



# 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/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/).*

### 2003 CROP

#### PLANTINGS AND HOGS

Last year the drought affected much of the state. Now, many are talking about spring rains, but since April 1, precipitation is generally a bit below 30-year averages except for the western third of Pennsylvania and the south central area. Many field crops and fruit are rated in good condition as of May 19.

Although weather always impacts yields, we need to have a good measure of field crop acreage as a first step to understand potential crop production for 2003. For this purpose, the annual June Agricultural Survey contacts a preselected group of farmers to represent all growers in the state and nation. It is not a census of all growers, only a scientific sample.

In Pennsylvania, the June Ag Survey collects acreage information about hay, small grains, corn, sorghum, soybeans, potatoes, sunflowers, canola, and tobacco. The survey also measures grains in storage, livestock, farm numbers, and land values.

The quarterly Hog Survey is conducted at the same time and coordinated to reduce additional contacts for hog owners. Both surveys are under way from late May through mid-June.

The survey includes different phases to keep costs low and quality high. Our interviewers will visit nearly 150 land segments across the state that are about one square mile each. They will contact all operators within the segment to draw operation and field boundaries on aerial photographs to account for all land use within the selected area.

Knowing that no list is complete, these aerial photos allow us to estimate crop acreages and how many farms are *not* on our list of farmers. If you are visited by our staff with these photos, your cooperation is very important because these 150 square miles represent all 45,000 square miles in Pennsylvania.

In addition, we've sampled about 1,300 crop farmers and about 300 hog owners from our list of known agricultural operators. Letters will be sent to them explaining the upcoming survey. They will be contacted from late May to mid-June for their help in answering acreage and livestock questions that don't require using the more complex aerial photos.

These USDA surveys are all done at the same time nationwide. So it is important that Pennsylvania producers be properly represented among the other states. Crop statistics provide producers with vital information for cash crop farmers and current and potential feed supplies for milk and livestock producers. Hog growers can review national trends to help with production decisions.

As with all our surveys, by federal law, your name, address, and data about your operation are

completely confidential. Survey results are published as totals so that no individual data can be discovered or calculated. The same law also protects your data from requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

By law, no one can gain early access to the results of any survey. The reports are available to everyone at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/). Use the *search* button to find "Acreage" report, June 30 (8:30 a.m.); "Crop Production," July 11 (8:30 a.m.) with potatoes; "Grain Stocks," June 28 (8:30 a.m.); "Quarterly Hogs and Pigs," June 27 (3 p.m.); or "Farms and Land In Farms," every February.

We count on your help to represent Pennsylvania agriculture properly. If you are contacted personally or by telephone, please remember that your response is important so that we can publish the most accurate statistics possible because *agriculture counts!*

#### Milk Production Down Again

Around the 17th of each month we publish the Milk Production Report with cow numbers, milk per cow, and total milk production for the previous month for each of the 20 major states. Quarterly, the report includes all 50 states.

Thanks to all dairy folks that help with this monthly survey.

The February issue contains an annual summary of milk statistics, including any revisions to the monthly or quarterly numbers for the previous year.

The February 2003 issue revealed that after several years of increases, Pennsylvania milk production has declined over the past two years from 11.16 million pounds in 2000 to 10.85 in 2001 and 10.78 million pounds in 2003. 2003 production is the lowest since the 10.66 million pounds produced in 1997.

Production declines are due to a smaller Pennsylvania herd. Milk per cow has increased by 1.9

percent since 2000, while the herd size declined from 617,000 to 585,000 cows. Over the same period, New York dairies have also reduced herd size to 678,000 but milk per cow increased by 3.7 percent.

In 2002, Pennsylvania herds averaged 18,419 pounds per cow compared to 18,858 for the 20 major states, 18,571 nationwide, and 18,019 pounds per cow in New York.

There are many other reports with dairy statistics, including annual milk supply and utilization, monthly average milk prices received by farmers, U.S. dairy herd structure, monthly production of dairy products (butter, cheese, and ice cream), and weekly U.S. prices for cheddar cheese, butter, nonfat dry milk, and dry whey prices and volume. The reports can be found at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/) by using the "Search" button and looking for "Milk" and "Dairy" in the commodity listing.

#### Floriculture Report Published April 24

A big "thank you" is due to the Pennsylvania producers that helped in this annual effort. The report can be used by growers to evaluate crops raised and to compare average prices in Pennsylvania and surrounding states.

Pennsylvania is the seventh largest floriculture state with more than \$180 million in sales in 2002. This only measures one part of the greenhouse and nursery industry, which is the fourth largest sector of Pennsylvania agriculture, after milk, cattle, and mushrooms (based on 2001 cash receipts).

The Nursery Crops Report is published every other year. The most recent report is for the 2000 production. The reports can be found at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/) by using the "search" button and looking for "floriculture crops" or "nursery" in the commodity listing.

## Wolff Appointed To Ag Trade Committee

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Dennis C. Wolff has been appointed to serve on the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) for Trade in Animals and Animal Products by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman and U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick.

As a member of the ATAC for Trade in Animals and Animal Products, Wolff will work with the federal government to provide insight about agricultural trade issues.

In addition, the committee will consult with, advise, and make recommendations to the U.S. secretary of agriculture and the U.S. trade representative.

