

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/.

CROP FORECASTS
Aug. 1 field crop forecasts are based on the June Acreage report combined with results of the monthly ag yield survey conducted throughout the growing season. We have yet to measure the effects of August weather. Stay tuned for the Sept. 12 crop report for the corn and beans update!

Small grain production in Pennsylvania is expected to be above last year with oat production up 4 percent, barley up 13 percent, and wheat up 31 percent. The large increase for wheat is due to more acres harvested combined with higher yields.

As of Aug. 1, yields are expected as follows: 64 bushels for oats, 73 bushels for barley, and 59 bushels per acre for wheat.

At 90 bushels, corn yields in Pennsylvania are down from last year by 8 bushels as of Aug. 1. Combined with less harvested acreage, production is forecast at 85.5 million bushels, down 12 percent from 2001.

Soybean production is expected to be 12 percent less than

last year. The forecasted 33-bushel average yield is 2 bushels below 2001 while acreage is also reduced from last year.

Dry alfalfa production in Pennsylvania is forecast at 1.44 million tons as of Aug. 1. A lower expected average yield of 2.4 tons combined with less acreage harvested to make the forecast 14 percent less than last year.

Dry other hay production in Pennsylvania is forecast at 1.76 million tons as of Aug. 1. A lower expected average yield of 1.6 tons was mostly offset by increased harvested acreage to make the forecast just slightly less than 2001.

Tobacco, both Maryland and Pennsylvania types, anticipate increased yields and acres harvested. Compared to last year, Maryland-type production is up 18 percent while Pennsylvania-type is up 7 percent.

Apples are forecast at 470 million pounds in Pennsylvania, 2 percent below last year. Pear output, at 5,300 tons, is down 4 percent from last year. Grape production of 45,000 tons is down 27 percent from a year earlier. Peach production is forecast at 60 million pounds, down 20 percent from 2001.

Dairy Pest Management
The chemical usage statistics program in NASS was estab-

lished so that accurate information, not guesses and assumptions, is available to the American public. It is also important for EPA to have actual usage data as they re-evaluate registered chemicals available to farmers. Otherwise, EPA will assume that maximum application rates are always used on field crops, fruits, vegetables, and livestock.

We are releasing the first "Agricultural Chemical Usage" report that provides actual usage statistics about insecticides used in the dairy industry. Nationally, Permethrin is the most popular insecticide applied to dairy cattle and Piperonyl butoxide is most widely used in dairy facilities. Dairy facilities were defined as milking parlors, pens, sheds, barns, etc.

The 36-page report can be found at www.usda.gov/nass/. Use the Search button to find the "Agricultural Chemical" report released on May 29, 2002.

Maple Syrup
Pennsylvania's 2002 maple syrup production is estimated at 55,000 gallons, down 20 percent from last year's 69,000 gallons. This is the first year number of taps are being published. The number of taps set in Pennsylvania totaled 337,000 during 2002, compared with 360,000 taps in 2001. Therefore, Pennsylvania maple yield for the year 2002 averaged 0.163 gallons per tap, down from the 0.192 gallons per tap last year. Temperatures were generally too warm for good sap flow in Pennsylvania.

Nationally, maple syrup production in 2002 totaled 1.36 million gallons, 29 percent above the 2001 crop. There were 6.58 million taps set this year compared to 6.48 million taps in 2001.

In Pennsylvania, the value of the 2001 crop was \$1.75 million, up from the \$1.34 million in the year 2000. Nationally, the crop was valued at \$30.1 million.

Complete maple statistics are found in the 32-page June issue of the "Crop Production" report release June 12, 2002. It can be found at www.usda.gov/nass/. Use the Search button and select Maple Syrup from the Commodity list.

Mushrooms
U.S. Agaricus mushroom sales totaled 838 million pounds for 2001-2002, 1 percent below last year. Pennsylvania accounted for 55 percent, with 460 million pounds. California ranked second with 128 million pounds or 15 percent.

The 2001-2002 U.S. Agaricus crop was estimated at \$875 million in sales, with Pennsylvania sales at \$390 million. Nationwide, Brown mushrooms, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 92.9 million pounds, 11 percent of all Agaricus sold. The value of sales for Brown mushrooms was \$115 million, or 13 percent of total Agaricus sales.

