



NEWS RELEASE

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Mushroom Production Up 2 Percent in Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG, PA--- Pennsylvania's 68 Agaricus growers led all states by producing 584.1 million pounds, or 63 percent of all U.S. Agaricus mushrooms sold during the 2014-2015 growing season. Second-ranked California contributed 11 percent. For Pennsylvania, this is a 2 percent increase from 2013-2014's 571.7 million pounds. Pennsylvania growers received, on average, 94.9 cents per pound for all Agaricus mushroom sales, up 0.5 cent from the previous year. Pennsylvania's Agaricus crop was valued at \$554.4 million, up 3 percent from the 2013-2014 crops.

The Commonwealth mushroom producers sold 529.3 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market. Fresh market sales tallied \$518.7 million. In addition, Pennsylvania growers supplied 54.7 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms sold in the U.S. for processing. Processing sales in Pennsylvania totaled \$35.7 million for the 2014-2015 season. Prices and value for mushroom sales are based on the average price that the producer receives at the point of first sale.

The 59 growers of Agaricus mushrooms in Chester County, Pennsylvania produced 404 million pounds, a decrease of 7 percent compared with the 2013-2014 growing season. This production was valued at 385 million dollars, down 7 percent from the previous season. The growing area in Chester County was 12.7 million square feet, up 2 percent from last season. Total fillings were 63.2 million square feet, down 1 percent from the 2013-2014 growing season.

Nationally, Agaricus mushroom volume of sales totaled 931 million pounds, up 6 percent from the 2013-2014 season. Pennsylvania accounted for 63 percent of the total volume of sales and second-ranked California contributed 11 percent. The value of the Agaricus crop was estimated at \$1.15 billion dollars, up 10 percent from a year ago. Brown mushrooms, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 161 million pounds, up 5 percent from last season. Brown mushrooms accounted for 17 percent of the total Agaricus volume sold and 21 percent of the total Agaricus value.

United States fresh market sales of Agaricus mushrooms totaled 840 million pounds, up 10 percent from the previous season, while processed sales, at 91 million pounds, was down 20 percent from the previous season. Growers reported United States fresh market production made up 90 percent of total pounds sold, while processed production represented the remaining 10 percent. Grower total filling intentions for the 2015-2016 crop are 148 million square feet, up 4 percent from the total fillings in the 2014-2015 season.

Value of sales for commercially grown specialty mushrooms in 2014-2015 totaled 75.2 million, up 14 percent from the 2013-2014 season. A specialty grower is defined as having at least 200 natural wood logs in production or some commercial indoor growing area, and \$200 or more in sales. The average price per pound received by growers, at \$3.49, was down 21 cents from the previous season.

Growers produced 60.7 million pounds of mushrooms that were certified organic during the 2014-2015 growing season, 40 percent above 2013-2014. Sixty-eight percent of the total, or 41.4 million pounds, were sold as certified organic mushrooms. This is up 43 percentage points from the 2013-2014 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 72 percent of the mushrooms sold as certified organic, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. The total certified organic sales of all mushrooms represent 4 percent of the 2014-2015 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 67, up 6 growers from the revised previous season. These growers represent 19 percent of the 354 total mushroom producers.

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