



NASS

Agriculture Counts

By Marc Tosiano
Pa. State Statistician

Editor's Note: This is a monthly column from the Pennsylvania Ag Statistics Service (PASS), a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA). The Website is www.usda.gov/nass/.

SEE YOU AT AG PROGRESS DAYS

If you are attending Ag Progress Days, please stop by our booth in the Conservation Education Tent. We will be there all three days to provide information and discuss the use of NASS statistics.

Some of the handouts available will include "2002 Census of Agriculture," "Aides For Teachers and Home Schoolers," "State and County Ag Profiles And Rankings," Internet access, free e-mail subscriptions, and samples of reports from NASS and the Pennsylvania Ag Statistics Service.

Ag Census Screening Under Way

About 600,000 potential farms and ranches across the country have recently received a 2002 Farm Identification Survey in the mail. These are additional names from the April and May mailings done last spring.

The intent of the survey is to identify agricultural operations for the 2002 Census of Agriculture.

Agricultural research, education, services, and programs for growers all depend on state and county statistics from the United States Census of Agriculture! So it is important to count every farm — even small, part-time, or hobby farms.

The Farm Identification Survey consists of seven short questions which will help determine agricultural status. Simple "yes" or "no" questions will ask about growing crops or raising livestock in any quantity. The short survey should take less than five minutes to complete and mail in the postage-paid envelope.

About 50,000 surveys will be sent to potential farms in Pennsylvania. In surrounding states, the approximate counts are as follows: about 5,000 in New York, 1,000 in New Jersey, 5,000 in Maryland, 200 in Delaware, 500 in West Virginia, and about 19,000 in Ohio.

Many people who do not consider themselves to be farmers or ranchers actually qualify as farmers and are important to the 2002 Census of Agriculture. The term "farm" includes much more than just field crops, hay, fruit, vegetables, cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, and chickens. Agriculture includes many other products such as nursery and greenhouse products, sod, maple syrup, Christmas trees, mushrooms, aquaculture, honey, horses, other equine, llamas, fur-bearing animals, rabbits, wild game, elk, bison, deer, exotic livestock, emus, ostriches, pheasant, and quail.

Some folks say they are retired from agriculture because they produce much less crops or livestock than when they were actively farming. However, for example, someone who is retired and now only has a few head of cattle and cuts a few acres of hay is still considered an active farm for the Ag Census.

Responses to the Farm Identification Survey and the 2002 Census of Agriculture are mandatory under Title 7, U.S. Code, which also assures growers that all information provided to NASS is confidential and will not be provided to any individual, organization, or other government agency.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture forms will be sent to 2.75 million potential farms and ranches in December 2002. For additional information about the Farm Identification Survey or the 2002 Census of Agriculture, get online at www.usda.gov/nass/ or call toll-free (888) 4AG-STAT or (888) 424-7828.

Aquaculture

For 2001, Pennsylvania producers of aquaculture products reported sales totaling \$8.8 million, 5 percent above the previous year. Only those with over \$1,000 in gross receipts were included in the summary.

Sales of food fish comprised 80 percent of the total sales with the remainder of the sales made up of sport and game fish, baitfish, crustaceans, mollusks, ornamental fish, and other animal aquaculture (tadpoles and frogs).

There were \$5 million from trout sales, 3 percent over 2000. Trout makes up 57 percent of total aquaculture sales in Pennsylvania. For 2001, this ranks Pennsylvania as the fourth largest state for trout sales behind Idaho with \$34.8 million, North Carolina with \$6.5 million, and California with \$6 million.

The fifth largest trout producer is Washington with \$3.5 million. Pennsylvania is the leading state for trout distributed for restora-

tion, conservation, and recreational purposes. These are fish raised primarily by state and federal hatcheries. Nationwide these distributed fish were valued at \$64.8 million in 2001.

The top states are valued as follows: Pennsylvania with \$10.8 million, Colorado with \$7.6 million, California with \$7.3 million, Oregon with \$6.5 million, and Washington with \$5.3 million.

Crop Forecasts

Last month I discussed NASS yield forecast statistics. Here are the latest results for the 2002 crop in Pennsylvania.

As of July 1, oat yield is expected to be 64 bushels, winter wheat 59 bushels, and barley 76 bushels per acre. After combining these yield forecasts with acreage statistics from the June Acreage Survey, production is expected to be larger than last year for each of these three crops.