In 2001-2002, there were 129 Agaricus growers nationwide

with 78 of those in Pennsylvania. The previous year showed 137 growers nationally with 80 in Pennsylvania.

The 15-page report has additional data about specialty mushrooms and certified organic mushrooms. See www.usda.gov/nass/; use the Search button to find the "Mushrooms" report released on August 16, 2002.

Countdown To Census
The 2002 Census of Agriculture will be mailed to all growers across the nation in late December or in about four months.

Funding for agricultural research, education, services, and programs for growers of all sizes depend on state and county statistics from the Census of Agriculture. So it's important for Pennsylvania to count every farm — even small, part-time, and hobby farms.

You only have to produce \$1,000 of agricultural products or keep only a few head of livestock or equine to count as a farm for Census purposes. Remember, "Agriculture Counts," and we are counting on your response for an accurate Census. When you get the Ag Census form, please fill it out and return it right away. Thank you!

Weekly Dairy Market Outlook

(Continued from Page A16)

You know the MILC program payments are only available on the first 2.4 million pounds of milk marketed each fiscal year. (The current fiscal year ends September 2002). Thus, you will exhaust your 2.4-million-pound cap during the first two months of the fiscal year during December 2001 and January 2002. Your choice then is either to take the 2.4 million pounds on the transition payment or for the month of September 2002. This of course assumes that you sign your MILC contract during August.

For our 720-cow operation, the transition payment will be \$18,600 (\$9,240 for December 2001 and \$9,360 for January 2002). The MILC payment for September, on the other hand, will be \$17,400 (a MILC payment rate of \$1.45 per CWT on 1.2 million pounds of milk).

In this case, since the MILC payment is higher during the transition period, the 720-cow producer will likely elect to receive the transition payment. A larger producer, however, may elect to forfeit the transition payment and take the MILC pay-

ment for September 2002 if that payment is higher.

- Step 4. Provide verifiable production history.

- Step 5. If you are a member of a special group as identified by USDA, you can elect to disburse your MILC benefits through a cooperative. This is an option that may have appeal for our Amish and Mennonite communities. USDA will allow MILC benefits to be disbursed by a cooperative marketing association that serves the Amish community or other special groups.

- For example, let's say you are an Amish producer and do not want to directly receive your MILC benefits from USDA. You can instead arrange to have the transition payment and monthly MILC checks go through your cooperative into your milk check. Procedures regarding these provisions have not yet been released.

For more information, please visit your local FSA office.

Other source of information:

- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dam/forms/fsanotices.asp> (page down to Notice Number LD-524).

N.J. Leaders Tout Ethanol Production In State

(Continued from Page A1)

Meanwhile, in southcentral Pennsylvania, plans for a possible ethanol production plant are "continuing to move forward," according to Russ Montgomery, president of Regional Economic Development District Initiatives.

The project began last year when the York County Economic Development Corporation created an agricultural alliance group to study the potential of an ethanol plant within an area that includes Adams, Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon, Lancaster, and York counties.

The results of a feasibility study released earlier this year showed good economic promise for such a facility in the area.

While there are "still a number of questions to be answered," site selection should be finalized within a few months, Montgomery said.



Among N.J. leaders who gathered this week to support an ethanol plant are, from left, Pete Furey, executive director of the N.J. Farm Bureau; James McGreevey, governor; Karen Kominsky, deputy commissioner of agriculture; and Charles Kuperus, secretary of agriculture.

A lesson well learned...
Lancaster Farming's classified ads get results!

Sturdy Built Galvanized Tie Stalls

Save Your Curb With Our Stainless Steel Curb Model

- Stainless Steel Corrosion Protection
- Hot-dipped Galvanized Accessories
- Water Bowls and 1 1/2" Galvanized Water Line In Stock

Sturdy Built 255 Holtzman Road, Reinholds, PA 17569
717-484-2233 Call for Free Color Brochure!

Fabricators of Galvanized Barn Equipment

Concrete Walls Built to Your Construction Needs

Lancaster Poured Walls, Inc. Concrete Construction

2542 Horseshoe Rd. • Lancaster, PA 17601
717-656-7370 Fax 717-656-7350
Concrete Pumping, 28 Meter Pump
 Agricultural • Commercial • Residential