

Specter, Santorum Announce Ag Funding For Pennsylvania

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), a senior member of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, and U.S. Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA), Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, recently announced federal funding for agriculture projects in Pennsylvania.

This funding comes as part of the FY04 Agriculture Appropriations bill, which was passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee and is ready for floor action.

"Agriculture is fundamental to Pennsylvania's economy," said Senator Specter. "It is important to continue to fund projects such as these in order to assure this sector continues to grow strong, adding to the prosperity of Pennsylvania."

"With agriculture as Pennsylvania's largest industry, this federal funding will aid in preserving and protecting the many agricultural projects and developments throughout the Commonwealth," said Senator Santorum. "The nation will continue to benefit greatly as this funding will help Pennsylvania remain a leader in agricultural production, safety, and management."

The following projects have been approved for funding:

- \$745,000 for the Milk and Dairy Safety and Quality Research program at Penn State University. Penn State is recognized as a leader in research concerning the production of safe and wholesome dairy products. This funding will help researchers at the University better understand the microbiology of the Listeria organism and make progress in determining the process and handling parameters that will ensure a safe milk supply. (Centre County)

- \$497,000 for Dairy Farm

Profitability projects at Penn State University. This funding will benefit projects focusing on the economic and social dimensions of dairy farming, risk analysis, the economic impact of implementing voluntary animal health programs, development management, and the adoption of technology, in an attempt to help farmers increase their profitability. (Centre County)

- \$149,000 for Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Research at Penn State University. This project studies the cycling of nutrients in soil and crops with a special emphasis on the development of indices for measurement of soil health. The original goal of this research was to understand the cycling of nutrients from animal agricultural production systems through soil and water into crops and back to food for animals or directly to humans in the case of vegetable production. (Centre County)

- \$397,000 for Penn State University's Improved Dairy Management Practices program. Last year, Congress provided funding for work done in Pennsylvania to research new and improved on-farm management practices. Innovative research directed at the farm level is essential to sustain the nation's dairy industry. This year's funding provides for further research in areas such as manure management techniques, odor abatement, induced lactation and animal health program management improvements. (Centre County)

- \$1 million to the Agriculture Research Service for the study of Biomedical Materials in Plants. This funding will allow for the continued research of tobacco and other plants as a medium to produce vaccines and other biomedical products for the preven-

tion of many human and animal diseases. This technology has the potential to shift a great deal of tobacco production to a vehicle for preventing, curing, and treating viruses and cancers in place of smoking, chewing, and other current uses.

- \$248,000 for an Urban Aquaculture Program by Cheyney University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pennsylvania. The FY03 Omnibus appropriations bill provided \$250,000 for this program. However, in order to implement this program, an additional \$250,000 of the \$994,766 total is needed to allow Cheyney University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pennsylvania to create a 3-year Urban Aquaculture program to provide students the opportunity to major or minor in aquatic science in conjunction with a business administration degree. The program would focus on producing, processing, packaging, and distributing fish in an urban setting. (Delaware County, Philadelphia County)

- \$500,000 for Eastern Regional Research Center Hides and Leather Research conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This Center, located in Wyndmoor, has been developing new methods of tanning cattle hides produced in the U.S. to process them in a cost effective, environmentally sensitive fashion that enhances their value and is competitive in world markets. This is the only USDA facility that conducts research on these agricultural products. (Montgomery County)

- \$500,000 for the Weed Management Program at the Rodale Institute Experimental Farm. This program provides for the development of practical and profitable weed management systems using plant species, space,

and time in a different way than normally used to achieve good weed control by altering the biology, chemistry, and physics of the system. Ultimately, these systems will help decrease energy use, enhance environmental quality by reducing greenhouse gases, improve soil quality and increase soil water holding capacity. (Berks County)

- \$2.25 million for Coffee and Cocoa Disease Resistance/Alternative Crop Research through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, an undetermined amount which will go to Pennsylvania. This research is vital to help control a range of domestic and tropical fungal and pest dis-

eases which are currently plaguing the cocoa crops that are vital for domestic chocolate production. In addition, this research has proven effective in the U.S. Government's counter-drug 'alternative crop' strategy for Central and South America, which helps farmers in the region grow profitable, legal crops.

