals, but with rescue efforts expected to continue for the unforeseeable future, they need assistance to continue to be able to feed the relief workers," he said.

The first load of pork is going to New York on Jan. 24th, according to Thomas. Inspiration began with their niece, Van Robbins, of Atlanta, Georgia. She read the book "The Prayer of Jabez" and organized a project to benefit the relief efforts. Robbins and 28 other women from the Savannah area, calling themselves the "Southern Smiles," took three tractor trailer loads of food to New York and cooked a "Low Country Boil" at Nino's Restaurant.

"They brought everything to do it all," said Thomas, "including a tent to work out of and all the cooking utensils." The meal included a ton of little red potatoes, 1,500 pounds of sausage, 1,500 pounds of shrimp, onions, corn on the cob, and seasoning, all boiled in one pot.

Their meal served approximately 3,000 of the rescue workers. In addition to cooking the meal, which is estimated to have cost around \$30,000, Georgia residents gave a donation to the relief efforts of \$21,000.

After she arrived in New York, Robbins called her two uncles,

who sat down, made plans, and got backing from organizations, such as the Pennsylvania Livestock Association (PLA), where they are both members. Additionally Park is on the board of the PLA.

"We now have 40 members of the board of directors from all across the state helping to raise funds for this particular project. That's what we needed, a network across the state," said Thomas. As a result of contacts with other farm organizations, eggs as well as pork products will go to New York.

A brochure, newspaper advertising are working to raise money to purchase commodity products. "We're going to keep this thing running until it's (Ground Zero) cleaned up, and that may run for another six months," he said.

Both Farm Bureau members, Park and Reno Thomas live in Beavertown, Snyder County.

To make a donation to "Pork for New York," mail your donation to "Pork for New York", c/o Bev Gruber, Box 5, New Tripoli, PA 18066. Make your check payable to PLA.

Beef Industry Contributes To Relief Efforts

WESTMORELAND, NY — Sometimes the burden of a terrible job can be eased when a good meal is served. This was the hope of cattle producers across the nation when they developed a fund to provide assistance to rescue workers, clean up crews and victims of last September's terrorist attacks. In response to the tragedy, the beef industry contributed over \$103,000 to relief efforts.

The beef community provided funds to purchase \$63,057 in beef certificates. These certificates were distributed by the Salvation Army to families displaced by the attacks and to restaurants and organizations providing meals for rescue and clean up crews. The certificates are redeemable at grocery stores, meat lockers and restaurants nation wide for the purchase of beef products.

Additionally, 12,519 pounds of beef and veal were purchased and given to City Harvest and Bouley Bakery organizations in

New York City who are feeding victims and rescue workers. Finally, \$9,500 was sent to Salvation Army, \$5,000 to the American Red Cross, and \$5,000 to City Harvest for additional relief efforts.

Of the sum total of money raised by the Beef Industry, the largest single contribution came from Don and Adeline Hight, via the South Dakota Stock Grower's Association, who donated the profits from the sale of 100 calves, a total of \$41,047.47.

Other significant donations came from the Oklahoma Beef Industry Council, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and S-Foods via the United States Meat Export Federation, each with \$10,000. The New York Beef Industry Council donated \$5,000, which covered the cost of 1,810 pounds of ground veal and 1,703.45 pounds of veal sausage.

U. S. Corn Stocks Down 3 Percent, Soybeans Up 2 Percent, Wheat Down 10 Percent

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Corn stocks in all positions on Dec. 1 2001 totaled 8.26 billion bushels, down 3 percent from December 1, 2000, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

Of the total stocks, 5.28 billion bushels of corn are stored on farms, down 5 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm corn stocks, at 2.99 billion bushels, are up 0.3 percent from the previous year. The September-November 2001 disappearance is indicated at 3.14 billion bushels, compared with 3.10 billion bushels during the same period last year.

Soybeans stored in all positions on Dec. 1, 2001 totaled 2.28 billion bushels, up 2 percent from Dec. 1, 2000. On-farm stocks totaled 1.24 billion bushels, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Off-farm soybean stocks, at 1.04 billion bushels, are up 1 percent from a year ago. Indicated disappearance for the September-November 2001 quarter totaled 863 million bushels, up 7 percent from the same quarter in 2000.

All wheat stored in all positions on Dec. 1, 2001 totaled 1.62 billion bushels, down 10 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 518 million bushels, down 17 percent from last year.

Off-farm wheat stocks, at 1.11 billion bushels, are down 7 percent from a year ago. The indicated September-November 2001 disappearance is 532 million bushels, down 3 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Wheat stocks in all positions on Dec. 1, 2001 totaled 75.7 mil-

lion bushels, down 27 percent from a year ago. On-farm wheat stocks, at 49.6 million bushels, are down 31 percent from Dec. 1, 2000.

Off-farm wheat stocks totaled 26.1 million bushels, down 19 percent from a year ago. The indicated September-November 2001 disappearance of 21.4 million bushels is up 13 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions on Dec. 1, 2001 totaled 195 mil-

lion bushels, down 15 percent from December 1, 2000.

On-farm barley stocks are estimated at 92.4 million bushels, 17 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 103 million bushels, are 13 percent below December 2000. Indicated disappearance during the September-November 2001 quarter

totalled 50.4 million bushels, down 23 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on Dec. 1, 2001 totaled 114 million bushels, 21 percent below the Dec. 1, 2000 estimate. Of the total stocks on hand, 58.1 million bushels were stored in on-farm facilities, 33 percent below the same quarter last year.

Oat stocks held in off-farm storage facilities totaled 56.1 million bushels, 2 percent less than a

year earlier. Indicated disappearance from all positions during the September-November 2001 quarter totaled 2.17 million bushels, compared to 6.24 million bushels during the same period a year ago.

Grain sorghum stored in all positions on Dec. 1, 2001 totaled 313 million bushels, up 20 per-

cent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 241 million bushels, are up 28 percent from Dec. 1, 2000.

On-farm grain sorghum stocks, at 72.4 million bushels, are down 3 percent from last year. The September-November 2001 indicated disappearance from all positions is 243 million bushels, down 11 percent from last year.

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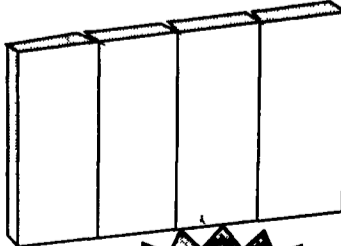
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