The peach crop is expected to be 20 percent smaller than last year's production, based on July

forecasts. Tart cherry production in Pennsylvania is forecast to be 5 percent above last year. However, the national crop is only 59.1 million pounds compared to 369.3 million last year. Michigan, the largest producing state, only produced 5 percent of last year's crop because of unusual spring weather that devastated the 2002 crop. The Michigan crop was only 15 million pounds compared to 297 million in 2001 and 200 million pounds in 2000.

Sweet cherry production in Pennsylvania is expected to be 34 percent below the 2000 crop.

All yield forecasts assume normal growing conditions for the remainder of the season.

Sweet corn for fresh market is showing a 3 percent decline in harvested acres compared to last year. Sweet corn processors have contracted 1,500 acres in 2002, compared to only 650 acres last year. Snap bean processors have contracted 3,600 acres, only 44 percent of last year's 8,200 acres.

Northeast Order Uniform Milk Price For June Announced

BOSTON, Mass. — Erik F. Rasmussen, market administrator for the Northeast Marketing Area, has announced that the statistical uniform price paid by milk dealers (handlers) regulated under the Northeast Order for June 2002 is \$12.38 per hundredweight (\$1.06 per gallon) for milk delivered to plants located in Suffolk County, Mass. (Boston). The June statistical uniform price is \$12.28 for delivery to plants in New York, N.Y., and \$12.18 for delivery to plants in Philadelphia. The statistical uniform price is the benchmark minimum producer blend price paid to dairy farmers, prior to allowable deductions, for milk containing 3.5 percent butterfat, 2.99 percent protein, and 5.69 percent other solids. The price received by an individual dairy farmer will vary as the component composition of a farm's milk differs from the established benchmarks and by the location of the plant(s) to which the farm's milk is delivered.

Rasmussen also stated that the producer price differential (PPD) for June is \$2.29 per hundredweight for milk delivered to

plants located in Suffolk County, Mass. The PPD represents each producer's share of the value generated by the marketwide pool on a hundredweight basis. The PPD, which is added to the payment producers receive for their milk's components, is adjusted for the location of the receiving plant. The statistical uniform price and PPD decrease by scheduled amounts the more distant the plant receiving producer milk is from Suffolk County.


The Class prices for milk pooled in June are as follows: Class I, \$14.28 (Suffolk County); Class II, \$11.19; Class III, \$10.09; and Class IV, \$10.52. Comparable prices for June 2001 were: Class I \$18.24, Class II \$16.05, Class III \$15.02, and Class IV price \$15.33. The component values for June 2002 are protein, \$2.0148 per pound; butterfat, \$1.1211 per pound; other solids, \$0.0247 per pound; and nonfat solids, \$0.7605 per pound.

Milk receipts from producers totaled 2.135 billion pounds. Class I utilization, milk processed as beverage milk, was 38.1 per-

cent of producer milk receipts. The average Class I utilization was 40.7 percent in June 2001.

The manufacture of Class II products such as cream, ice cream, yogurt, and cottage cheese utilized 17.3 percent of producer milk. Milk used to manufacture Class III products such as cheese (American and Italian) and evaporated and condensed products utilized 32.3 percent of total milk receipts. Class IV usage (butter, nonfat and whole milk powder) equaled 12.3 percent of the total.

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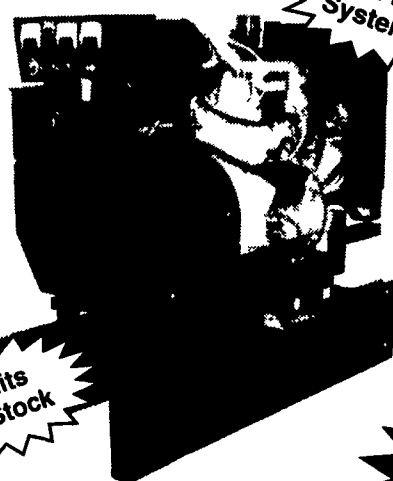


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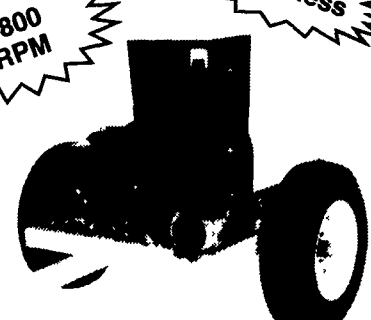
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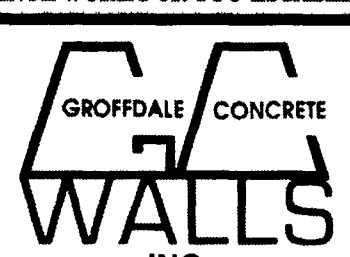


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