

Deadline For Spring Planted Crop Insurance Sign-up Mar. 15

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Designee Dennis C. Wolff announced that Pennsylvania farmers and growers should review their crop insurance needs and enroll their spring crops in the 2003 Crop Insurance Program.

"Pennsylvania is a leading state in crop insurance and risk management," said Acting Secretary Wolff. "With the uncertainty about the weather and market risks, crop insurance provides a way for Pennsylvania farmers to help manage their risk."

The deadline to enroll spring planted crops for 2003 and to change producer's current coverage is March 15, 2003.

The Pennsylvania Crop Insurance Assistance Program administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) has helped to double participation in crop insurance, which is now well over one million acres the highest ever in Pennsylvania. In part, the increased participation has resulted from the PDA's insistence that the crop insurance program be made more reflective of Pennsylvania agriculture.

To be eligible, you must purchase a crop insurance policy and complete the required forms. The Pennsylvania Crop Insurance Assistance Program covers the administrative fees of \$100 per crop enrolled for "CAT" and \$30 per crop for Buy-up coverage.

Additionally, producers that purchase Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) policies benefit by the state paying up to 10 percent of the gross premium, which calculates to about a 20 percent net premium discount. This program is in addition to any federal premium assistance. These benefits are automatic when producers enroll in crop insurance.

To emphasize the importance of risk management, the Department of Agriculture is working with the agribusiness community, Penn State Cooperative Extension, and the USDA Risk Management Agency to conduct over 90 outreach meetings in 2002-03 to assist over 4,000 farmers in exploring their risk management needs prior to the spring planting season. Crop insurance participation among Pennsylvania farmers

increased 19 percent from 2001 to 2002.

To expand coverage to more eligible acres and crops, the PDA has worked with crop insurance companies and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to increase the availability of existing policies and develop more effective policy provisions such as Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) and Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).

Due to Pennsylvania's crop insurance success story, the PDA is assisting other Mid-Atlantic states in organizing a more efficient crop insurance program for their respective states.

For additional information regarding the Pennsylvania Crop Insurance Assistance Program, contact the PDA at (717) 787-2376 or the PA PowerPort at www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: "agriculture." Check with your local crop insurance agent regarding your specific crop insurance policy requirements. A list of agents can be obtained at www.rma.usda.gov.

70 Pa. Holstein Herds Earn Progressive Genetics Award

BETHLEHEM (Northampton Co.) — The Pennsylvania Holstein Association recently recognized 70 Pennsylvania Holstein breeders for receiving the Progressive Genetics Herd Award.

The award is presented annually to the 500 Holstein herds nationwide with the highest average type production index (TPI) for all females in the herd, both young and mature.

Those receiving the recognition at the 2003 Pennsylvania Holstein Convention in Bethlehem included:

12 Years: Dennis & David Hottenstein, New Albany; J.Z. Nolt, Leola; Janice Jurba, Orangeville; Penn-Dell Farms, Spring Mills; Junge Farms Inc., New Tripoli; Keith & Debbie Decker, Knox; Keystone Farm, Easton; Latuch Brothers, Rockwood; Matthew Senta, Wattsburg; Micheal & Cynthia Weimer, Emlenton; Philip Beachy, Salisbury; Thomas Kelly, Tyrone; and Timothy & Teresa Kissling, Robesonia.

11 Years: Keith Beiler, Paradise; D. Micheal Hoover, Tyrone; and Oakenbound Holsteins, Richland.

10 Years: Brian Ruch, Andrews; Dennis E. Tice, Manheim; Frederick L. England, Williamsburg; James & Dennis London, Punxsutawney; Kirby & Sheryl Horst, Newmans town; Mark & Alrs, Greencastle; Ronald & Loraine Hembury, Muncy; and Weaverville Holsteins, Myerstown.

9 Years: William & Micheal Ammon, Lewistown, Daniel & Penny Ulmer, Bellefonte, and William R. Bryant, Honesdale.

8 Years: Curvin Good, Myerstown; Charles Bean, Franklin; Dale & Fred Rice,

Chambersburg, Kenneth M. Umble, Atglen, and Ridge Star Farm, Spring City

7 Years: Myron & Lon Bonzo, Rochester, Karl & Daniel Brandt, Annville, and James & William Compton, Clarksburg

6 Years: Gary & Barbara Lentz, Lebanon, Richard Sauder, Reinholds, and Hillside Farms Inc., Shavertown

5 Years: Robert Shelly, Manheim, Rick Wadel, Shippensburg, Pen-Col Farms, Millville, James Younker, Fleetwood, Donald Krall, Lebanon, Bruce Bollinger, Lebanon; Duane & Marilyn Hershey, Cochranville, Joseph Wivell, Columbia, N. Eugene & Susan Hess, Manette; and Ronald G. & Nancy J. Warner, North Bingham.

