

# Penn State Dairyman's Club To Celebrate 25 Years

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Penn State Dairyman's Club will celebrate its 25th anniversary Friday, Nov. 7 during the annual meeting at Celebration Hall, State College.

A wine and cheese celebration kicks off the evening at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. During the meeting, the club will elect new officers, receive updates on the Penn State Dairy Science Club and judging teams, meet this year's Penn State Dairy Science Club seniors, congratulate

this year's Poage-Grant-in-Aid winners, and find out who is this year's Service Award winner.

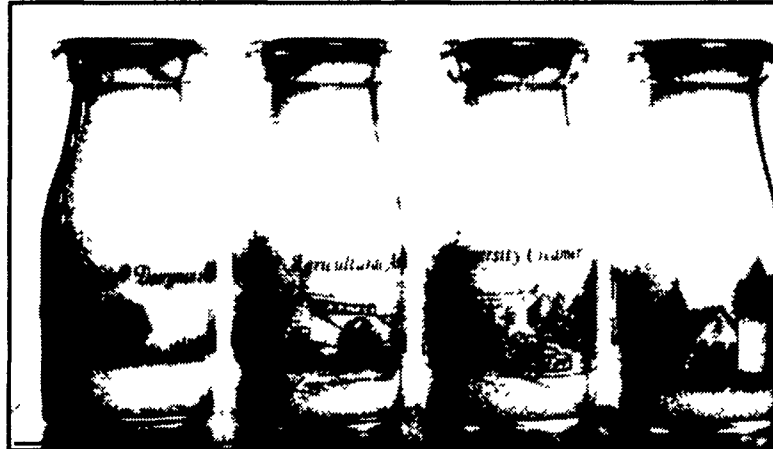
An annual highlight is the unveiling of the newest Penn State milk bottle. The fifth-edition bottle will be available for purchase at the meeting, along with the first four editions. Antique milk bottle holders, as well as blue and white milk bottle caps, will also be available.

An entertaining program celebrating the 25th anniversary will conclude the evening, recognizing

past board members, Nittany Lion Fall Classic chairpersons, and Poage-Grant-in-Aid winners.

The 20th annual Nittany Lion Fall Classic will take place the next day, Nov. 8 at 11 a.m. at the Ag Arena.

Tickets for the annual meeting are \$17/person. Alumni are encouraged to sponsor a ticket for the graduating seniors. To make a reservation, contact Secretary/Treasurer Nicole Over at (607) 739-8820 or by e-mail at Nicole.Over@pfizer.com.



Penn State Dairyman's Club fifth-edition milk bottles will be available for purchase at the club's 25th anniversary celebration.

to other states, Pennsylvania ranks number 4 for milk sales; number 5 for apples, grapes, and strawberries; number 5 for oats; number 6 for egg sales; number 6 for peaches; number 7 for tobacco; number 8 for greenhouse/nursery sales; and number 9 for tomatoes and turkey sales.

These "Agricultural Counts" show the importance of Pennsylvania agriculture here and across the nation.

#### 2003 Small Grain Crops

Pennsylvania small grain production compared to last year was as follows: Winter wheat production was down 29 percent at 7.1 million bushels because of decreased acreage at 165,000 acres and yields at 43 bushels per acre. Barley production was down 10.7 percent at 3.97 million bushels because of decreased yields at 61 bushels per acre, but acres increased. Oat production was down 7.5 percent at 6.49 million bushels because of decreased acreage and yields of 59 bushels per acre.

Small grain production nationwide was generally high. Winter wheat production was 49 percent above last year. Barley production and oat production were each 22 percent above last year.

#### 2003 Crop Forecasts

The Oct. 1 crop forecasts are in! All crops in the report show Pennsylvania production to be above last year. The report includes grain corn, dry hay, soybeans, tobacco, apples, and grapes.

Corn yields as of Oct. 1 are forecast at 120 bushels in Pennsylvania, up 52 bushels from last year and only 7 below the 2000 record-high yield of 127 bushels. Nationwide, at 142 bushels, yields are up 12 bushels from last year. U.S. production is forecast at 10.2 billion bushels. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest ever.

Alfalfa hay and other hay dry production in Pennsylvania are forecast at 23 percent and 47 percent above last year, respectively. Nationwide, production levels are also above 2002 with 6 percent more alfalfa and 7 percent more other hay. The alfalfa yield in all but 8 states is the same or above last year's level as most areas received adequate moisture. Record high yields are also forecast for a number of states for other hay because of abundant rainfall during the growing season. Soybean yield is forecast at 40 bushels in Pennsylvania, the same as the Sept. 1 forecast and 14 bushels above last year. While Pennsylvania production would be up 44 percent from last year, production nationwide is expected at 2.47 billion bushels, 10 percent below last year. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1996.

