



*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/nassl.*

#### Ag Census

##### Due Date Approaches

A big "thank you" goes to those who have been so prompt in returning your ag census form. We have already received more than 20,000 completed census forms from growers, but we are required to get responses from everyone.

The forms are due back Feb. 3. If you mail it back in time, we won't have to bother you with another form mailed to your home or a phone call.

The more census forms returned before Feb. 3, the less taxpayer dollars will be spent on the Ag Census. Nationwide, it will cost about one million dollars just to mail the forms out again after Feb. 3. Then, it will cost about another \$2 million to call or visit those who don't mail a form back.

Small, part-time, and hobby farms must be counted, too. They account for nearly half of the 60,000 farms in Pennsylvania.

Remember, you only have to produce \$1,000 worth of agricultural products or have \$1,000 worth of livestock or equine in 2002 to be counted as a farm. If you did not raise any plants or animals in 2002, make a note and return the Ag Census form. This will prevent additional mailings to your home.

Help completing the form is only a phone call away at (888) 4AG-STAT or (888) 424-7828. Call the same number for a Census form if you did not receive one.

#### Custom Rates

In Pennsylvania, we publish an annual report with average rates paid to custom machinery service providers. It is one of our most popular reports requested by farmers. To see the 2002 report, go to [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

and click on "Publications." About 1,200 Pennsylvania farmers have received the 2003 survey asking about rates paid for custom work. Phone calls may be made to nonrespondents in mid-February.

This annual study is done at the request of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Your response allows us to publish the most accurate information possible.

#### 2002 Crop Summary Published Jan. 10

We all know that the 2002 drought was devastating in parts of the state. We now have the final tally of crop production for last year.

Pennsylvania grain corn yields averaged 68 bushels in 2002, 30 less than 2001 and 59 bushels less than 2000. Total Pennsylvania production was 59.16 million bushels, 39 percent below 2001. Nationally, production was down 5 percent at 9.01 billion bushels.

Pennsylvania silage corn yield averaged 11.5 tons, 4.5 tons below 2001. Even though acreage cut was 14 percent above 2001, this acreage increase could not offset such low yields. Production was 6.44 million tons, down 18 percent from 2001. Nationally, the crop was up 3 percent.

Pennsylvania dry alfalfa hay production was nearly 6 percent above 2001 with an average of 2.6 tons per acre. Nationally, the

crop was down 8 percent. Pennsylvania alfalfa haylage and greenchop production was 21 percent less with 5.3 green tons per acre. There were 110,000 newly seeded acres planted in 2002 for production in 2003.

Pennsylvania dry other hay production was up 2 percent from 2001, averaging a 1.6-ton yield. Nationally, the crop was up 1 percent.

The summary of all forage production (both dry and green) shows 4.77 million tons harvested on a dry equivalent basis, a 1 percent decline from 2001. Forage was harvested from 2 million acres, same as 2001. Yields in 2002 were 2.39 tons compared to 2.41 dry equivalent tons in the previous year.

Pennsylvania oat production was 7.02 million bushels, 6 percent less than 2001; average yield was 61 bushels in 2002 compared to 65 in 2001. Nationally, the crop was up 2 percent.

Pennsylvania wheat production was 9.99 million bushels, 20 percent above 2001; yields averaged 54 bushels compared to 52 in 2001. In the fall of 2002, 190,000 acres were seeded compared to 170,000 the previous year. Nationally, the 2002 crop was down 16 percent.

Barley production was 4.44 million bushels, 6 percent above 2001; average yield was 74 bushels in 2002 compared to 70 in 2001. Nationally, the crop was down 10 percent.

Soybean production was 9.1 million bushels, 34 percent less than 2001; average yield was 26 bushels in 2002 compared to 35 in 2001. Nationally, the crop was down 6 percent.

Pennsylvania fall potato production was 2.59 million CWT, 18 percent less than 2001; average yield was 185 CWT in 2002 compared to 235 in 2001. Acreage harvested in 2002 was 14,000 acres, up 4 percent from 2001. Nationally, the crop was up 6 percent for all potatoes.

Pennsylvania-type tobacco production was 4.41 million pounds, 7 percent above 2001 because of increased yields at 2100 pounds (up 40 pounds) and 100 more acres harvested in 2002 at 2,100 acres. Maryland-type tobacco production was 2.41 million pounds, 17 percent above 2001. Slightly lower yields (down 10 pounds) were offset by 200 more acres harvested at 1,300 acres. Nationally, the crop was down 10 percent for all tobacco.

#### 2002 Hog Summary Published Dec. 30

There were 1.08 million hogs in Pennsylvania on Dec. 1, 2002, up only 20,000 head from a year earlier. Market hogs, at 955,000, were up 25,000 head while the breeding herd, at 125,000, was down 5,000 head compared to the same time last year.

Nationally, there were 58.9 million hogs on hand Dec. 1, 2002, 1 percent below a year ago. Market hogs were down 1 percent from the year before at 52.9 million head. The breeding herd was down 3 percent at 6.01 million head.

