



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania Agaricus Mushroom Production

HARRISBURG, PA, Aug 24, 2007 --- Pennsylvania growers led all states by producing 61 percent or 496.6 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms during the 2006-07 season, up 1 percent from last year's production according to the Pennsylvania Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Pennsylvania growers received, on average, 89.1 cents per pound for all Agaricus mushroom sales. Pennsylvania's Agaricus crop was valued at \$442.3 million, up 17 percent from the 2005-06 crop.

Commonwealth mushroom producers sold 404 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market. Fresh market sales tallied \$387.4 million. In addition, Pennsylvania growers supplied 79 percent or 93 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms sold in the U.S. for processing. Processing sales in Pennsylvania totaled \$54.9 million for the 2006-07 season. Prices for mushroom sales are the average price that the producer receives at the point of first sale.

Chester County, PA, accounted for 62 of the 73 Agaricus mushroom growers in Pennsylvania. Chester County growers produced 348 million pounds that were valued at \$309 million. The growing area in Chester County was 11.9 million square feet and the total fillings were 59.3 million square feet.

Nationally, Agaricus mushroom sales totaled 814 million pounds, down 2 percent from the 2005-06 season and 3 percent below the 2004-05 season. Pennsylvania accounted for 61 percent of the total volume of sales and second ranked California contributed 14 percent. The value of the Agaricus crop is estimated at \$915 million, up 8 percent from the 2005-06 season. Brown mushrooms, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 99.2 million pounds, down 30 percent from last season and 1 percent lower than the 2004-05 crop year. Brown mushrooms accounted for 12 percent of the total Agaricus volume sold. The brown mushroom crop value of sales for the 2006-07 season is \$140 million, 15 percent of the total Agaricus value.

Value of sales for commercially grown specialty mushrooms in 2006-07 is \$40.4 million, virtually unchanged from the 2005-06 season. A specialty grower is defined as having at least 200 natural wood logs in production or some commercial indoor growing area. Sales of Shiitake mushrooms totaled 6.70 million pounds for the 2006-07 season, down 13 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$3.36, is up 11 cents from 2005-06. Sales volume of Oyster mushrooms, at 4.75 million pounds, is up 4 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at 2.41, is up 26 cents from the previous season. Sales of exotic mushrooms, other than Shiitake or Oyster, are 1.37 million pounds, up 15 percent from last season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$4.75, is down 10 cents from 2005-06.

Growers sold 36.2 million pounds of mushrooms that were certified organic during the 2006-07 growing season, 11 percent above 2005-06 season. Out of the 36.2 million pounds, 8.57 million pounds, or 24 percent of the total were sold as certified organic mushrooms, while the rest were sold without the certified organic label. This compares to 8.78 million pounds, or 27 percent sold as certified organic during the 2005-06 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 78 percent of the mushrooms sold as certified organic, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. These certified organic sales represent 1 percent of the 2006-07 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 38, up 5 from the previous season. These growers represent 14 percent of the 279 total mushroom producers.

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