

NASS

Agriculture Counts

By Marc Tosiano
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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/.

2003 AG MEASUREMENTS UNDER WAY

Even though you returned an Ag Census form last year, we are about to conduct the usual annual surveys to measure the 2003 crop production and livestock and poultry inventories at the end of this year.

The upcoming surveys are for 2003 while the Ag Census asked about 2002 crop year and inventories.

The surveys mentioned below are conducted in all states in order to publish agricultural production or animal inventories at the county, state, and national level for 2003. To see the current or previous results of all these surveys, see our Website at www.usda.gov/nass/.

A Note Of Gratitude

In advance, I want to thank you for your time in these important measures of the 2003 season. It is only with your help that we can have accurate "Agriculture Counts."

Now, here is a brief list of the end of year surveys happening now through December.

County Statistics Survey

The Acreage and Production Survey was recently mailed to about 17,000 farms, which is 29 percent of all farms in Pennsylvania. The sample is unusually large so that county statistics can be published for various field crops, fruits, vegetables, livestock, and poultry.

County level statistics are crucial for those that assist growers from county offices of extension, conservation districts, Farm Service Agency, National Resources Conservation Service, and others.

To find county statistics, visit www.usda.gov/nass/ and click on "QuickSTATS." Many additional crop, livestock and poultry county statistics have been recently added at that site. Not all county statistics are yet in the QuickSTATS database; you can find other county information in our annual summary found at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/annsumm.htm.

Survey results for the 2003 crop year begins with county statistics for small grains

in mid-February, with row crop data available in early March. County estimates for hay are usually released in mid-April. Tobacco, livestock, fruit, and potato data available later in the year starting with tobacco estimates in early June.

County agricultural statistics are extremely important to Pennsylvania farmers. Grower organizations, Extension, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and others rely on this information for research, defining, and promoting Pennsylvania agriculture.

Extension can re-evaluate staffing in each county office based on the number of farms raising certain crops or livestock. County data has been important to determining the Farmland Preservation Program and Growing Greener funding.

Utility companies use this data to reimburse farmers for crops lost in right-of-way maintenance. The Farm Service Agency uses this data to measure crop loss during times of drought or flooding.

Dec. 1 Crop/Stocks Survey

This survey is going to about 1,300 Pennsylvania farmers. It measures final acreage, yields, and production for corn, soybeans, tobacco, hay, potatoes, sorghum, and grains stored on farms. A letter was sent to those selected and we will contact you for your help during early December.

Off-Farm Grain Stocks

This survey was mailed to about 200 Pennsylvania grain elevators and other off-farm storage facilities. This survey, when combined with on-farm statistics, will give a post-harvest picture of grains in storage here and across the Nation from 2003 crops and earlier.

Dec. 1 Hog Survey And Chicken/Egg Survey

Although we contact the larger hog or chicken operations every month, the Dec. 1 survey contacts many more of the medium and smaller operations. This more extensive survey sets the end-of-year inventory and leads

to production, disposition, and income statistics for the year Dec. 1, 2002 through Dec. 1, 2003.

A letter was sent to about 325 hog owners and 100 owners of laying flocks that were selected. We will ask for your help during early December.

Annual Turkey Grower Survey

This survey was mailed to about 200 owners of turkeys in Pennsylvania. This survey will show how many turkeys were raised here and across the nation and the average prices received by growers for their birds.

End-Of-Season Fruit And Vegetable Survey

These two surveys were recently mailed to about 2,000 Pennsylvania fruit and vegetable growers and processors. It asks for acreage and production for the major fruit and vegetable in each state. In Pennsylvania, the survey is limited to apples, peaches, pears, cherries, grapes, sweet corn, tomatoes, snap beans, strawberries, cabbage, cantaloupes, and pumpkins. Some of these are asked and published by processing and/or fresh market.

What Comes Out Of All These Surveys?

The results of these surveys for all states can be found in late December and during January at www.usda.gov/nass/ by clicking on "Search for NASS information by." Personally, I recommend using the "Commodity" search tool to find the crop or animal of interest to you. Paper reports are still available to growers at no charge by calling us at (800) 498-1518.

Northeast Order Uniform Milk Price For October

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 October 2003 is \$15.21 per hundredweight (\$1.31 per gallon) for milk delivered to plants located in Suffolk County, Mass. (Boston). The producer price differential (PPD) portion of the SUP for October is \$0.82 per hundredweight for milk delivered to plants located in Suffolk County, Mass. The PPD (\$0.82) combined with the corresponding month's Class III price (\$14.39) equals the SUP (\$15.21).

