

New Bolton's Garden Yields A Harvest Of Education

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KENNETT SQUARE (Chest-er Co.) — The landscape of the New Bolton Center is changing as toxic and poisonous plants move in.

The invasion of these plants, however, is not cause for concern but part of a "teaching garden" for students and visitors to the Center, which is the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine.

"In class we cover about 30 different plants, both indigenous to Pennsylvania and otherwise, so we'll put in plants for the classes," said Dr. Robert Poppenga, associate professor of veterinary toxicology, who determined which plants to include in the garden.

He added that the large animal owners who spend the day on the premises, waiting as their animals are treated, could take the opportunity to learn about poisonous pasture plants.

Volunteers from Penn State's Chester County Master Gardeners designed and installed the unique garden.

Tuesday's work included breaking ground for a wildflower bed. Project leaders hope to have several beds planted by the end of May. Phase two will be the construction of a stone area with benches and pots, plus the addition of a pergola.

The instruction tool will develop "as resources permit," said Poppenga.

The plants will be labeled and a map will be available to direct visitors to trees and shrubs — such as Red Maple and Black Locust — already located on the grounds in other locations, he said. Besides labeling the plants, he plans to provide information on which animals are impacted if they ingest the plant.

Problems with toxic plants in the mid-Atlantic area are "more sporadic, and not as common because we don't have the numbers of plants that they have out west in Wyoming, Utah, or Colorado, where they make a major economic impact."



From left Master Gardeners Lena VonLuehrte, Thomas Bare, project coordinator, and Alice Hall work on phase one of the project. Hall plans to help provide plants from her gardening business. "As we pull them from our customers' properties, we will bring them and plant them here," she said.

However, "I get calls on what plants can be in pastures — around here, it's more that people want information to avoid poisonings than there are actual poisonings."

Not all of the plants pack the same punch for animals. Ingesting only 6-8 ounces of the yew, for example, "can kill a cow," however an animal can ingest "quite a bit" of milkweed, "depending on the size of the animal."

Fortunately, "a lot of forages are not very palatable," said Poppenga, so if livestock "get a decent opportunity to get forage

from the pasture, they generally leave the poisonous plants alone, but I think it's good for farmers to know what's in their pasture," he said.

Poppenga hopes that students will also have the opportunity to help with the garden. "In every veterinary class there's always a core group of students interested in plants, and we're hoping to hire them to help maintain the garden over the summer," he said.

Native plants which Poppenga hopes to put in the garden are rhododendron, mountain laurel, lupine, larkspur, Japanese yews, milkweed, poison hemlock, and digitalis.

Master Gardener Craig Rybinski, a landscaper, designed the project and planned the construction phases.



Project coordinators and volunteers from Penn State's Chester County Master Gardeners planned, designed, and began to install the unique garden Tuesday.



Dr. Robert Poppenga, associate professor of veterinary toxicology, works on one of the new beds.

Northeast Federal Milk Marketing Order Uniform Price For March 2003

BOSTON, Mass. — Erik F. Rasmussen, market administrator for the Northeast Federal Milk Marketing Order, has announced that the statistical uniform price (SUP) paid by milk dealers (handlers) regulated under the Northeast Order during March 2003 is \$11.43 per hundredweight (\$0.98 per gallon) for milk delivered to plants located in Suffolk County, Mass. (Boston). The producer price differential (PPD) portion of the SUP for March is \$2.32 per hundredweight for milk delivered to plants located in Suffolk County, Mass. The PPD (\$2.32) combined with the corresponding month's

Class III price (\$9.11) equals the SUP (\$11.43).

The SUP represents a benchmark minimum price paid to dairy farmers, prior to allowable deductions, for farm milk containing 3.5 percent butterfat, 2.99 percent protein, and 5.69 percent other solids. The actual price received by an individual dairy farmer will vary, as the composition of a farm's milk differs from the component benchmarks. The PPD represents each producer's share of the value generated by the marketwide pool. The PPD is added to the payment producers receive for their milk's components and is adjusted for the loca-

tion of the receiving plant(s). The SUP and PPD decrease by scheduled amounts the further away the plant(s) receiving the producers' milk are from Suffolk County, Mass. (Boston).

The class prices for milk pooled in March are as follows: Class I, \$13.06 (Suffolk County, Mass.); Class II, \$10.54; Class III, \$9.11; and Class IV, \$9.79. Comparable prices for March 2002 were: Class I, \$14.87; Class II, \$12.19; Class III, \$10.65; and Class IV price, \$11.42. The component values for March 2003 are protein, \$1.6648 per pound; butterfat, \$1.1459 per pound; other solids, \$0.0206 per pound; and nonfat solids, \$0.6651 per pound.

Milk receipts from producers totaled 2.150 billion pounds. Class I utilization, milk processed as beverage milk, was 41.3 percent of producer milk receipts. The Class I utilization was 39.2 percent in March 2002.

The manufacture of Class II products such as cream, ice cream, yogurt, and cottage cheese utilized 18.8 percent of producer milk. Milk used to manufacture Class III products such as cheese (American and Italian) and evaporated and condensed products utilized 29.0 percent of total milk receipts. Class IV usage (butter, nonfat, and whole milk powder) equaled 10.9 percent of the total.

Beef Conference Will Be Online

There will be online coverage of the 2003 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Meeting. Producers can go to www.bifconference.com for information, articles, news releases, and links related to the conference as it happens. This year's BIF conference will take place May 28-31 in Lexington, Ky., and will focus on surviving environmental challenges.

In addition, www.4cattlemen.com will feature highlights of the 2003 Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show.



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