Pennsylvania-type tobacco production is forecast at 20 percent more than last year. Maryland-type tobacco production in Pennsylvania is forecast 8 percent above last year. (There is no forecast for other-type tobaccos grown in Pennsylvania.)

Apple production in Pennsylvania is forecast at 440 million pounds, up 19 percent from last year. Nationally, apple production is expected to be 1 percent above the Aug. 1 forecast and 9 percent above last year.

Grape production in Pennsylvania is forecast at 32 percent above last year at 70,000 tons. The national harvest is expected to be down 4 percent from the Aug. 1 forecast and 8 percent below last year.

The next update to these agriculture counts will be on Nov. 12 for grain corn, soybeans, and tobacco. Use the Quickstats icon at [www.usda.gov/nass](http://www.usda.gov/nass) for the latest statistics at the state and county levels.

## 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/).*

#### CONSERVATION PROGRAMS EVALUATED

The 2002 Farm Bill authorized \$38 billion in tax dollars to fund conservation practices on farms and ranches across the nation. This is about 80 percent above the level set under the 1996 Farm Bill.

It is widely recognized that these

conservation programs protect millions of acres from soil erosion, enhance water and air quality, promote wetland and wildlife habitat restoration and preservation, and conserve agricultural water use.

However, the environmental benefits have not been previously quantified and reported at the national level. This is the goal of the new Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP), a USDA cooperative effort among NASS, NRCS, and FSA.

Tracking the environmental benefits of these programs will allow policymakers and program managers to implement and modify existing pro-

grams and design new programs to more effectively and efficiently meet the goals of Congress. Annual reports summarizing the benefits of conservation programs will be produced beginning in 2005 and extending through 2008.

The delay in the initial report is to wait for two surveys in late 2003 and 2004. About 10,000 points have been selected nationwide. The operator of the field containing each point will be contacted by trained interviewers between October and December.

Introductory letters have been sent to each selected operator. There are 230 points in Pennsylvania.

#### Pa. Cash Receipts, Rankings

The 2002 cash receipts to farmers was recently released. We all know that milk is the largest single sector of Pennsylvania agricultural production. Milk accounted for 36.7 percent of the \$4 billion in gross agricultural sales across the state. After that, cattle and calves had 9.7 percent of sales, agarius mushrooms 9.7 percent, greenhouse and nursery 8.9, eggs 6.9, broilers 5.6, hogs 3.5, field corn 3.2, hay 3.2, turkeys 2.3, soybeans 1.2, apples 1 percent, and other commodities were each less than one percent of the total gross sales.

Pennsylvania mushrooms rank first in the nation with 59 percent of the national agarius mushroom receipts. Compared



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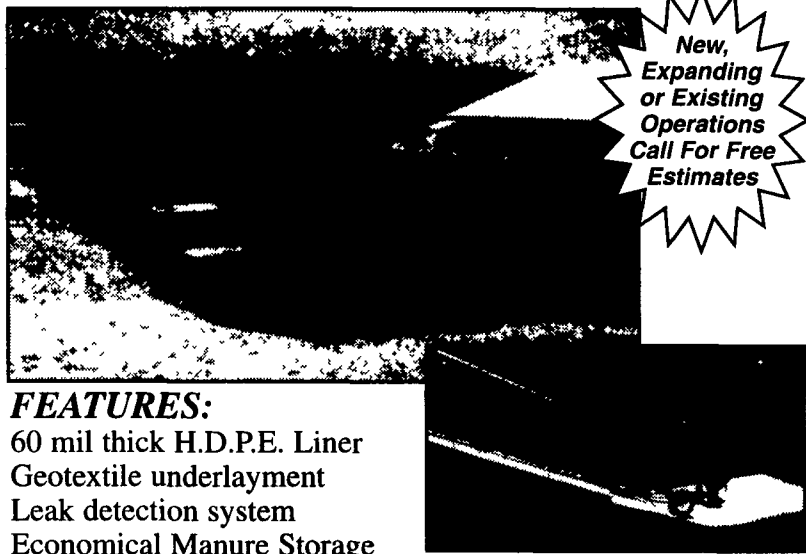
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