

Agriculture Counts

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this national study. However, the Cattle Survey in January includes many more farms from Pennsylvania and across the nation which allows us to publish state level statistics for Pennsylvania and other states.

The Cattle statistics program also includes reports detailing cattle on feed, average prices received by growers, production, disposition and income, slaughter statistics, and beef products in cold storage.

The results of cattle surveys can be found at www.usda.gov/nass/. Use the SEARCH button to find the next "Cattle" report issued on July 18.

Crop And Fruit Yields Forecasted

From May to November, NASS publishes the official USDA yield and production forecasts for the major field crops and tree fruits in Pennsylvania and around the country. Forecasts are based on responses to periodic fruit surveys and monthly ag yield surveys when farmers estimate expected yields from their own fields.

Forecasted crops include winter wheat, barley, oats, corn for grain, soybeans, sorghum, hay, hay stocks, apples, peaches, pears, and cherries.

We ask growers because they are the best source of information about the crops they grow. They see the crop develop daily and they have the best idea of how the weather is affecting their crop. Using their years of experi-

ence, they can make the best estimate of their expected yields based on current crop conditions.

It is too risky to use weather predictions when setting yield forecasts. Forecasts are based on information from farmers who must assume that average conditions will prevail through the end of the season. Potential lower yields from drought, flood, or other poor growing conditions are reflected in the following months' yield surveys.

Each month we ask about different crops depending on their stage of growth. In Pennsylvania, we ask 150-600 growers for their help with the Ag Yield Survey depending on the field crops included that particular month. Fruit forecast surveys are sent to all known fruit producers across Pennsylvania. These production forecasts give an important advance warning of the size of each crop in Pennsylvania and across the nation.

For example, if a large crop is expected, contract harvesters, packers, transportation companies, and storage facilities must be ready to handle the extra volume. A small crop warns about the possible need to plan for alternate livestock feed sources or farmer assistance programs such as the 1999 Drought Assistance Program.

The results of field crop and fruit yield surveys can be found at www.usda.gov/nass/. Use the SEARCH button to find the "Crop Production" report issued around the 10th of each month and the "Cherry Production" report scheduled for June 26.

Four Greenwood FFA Seniors Reap \$191,000 In Scholarship Awards

MILLERSTOWN (Perry Co.) — Four 2003 Greenwood High School graduates who are members of the Greenwood FFA Chapter have been awarded a total of \$191,000 in scholarship funding, according to MeeCee Baker, agricultural science teacher and FFA adviser.

Melissa Brong, class valedictorian and daughter of Karl and Joyce Brong, Millerstown, has accumulated \$62,500 in scholarship money, the bulk of it coming from Lebanon Valley College, Annville. The college has awarded her \$15,000 per year (a total of \$60,000) for her pre-medicine studies toward her goal of becoming a pediatrician. Her other awards included \$1,000 FFA Leidy Truck Scholarship, \$500 Steven Moore Memorial Scholarship, \$500 Greenwood Education Association Scholarship, \$300 Ruehr Scholarship, \$1000 Greenwood Proud Scholarship, and \$100 from Learn to Swim Program.

Christina Carl, FFA president and daughter of Kevin and Kelly Carl, Liverpool, has earned a total of \$40,600 in scholarships. A Presidential Scholarship from Delaware Valley College will provide Christina with \$10,000 per year for a total of \$40,000. She plans to major in large animal science with a minor in pre-vet toward becoming a large animal veterinarian. Her other monetary awards are \$250 National Wild Turkey Federation Essay Scholarship, \$200 from Pennsylvania State FFA for selection as State Star, \$100 from state FFA for selection as state proficiency winner in emerging ag technology, and \$50 Courtni Meiser Memorial Scholarship.

Matt McClure, class president and son of Inez and the late Rodney McClure, Liverpool, has been awarded a total of \$55,125 with \$54,000, or \$13,500 per year, coming from St. Joseph University, where he intends to major in preprofessional biology toward becoming a physician. He also received a \$500 Agriscience Recognition Award, \$500 Perry County Scholarship Award, \$100 Jaycee Scholarship, and a \$25 Spanish Award.

Jessica Russell, a member of the National Honor Society and daughter of Betty and Barry Rus-



Pictured above at Greenwood High School, Perry County, are two major scholarship winners, from left: Christina Carl; Larry Campbell, school alumnus who recently endowed a scholarship for FFA members; and Matt McClure. Photo by Wayne Zeigler



Two recent Greenwood High School graduates are shown above after receiving a \$1,000 FFA Leidy Ford Truck Scholarship. From left are Melissa Brong, John Leidy, and Jessica Russell. Photo by Wayne Zeigler

sell, Millerstown, has won a total of \$34,448 in scholarship funds to pursue her goal of becoming a small animal veterinarian. Her major funding is a Presidential Scholarship from Delaware Valley College, worth \$8,000 per year for a total of \$32,000, for her

pre-vet studies. Jessica's other money awards include \$1,000 FFA Leidy Ford Truck Scholarship, \$300 from Perry County Old Iron Collectors, and \$100 from state FFA for selection as the state proficiency winner in ag sales.

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