

# 2003: A Year Of Big Changes

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speakers from Wisconsin, California, and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Major agriculture trends discussed at an ag issues forum in Lancaster included consolidation, globalization, governance, niche markets, technology, and public influence.

Margaret Tau of Crawford County was named 2003 Granger of the Year at the Pennsylvania State Grange's All-Granger Banquet in Exton.

## November

Javier Moreno became the first individual with a native language other than English to be named National FFA President. A native of Puerto Rico, Moreno had moved to Lebanon County in 2000, where he was hosted by the Bill and Deb Lovett family and attended Northern Lebanon High School as a senior.

Lancaster County Cooperative Extension announced the hiring of Dr. Kenneth Griswold as a new dairy agent, replacing Glenn Shirk.

Pennsylvania Granger Bill Steel was elected National Grange Master.

Farmers prepared to cope with Pennsylvania nutrient management law changes, with new phosphorus regulations and other changes expected to be finalized in 2004. The issues were examined in a two-part series in *Lancaster Farming* Nov. 15 and 22.

Don Robinson, administrator of the Lancaster County Conservation District, announced his

plans to retire at the end of the year.

At its annual meeting, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau honored Sam Hayes with the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives rejected H.B. 66, a bill that would remove agricultural use restrictions on 22.7 acres in Warren County, allowing a Wal-Mart to be built. The vote was reversed in December, and also passed the Senate.

Milk price (statistical uniform price) in the Northeast was reported at \$14.95 per hundredweight. The Class III (milk used for cheese) price was \$13.47 per hundredweight, compared to \$9.84 per hundredweight in November 2002.

## December

Pennsylvania General Assembly passed House Bill 1222, a resurrected version of last year's Senate Bill 1413. The legislation will allow courts to require townships to pay a farmer's legal costs after challenging an ordinance if it is determined that the officials knowingly or recklessly violated state law when adopting it.

BSE is reported in a dairy cow in Washington state.

*Lancaster Farming* staff worked hard this year bringing you the latest news, reports, and features. We also introduced a number of new items in the paper, including:

- Farm Show Showcase Section, Jan. 4 issue.
- Aqua Country component

added to Grower and Marketer section, March 8.

- 2003 Fair Guide, May 24 issue.

- New booklet, 2003 Auctioneer Guide, June 21 issue.

- New column, "Land and Community," by the Penn State Capitol Region Community and Economic Development Team, April 12 issue.

- Turf and Tree section added Aug. 30 issue.

- New column, "Farming On The Edge," June 7 issue.

- New column by the secretary of agriculture, "Plans For Pennsylvania," July 5 issue.

- New front-page promo box, "Inside The Farmer," March 22 issue.

- Published bull proofs for first time in May 17 issue.

- New column from Pennsylvania Farm Bureau legal counsel, "Law of the Land," Aug. 9 issue.

- New column for young and beginning farmers, "Making An Impact," Dec. 13 issue.

*Lancaster Farming* in 2003 received two awards from the Northeast Farm Communicators, including best one-time project (the first ever such award by NEFC) for a daily Holstein convention newspaper and first place for best ag photo.

On May 9, the newspaper hosted the Penn State Capitol Region Dairy Team at the *Lancaster Farming* office.

# Northeast Order Uniform Milk Price For November

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 November 2003 is \$14.95 per hundredweight (\$1.29 per gallon) for milk delivered to plants located in Suffolk County, Mass. (Boston). The producer price differential (PPD) portion of the SUP for November is \$1.48 per hundredweight for milk delivered to plants located in Suffolk County, Mass. The PPD (\$1.48) combined with the corresponding month's Class III price (\$13.47) equals the SUP (\$14.95).

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 is from Suffolk County, Mass.

The Class prices for milk pooled in November are as follows: Class I, \$17.62 (Suffolk County, Mass); Class II, \$10.99; Class III, \$13.47; and Class IV, \$10.30. Comparable prices for November 2002 were: Class I \$13.85, Class II \$11.26, Class III \$9.84, and Class IV price \$10.58. The component values for November 2003 are protein, \$2.9267 per pound; butterfat, \$1.2877 per pound; other solids, \$0.0368 per pound; and nonfat solids, \$0.6663 per pound.

Milk receipts from producers totaled 1.860 billion pounds. Class I utilization, milk processed as beverage milk, was 47.3 percent of producer milk receipts. The Class I utilization was 47.2 percent in November 2002.

The manufacture of Class II products such as cream, ice cream, yogurt, and cottage cheese utilized 18.1 percent of producer milk. Milk used to manufacture Class III products such as cheese (American and Italian) and evaporated and condensed products utilized 27.2 percent of total milk receipts. Class IV usage (butter, nonfat and whole milk powder) equaled 7.4 percent of the total.

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