- \$1.78 million for Viticulture Consortium to provide for grape and wine research for states such as Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Michigan, and Washington. The purpose of the consortium is to assist grape producers in improving yields, reducing production costs, and increasing product.

Md. Is Home To Top-Producing Guernsey Herds

HUDSON, Wis. — The American Guernsey Association (AGA) recently recognized the highest producing Guernsey herds enrolled in the Total Performance Evaluation (TPE) program at the National Guernsey Convention in Hudson, Wis.

The AGA presented the award for high TPE herd average for milk, butterfat, and protein to OCS Dairy, Clayton and Shirley Smith, of Jefferson, Md. The lactation average for this herd in 2002 was 25,708 pounds of milk, 1,227 pounds of butterfat, and 882 pounds of protein on 11 records.

The Smith family is no stranger to high production awards. In fact they received the same butterfat and protein awards for the year 2000. The Smiths milk about 125 Holsteins in addition to 20 Guernseys. They have also won numerous honors on the show ring, most notably from the great Diadora cow family.

OCS Dairy Daisys Diadora, EX-94, was All-American and Jr. All-American several times in the late 1980's and early 1990's and now is turning into a great brood cow with several of her grand-

daughters earning some of the same honors that she garnered. OCS Dairy Fayette Daffadil-ET and OCS Dairy Fayette Delila-ET are the latest installment of the Diadora family. These two Fayette granddaughters of Diadora earned National Class Leader status in the first quarter of 2003. Both full sisters completed two-year-old records over 25,000M 1,500F and 900P.

In 1995, the AGA board of directors voted to begin recognizing outstanding production in the larger Guernsey herds in the country. At that time, they decided to recognize those herds that were 1½ times the size of an average TPE herd. In 2002, this was 41 cows. The herds are ranked based on Energy Corrected Milk.

This year's winner is Walnut Ridge Farm of Middletown, Md.

Douglas and Evelyn Hawker and their daughter Pam Moser, own and operate Walnut Ridge Farm. In 2002 they completed 50 records for an average of 20,041 pounds of milk, 1,000 pounds of butterfat, and 684 pounds of protein. Their energy corrected milk production was 24,428.

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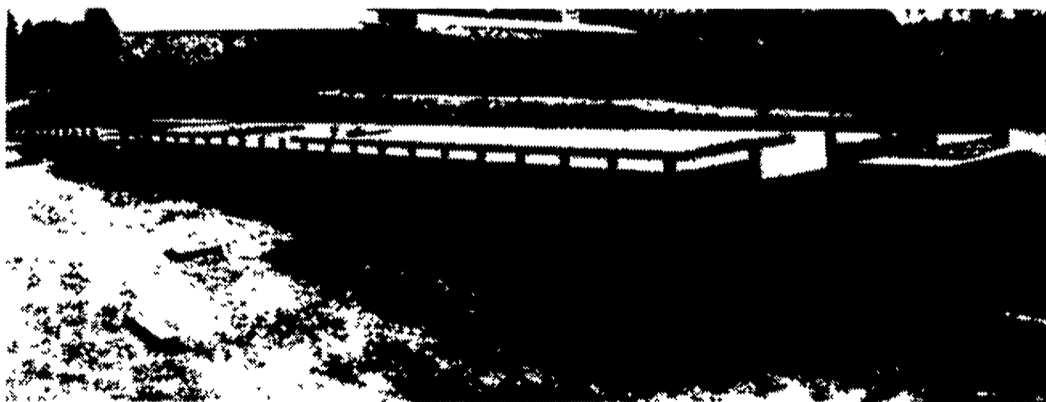
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