

Miller Resolution Recognizes Beef Month

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — With cattle making up nearly 95 percent of the state's livestock value, Rep. Sheila Miller has sponsored a resolution designating May 2003 as Beef Month in Pennsylvania. The resolution was approved unanimously by the House.

"The beef cattle industry is a very valuable contributor to the state's overall agriculture industry," said Miller, who operates her own 150-acre beef cattle farm in Berks County. "I was proud to introduce this resolution on behalf of all the cattle producers in Pennsylvania at the request of the Pennsylvania Beef Council, headquartered in Middletown. It is important to recognize the role that beef farmers play in feeding our citizens and boosting our economy."

"Pennsylvania's beef producers are voluntarily participating in a quality assurance program to increase consumer confidence and enjoyment when purchasing and preparing beef," added Miller. "Food safety is an important part of the food chain, from pasture to plate, and this program allows all Pennsylvanians to recognize the steaks, roasts, and hamburger they are buying are raised right



Rep. Sheila Miller sponsored a House resolution designating May as Beef Month in Pennsylvania. Joining her to mark the occasion are Holly Marshall, left, industry relations and compliance director for the Pennsylvania Beef Council (PBC), and Paul Slayton, right, executive director of the PBC.

here in the Keystone State by producers who make quality a key ingredient to great tasting beef recipes."

Lancaster County is the top cattle-producing county in Pennsylvania with 239,000 head of cattle and calves. Pennsylvania

ranks 20th in the nation in total cattle inventories.

For more information on the value of Pennsylvania's beef industry, or for tips on preparing quality beef dishes, visit the Pennsylvania Beef Council Website at www.pabeef.org.

Northeast Order Uniform Milk Price For April

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 April 2003 is \$11.45 per hundredweight (\$0.98 per gallon) for milk delivered to plants located in Suffolk County, Mass. The producer price differential (PPD) portion of the SUP for April is \$2.04 per hundredweight for milk delivered to plants located in Suffolk County, Mass. The PPD (\$2.04) combined with the corresponding month's Class III price (\$9.41) equals the SUP (\$11.45).

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 location 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.

The Class prices for milk pooled in April are as follows: Class I, \$12.89 (Suffolk County, Mass.); Class II, \$10.44; Class III, \$9.41; and Class IV, \$9.73. Comparable prices for April 2002 were: Class I, \$14.72; Class II, \$11.88; Class III, \$10.85; and Class IV, \$11.09.

The component values for April 2003 are protein, \$1.8006 per pound; butterfat, \$1.1503 per pound; other solids, \$0.0008 per pound; and nonfat solids, \$0.6564 per pound.

Milk receipts from producers totaled 2.109 billion pounds. Class I utilization, milk processed as beverage milk, was 41.3 percent of producer milk receipts. The Class I utilization was 38.9 percent in April 2002.

The manufacture of Class II products such as cream, ice cream, yogurt, and cottage cheese utilized 17.5 percent of producer milk. Milk used to manufacture Class III products such as cheese (American and Italian) and evaporated and condensed products utilized 28.5 percent of total milk receipts. Class IV usage (butter, nonfat and whole milk powder) equaled 12.7 percent of the total

Farmers Union Participates In Dairy Producers Roundtable

PRETORIA, South Africa — California Farmers Union President Joaquin Contente and National Farmers Union President Dave Frederickson represented the United States during the 3rd World Dairy Producers Roundtable in South Africa last week.

Over the weekend, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), which represents farm families in 71 countries through a general consultative status with the United Nations, unanimously endorsed dairy policies emerging from the roundtable, including a proposal that would prohibit all forms of dumping within the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Market concentration was a topic that surfaced during the roundtable discussion, which drew 100 dairy producers from around the globe. The roundtable participants called upon the World Trade Organization to discipline the activities of multinational corporations so they do not negatively impact agriculture producers.

The roundtable stressed the need for a WTO agreement that takes into account the particular needs of the dairy farmers in the developing countries. Contente, a dairy farmer from Hanford, Calif., led a discussion on reconciling dairy farmers' needs in both developing and developed countries. "Developed countries that seek more and more export opportunities stir up fears among farmers in the developing world who are trying desperately to establish domestic markets themselves," he explained.

In addition, Contente suggested that more liberalized trade has worked against dairy farmers in the United States, which now accepts imported dairy products that weigh heavily on U.S. markets. For example, Contente

pointed out that imports of milk protein concentrate (MPC) have increased 600 percent in six years and more than doubled between 1998 and 1999 alone. "MPC was a relatively new product at the time the last global trade negotiations were completed, so American farmers have found their hands tied by inflexible trade rules," he explained.

Frederickson, who co-chairs an IFAP committee studying ways in which farmers can regain a competitive marketplace, proposed a plan to improve economic returns for family farmers worldwide. Specifically, the body endorsed NFU's plan to attack industrial concentration in the agricultural sector. IFAP members agreed to have two noted industrial concentration researchers from the University of Missouri-Columbia facilitate a global study of concentration and its effects on farmers and consumers. Drs. Bill Heffernan and Mary Hendrickson have done exhaustive studies on U.S. agricultural concentration, but the new analysis will represent the first time concentration has been explored worldwide. Academics from each continent have been identified to conduct the research.

Frederickson proposed that IFAP develop initiatives that would shift supply and demand fundamentals to improve producers' market power; reduce world hunger; enhance global food security; and address the impacts of concentration in the food chain.

IFAP unanimously encouraged the represented governments to seek meaningful progress at the 5th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in Cancun in September so that farmers are able to secure a reasonable income from their work.

One of our favorite times of year is just around the corner: June Dairy Month! And what a treat we have for Lancaster Farming readers in our June Dairy Issue scheduled June 7. Included will be family farm features, breed and association news and highlights, and other great reading for our dairy families.

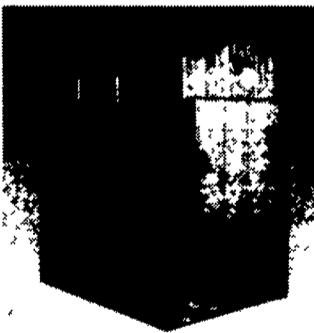


PLNA Lunch

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association has announced the first annual "Lunch with Pennsylvania Leaders." The lunch will occur in conjunction with the Penn Allied Nursery Trade Show and the PLNA Legislative Tour, which is scheduled for July 30.

A panel of agriculture leaders will discuss the current state of the industry with lunch participants. Invited panelists for this year's event include Department of Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff, House Agriculture Chairman Art Hershey, and Senate Agriculture Chairman Mike Waugh.

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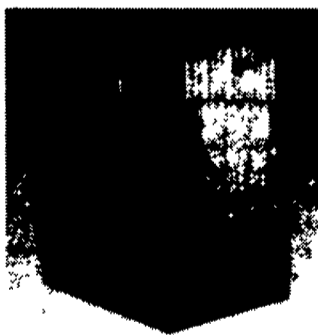
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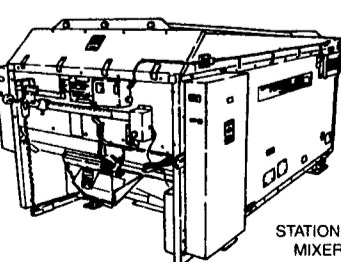
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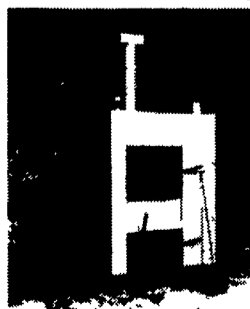
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