"Washington could have picked no better representative of the agriculture industry than Dennis C. Wolff," Rendell said. "His many interests and responsibilities have prepared him well for the Advisory Committee. I am confident that his work will increase the economic opportunities for farmers and help Pennsylvania agriculture grow and prosper."

Wolff said that achieving fair trade practices and opening and expanding markets around the world is crucial to the success of American agriculture.

"With more than one billion dollars in exports from the agriculture sector, Pennsylvania clearly has an interest in the international trade climate," Wolff said. "I look forward to continuing to work to ensure that agriculture thrives not only in Pennsylvania, but in the United States as well."

Wolff is involved in many areas of agriculture and is experienced in international agriculture. As owner of Pen-Col Farms in Columbia County, a 600-acre, 500-head Holstein dairy cattle operation, Wolff has specialized in purebred Holstein genetics.

# BRUSH WOLF

The leader of the pack.™

## ROTARY BRUSH CUTTERS

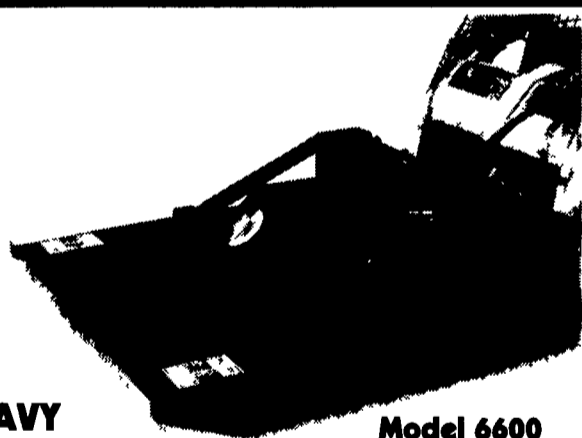
**THE ONLY LIGHT WEIGHT, HEAVY DUTY HYDRAULIC ROTARY BRUSH CUTTERS ON THE MARKET BUILT WITH ATTITUDE AND THE BITE TO BACK IT UP.**

A Brush Wolf rotary cutter & mulcher makes cutting through the roughest brush more like a walk in the park. Every Brush Wolf cutter deck, from Model 4200 to the

largest model, is crafted from solid, one piece 1/4" steel and reinforced with bracing to make them even stronger. Every detail has been engineered for rugged durability and safe, easy operation. Standard features like our lift limit chain, hydraulic drive safety guard and heavy-duty stump jumpers on the larger models make Brush Wolf cutters pound for pound the best value on the market. Please contact us for the name of your nearest dealer.

#### • BRANDS WE FIT

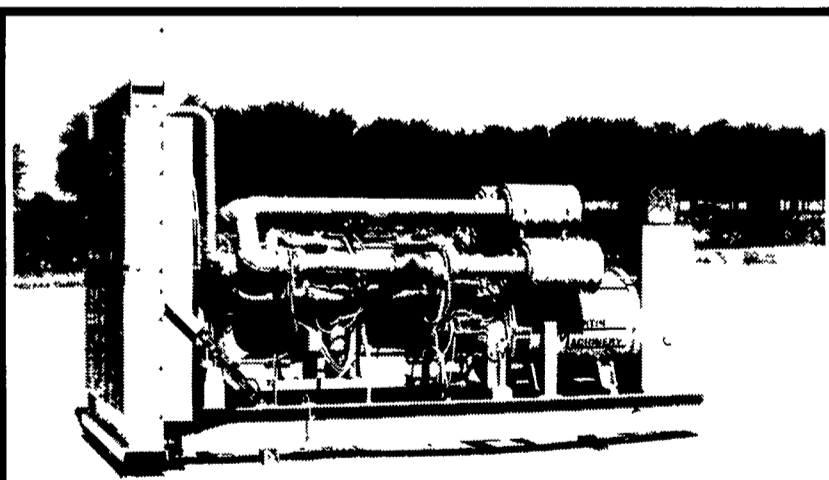
CAT	THOMAS
ASV	HYDRA-MAC
JOHN DEERE	SCAT TRACK
BOBCAT	JCB
CASE	DAEWOO
NEW HOLLAND	TRACKMASTER
MUSTANG	ICC
GEHL	TAKEUCHI
AND OTHERS	



Model 6600

MODEL	CUT	WEIGHT
4200 (FOR WALKBEHINDS)	42"	469 lbs.
4800	48"	770 lbs.
6000	60"	873 lbs.
6600	66"	954 lbs.
7200	72"	1015 lbs.
7800	78"	1080 lbs.

Three Cheers  
For Our  
**Pork  
Producers**



## GENERATORS

Sales ★ Service ★ Rentals  
Complete Generator Systems  
PTO • Portables • 2-1600 KW  
We Service It If You Have It,  
And Sell It If You Need It.

**MARTIN  
MACHINERY**

34 W. Mohler Church Rd.  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
Tel: 717-738-0300  
Fax: 717-738-4329

Distributed by:



Cummings & Bricker, Inc.

100 120 Lehigh Ave., Batavia, NY 14021 100 Stover Dr., Carlisle, PA 17013  
1-800-252-1552 1800-222-8969

Email [info@cummingsandbricker.com](mailto:info@cummingsandbricker.com) Web site [www.cummingsandbricker.com](http://www.cummingsandbricker.com)

"Distributors of Quality Equipment since 1961"