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 sched-

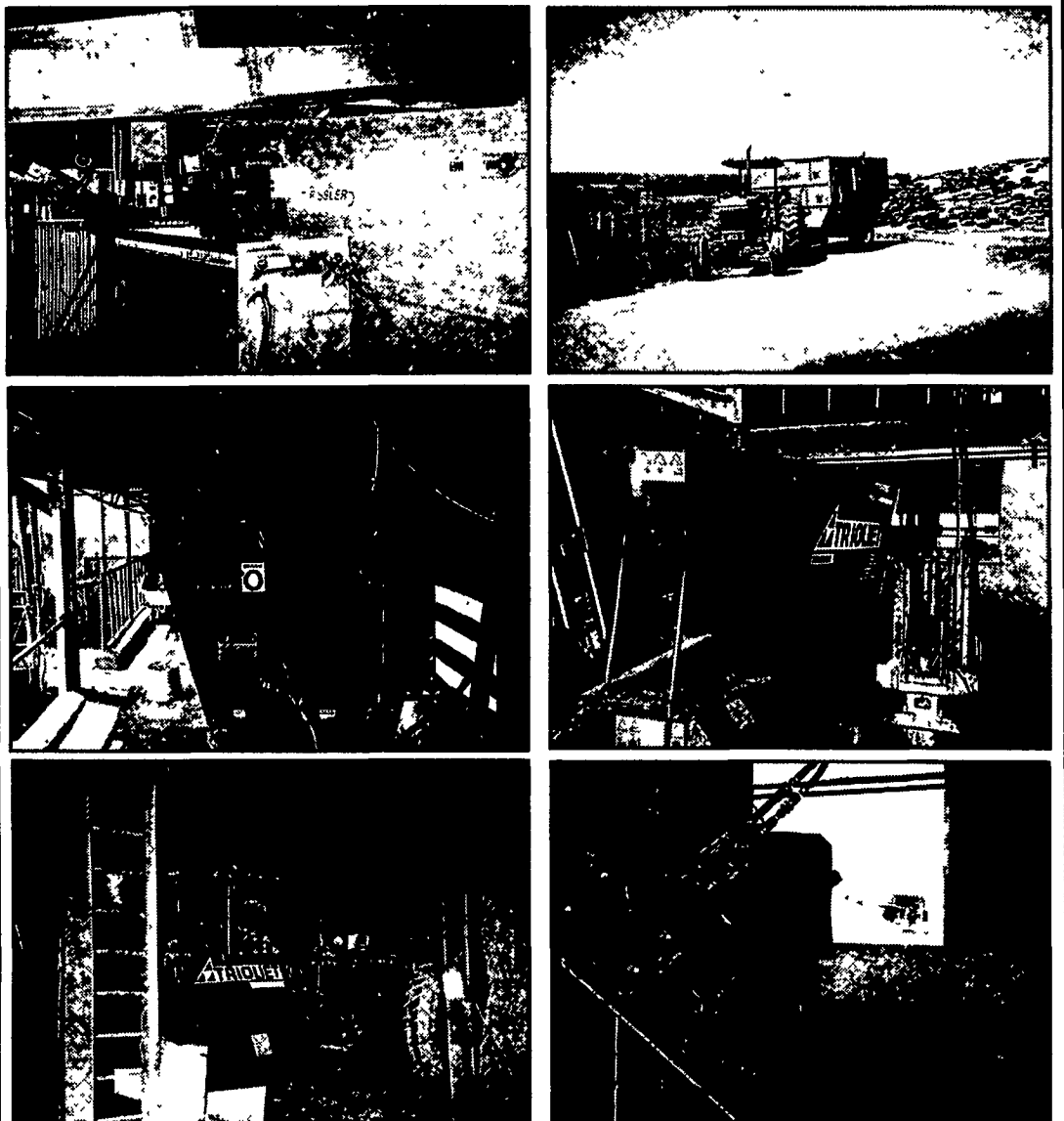
uled amounts the further away the plant(s) receiving the producers' milk are from Suffolk County, Mass.

The Class prices for milk pooled in October are as follows: Class I, \$17.52 (Suffolk County, Mass); Class II, \$10.84; Class III, \$14.39; and Class IV, \$10.16. Comparable prices for October 2002 were: Class I \$13.40, Class II \$11.12, Class III \$10.72, and Class IV price \$10.50. The component values for October 2003 are protein, \$3.2815 per pound; butterfat, \$1.2553 per pound; other solids, \$0.0311 per pound; and nonfat solids, \$0.6642 per pound.

Milk receipts from producers totaled 1.923 billion pounds. Class I utilization, milk processed as beverage milk, was 49.7 percent of producer milk receipts. The Class I utilization was 48.5 percent in October 2002.

The manufacture of Class II products such as cream, ice cream, yogurt, and cottage cheese utilized 20.1 percent of producer milk. Milk used to manufacture Class III products such as cheese (American and Italian) and evaporated and condensed products utilized 25.9 percent of total milk receipts. Class IV usage (butter, nonfat and whole milk powder) equaled 4.3 percent of the total.

What Do These Farms ? Have In Common ?

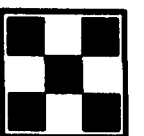
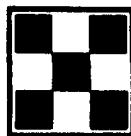


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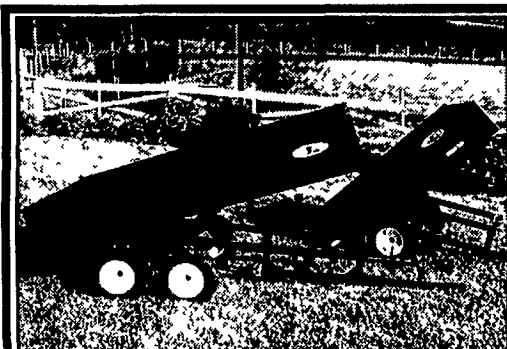
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