4 Years: Douglas Zucco, Acme; Edward & Glenn Brake, Mercersburg; John P. Lapp, Leola; Michael & Angela Davis, Kutztown, and Robert Mong, Waynesboro.

3 Years: Andy Mohr, New Enterprise, H.E. Heindel & Sons, Womelsdorf; Karen & Ron Riedel, Corry, and Reid K. Hoover, Lebanon.

2 Years: Allen & Mary Grube, Mohrsville; Calvin Stoltzfus, Lewistown; David A. Bishop, Doylestown; and Ivan D. & Ellen M. Horst, Chambersburg.

1 Year: Robert & Joyce Hoffman, Berlin; Lamar B. Gockley, Mohnton; Lavern Martin, Newmans town; Leonard & Donald Warner, Laceyville; Lester Shirk, Woodbury; Marvin Priest, Greencastle; R. Edwin Harnish, Christiana; Rebecca Darling, Nicholson; and Richard E. Hostetter, Gap.

Brown Swiss Association To Meet

CARLISLE (Cumberland Co.) — The annual spring meeting of the Pennsylvania Brown Swiss Association will be Saturday, March 22, here at the Bonanza Restaurant at 11 a.m.

Dave Kendal, executive secretary of the Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Association, will be attending. This is an opportunity for members to meet Kendal and ask him questions about the national Brown Swiss Association.

In addition, DHIA awards will be awarded for the top-producing cows and herds in the state. The youth chairpersons also have the Bell Ringer and Youth Production Awards to be presented.

Pennsylvania memberships are due by April 1. Consider joining or renewing your membership to the Pennsylvania Brown Swiss Association.

Becoming a member has many benefits. First, becoming a state and national member can help reduce the cost of registering each Brown Swiss calf by \$5-\$10. You only need to register a few calves to get your return.

National Weekly Lamb Report

Des Moines, Iowa
February 25, 2003

Report Supplied By USDA

NATIONAL WEEKLY LAMB REPORT for week ending Monday, Feb. 24: SLAUGHTERED LAMB PRIOR WEEK: From Forward Contracts. Domestic 286, Imported 0. From Formula Arrangements: Domestic 16,397 head, Imported 1,957.

SLAUGHTERED PACKER OWNED SHEEP: DOMESTIC: None reported. IMPORTED: None reported

FORWARD CONTRACT PURCHASES No trade reported

FORMULA PURCHASES. DOMESTIC: 13,801 head, 62-75 lbs (avg. 71.0 lbs) 168.10-188.00, wtd. avg. price 176.46, 2,801 head, 75-86 lbs (avg. 79.4 lbs) 167.76-184.00, wtd. avg. price 172.48

IMPORTED: 2,461 head, 68-75 lbs (avg. 72.3 lbs) 151.82-169.67, wtd. avg. price 161.16.

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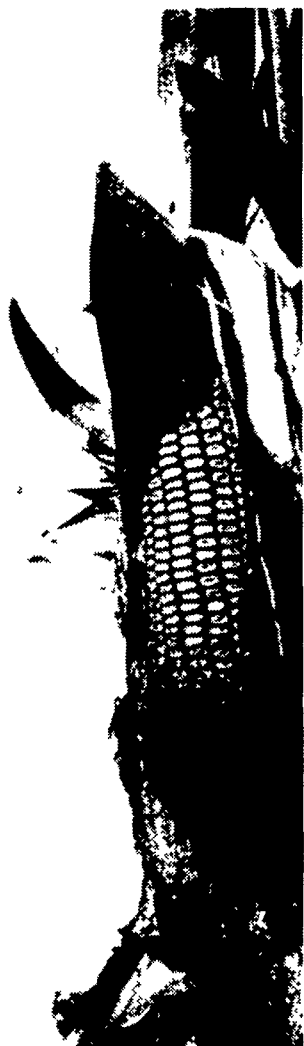
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