#### 2002 Turkey Summary Published Jan. 9

Pennsylvania raised 9.9 million turkeys in 2002, up 4 percent from 2001. Growers are intending to raise the same number of birds in 2003.

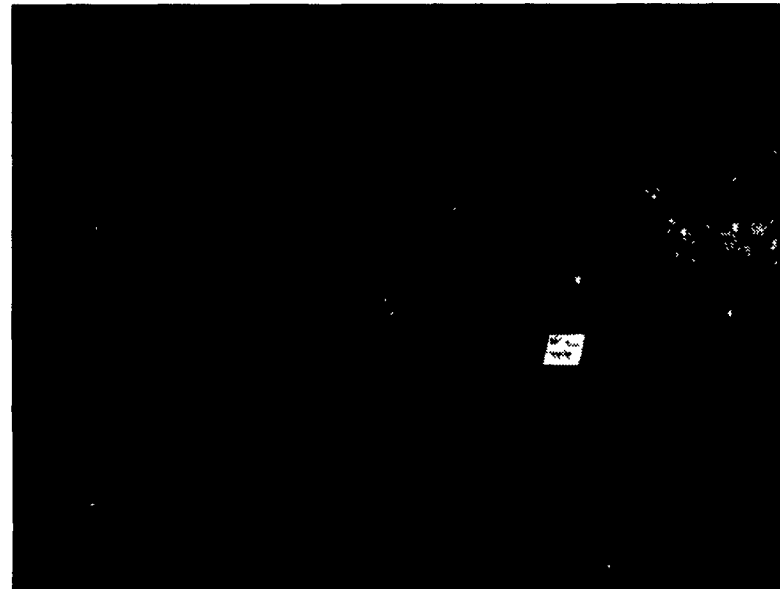
Nationally, there were 272 million turkeys raised in 2002, only 370,000 more birds than in 2001. Growers intend to raise about 2 percent less birds in 2003.

## Fearnley Selected As Pa. Holstein Intern

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Pennsylvania Holstein Association has announced that Jeremiah Fearnley began an internship with the association Jan. 2, continuing through April.

Fearnley is from Susquehanna County where his parents, Robert and Dawn, milk 50 registered Holsteins. Fearnley is currently in his junior year at Penn State, working towards a bachelor degree in animal sciences. He is actively involved in the Penn State Dairy Science Club, serving as the chair of the successful 2002 Nittany Lion Fall Classic Sale and the spring break trips to the Pacific Northwest and California. Fearnley is also a member of Alpha Zeta fraternity, where he served as chancellor in 2002.

Fearnley was a member of the Penn State Dairy judging team that competed in Louisville, and he hopes to compete at Madison next year. He has judged on the 4-H level as well. Fearnley has show ring experience, exhibiting at local and state levels. In 2000, he received one of the "Outstand-



**Jeremiah Fearnley, new intern with the Pennsylvania Holstein Association, mans booth at the Farm Show.**

ing 4-H Dairy Member" awards for Susquehanna County.

If you would like to contact Fearnley about Pennsylvania Holstein Association issues or ac-

tivities, he can be reached at: Pennsylvania Holstein Association, 839 Benner Pike, State College PA 16801, phone (814) 234-0364 or fax (814) 234-1698.

## Marcia Taylor To Speak At Pa. Corn And Soybean Conference

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — The 2003 Pennsylvania Corn and Soybean Conference will bring together some of Pennsylvania's top corn and soybean growers to hear some topics on how they can better plan for the future and improve their bottom line. This year's program will kick off at 9 a.m., Feb. 7 at the Holiday Inn in Grantville.

The featured speaker at this year's conference is Marcia Zarley Taylor. Taylor is a Des Moines, Iowa native with 20 years experience in farm policy, agricultural finance, and environmental reporting. Since 1990, Taylor has served as editor of Top Producer magazine. Marcia recently was awarded the 2002 Jesse Neal Award for her series entitled "Brazil the Competitor You Can't Ignore" published in Top Producer.

In her presentation, she will discuss not only the grain production potential of Brazil but also recent investments in grain processing and hog and poultry

production and what we must do now to remain competitive.

The morning program includes speakers on soy beverages and the Penn State football team, how to maximize the quality of corn and soybeans, and discussion of how the movie "Signs" was produced using a Pennsylvania corn field.

Our afternoon sessions will feature some in depth workshops on the Farm Bill and Crop Insurance, again with several top speakers.

Sam Willet, nationally recognized expert on the Farm Bill with the National Corn Growers Association, is another of our guests this year. Willet will describe and explain the new Farm Bill components that have direct financial impact on Pennsylvania farmers with the help of Penn State extension agent John Berry. Willet and Berry will be using real Pennsylvania examples to illustrate the local effects of this program.

A distinguished panel of crop insurance experts will be on hand

this year to explore how to more fully utilize this part of our risk management efforts. Insurance agency representatives will give us information from the perspective of the actual product users. Gene Gantz and Cliff Parker represent the USDA, Risk Management Agency and will supply answers to our questions on the formulation and implementation of crop insurance regulations and policy. Bring your questions and concerns. This session is sure to be a lively discussion of this important topic.

The Corn and Soybean Conference is a joint program sponsored by the Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association, The Pennsylvania Soybean Board, and Penn State Extension. Registration for the meeting is \$20 and reservations can be made by contacting the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Penn State at (814) 865-2543 before Feb. 1.

For more information, contact Greg Roth in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Penn State at (814) 863-1018.

## Farm Show Names Honey Winners

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The following winners were selected in this year's apiary products competition at the Farm Show.

Comb honey square sections - light: 1. Craig Cella. 2. Elaine Hintenach. 3. Eugene Taylor.

Comb honey square sections - dark: 1. Eugene Taylor.

Comb honey cobana round - light: 1. Craig Cella. 2. Jim Boob. 3. Elaine Hintenach.

Comb honey cobana round - dark: 1. Eugene Taylor. 2. Elaine Hintenach.

Comb honey - light cut comb: 1. Eugene Taylor. 2. Harold Jenkins. 3. Bruce Frymire.

Comb honey - dark cut comb: 1. Eugene Taylor. 2. Bruce Frymire. 3. Elaine Hintenach.

Comb honey - 3 Lb. chunk: 1. Dave Moyer. 2. John R. Frey. 3. Monroe Cressley.

Extracted honey extra white: 1. Leon Ochs. 2. Monroe Cressley. 3. George Biles.

Extracted honey white: 1. Mark Bradson. 2. Dave Moyer. 3. Bruce Frymire.

Extracted honey ex light amber: 1. James Stein. 2. John Beamenderfer. 3. Richard Patterson.

Extracted honey light amber: 1. Elaine Hintenach. 2. Dave Moyer. 3. Tim Komar.

Extracted honey amber: 1. Lancaster. 2. Tim Komar. 3. James Hoffman.

Extracted honey dark amber: 1. Dave Moyer. 2. James Stein. 3. Eugene Taylor.

Extracted honey light - glass jars: 1.

Monroe Cressley. 2. Eugene Taylor. 3. Richard Patterson.

Extracted honey dark - glass jars: 1. Bruce Frymire. 2. William Gilbert. 3. Elaine Hintenach.

Extracted honey crystallized or creamed: 1. Eugene Taylor. 2. Elaine Hintenach. 3. James Wentzel.

Beeswax commercial single: 1. Eugene Taylor. 2. Joe Duffy. 3. Shanna Vorisek.

Beeswax molded or designed: 1. Lucinda "Joann" Frey. 2. Shanna Vorisek. 3. John R. Frey.

Beeswax dipped candles: 1. John Beamenderfer. 2. Scott Baxter. 3. Robert Singer.

Beeswax molded candles: 1. Eugene Taylor. 2. Elaine Hintenach. 3. Timothy Miller.

Honey yeast breads: 1. Lucinda "Joann" Frey.

Honey quick breads: 1. Lucinda "Joann" Frey. 2. Dorothy Martin. 3. Mark Marshall.

Honey cookies: 1. Mark Marshall. 2. Lucinda "Joann" Frey. 3. Lydia Eddinger.

Honey candy: 1. Lucinda "Joann" Frey.

Cakes - one round or sheet: 1. Debra Martin. 2. Dorothy Martin. 3. Lydia Eddinger.

Fruit pies: 1. Mark Marshall.

Gadgets for beekeeping: 1. Craig Cella. 2. James E. Hoover.

Specialty pack: 1. Shanna Vorisek. 2. Mark Marshall. 3. Eugene Taylor.

Individual exhibit: 1. Lucinda "Joann" Frey. 2. Tom Jones. 3. Eugene Taylor.

County or association collective exhibit: 1. Lancaster. 2. James E. Hoover. 3. William Gilbert.

Mead, dry - less than one percent residual sugar: 1. Eugene Taylor. 2. Dane Snyder.

Mead, semi-dry, one to three percent residual sugar: 1. Scott Baxter. 2. Chns Brugger. 3. Eugene Taylor.

Mead, sweet - greater than three percent residual sugar: 1. Scott Baxter. 2. Eugene Taylor.

Mead, augmented - with other type of fruit added: 1. Dane Snyder. 2. Scott Baxter. 3. Eugene Taylor.

Youth, comb honey light: 1. Jessica Frey. 2. Joshua Brunk.

Youth, comb honey, dark: 1. Shanna Vorisek.

Youth, cobana round sections, light: 1. Shanna Vorisek.

Youth, cobana round sections, dark: 1. Shanna Vorisek.

Youth, extracted honey, white: 1. Timothy Long.

Youth, extracted honey, extra light amber: 1. Ryan Komar. 2. Jessica Frey. 3. Georgina Waldman.

Youth, extracted honey, light amber: 1. Kelly Komar. 2. Ryan Komar. 3. Brandon Komar.

Youth, extracted honey, amber: 1. Shanna Vorisek. 2. Brandon Komar. 3. Timothy Komar.

Youth, extracted honey, dark amber: 1. Brandon Komar. 2. Timothy Komar. 3. Kelly Komar.

Best comb honey exhibit: Craig Cella.

Best extracted honey exhibit: Mark Bradson.

Best beeswax exhibit: Eugene Taylor.