

# AgNews



## DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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**To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors**

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**“WEIGHTS AND MEASURES:  
THE FOUNDATION OF COMMERCE IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY”  
Governor Minner proclaims March 1 – 7, 2008 as Weights and Measures Week**

In recognition of the 208<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first weights and measures laws enacted by the Congress of the United States on March 2, 1799, Gov. RUTH ANN MINNER has proclaimed March 1-7, 2007, as Weights and Measures Week. The theme of the week is “Weights and Measures: The Foundation of Commerce in a Global Economy.”

Congress was given the power to “fix weights and measures standards” in the Articles of Confederation and Article 8 of the Constitution and the first federal weights and measures law was passed when President John Adams signed it into law on March 2, 1799

Steve Connors, Delaware Department of Agriculture said “The Weights and Measures official plays an important part in the vitality of the global economy and our system of commerce by providing equity in the marketplace and thus protecting the consumer and the merchant.” He added, “Every citizen and every business has a direct financial stake in selling so that all transactions are fair to the consumer and to the business.”

“The residents of DELAWARE are protected by the Weights and Measures official regardless if he or she is purchasing five gallons of milk, 5 gallons of gasoline, a ton of gravel or anything that is sold by weight, volume, measure or count. The official sees that the consumer receives what he or she pays for... no more or no less. With over 50% of an average family’s income being spent on items sold by weight, volume, measure or count, it is a good feeling to know that weights and measures officials are testing these items for accuracy. Owners of devices are protected from losses in business because a small fraction of one per cent error can give away thousands of dollars worth of products and profits. Should the weights and measures official finds a device not in compliance, they will reject the devices until they have been serviced and have retested it for accuracy.

However, state and local weights and measures officials cannot be present at every transaction. The buying public has definite responsibilities and should insist on good merchandising practices. Cooperation of this kind should result in considerable savings to buyers and will give support to honest merchants who strive for ‘sixteen ounces to the pound’ as the policy of their trade.

To advance a healthy business and consumer climate through fair and equitable weights and measures standards, NCWM ensures uniformity, consistency and fairness in the marketplace. With more than 2,400 weights and measures regulatory professionals, it sets standards and enforces uniform procedures to verify weight, volume, length or count, ensuring that consumers get the quantity that they pay for, and that businesses sell the quantity that they intend and advertise.

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# STATE OF DELAWARE



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### STATEMENT IN OBSERVANCE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK

*Whereas*, almost everything consumers buy is sold by weight, volume, length, count, or measure; and

*Whereas*, sales of products and services nationally that are impacted by weights and measures laws total more than \$4.5 trillion annually; and

*Whereas*, weights and measures are vital to consumer protection in commercial transactions and to maintaining a strong national economy; and

*Whereas*, weights and measures inspectors in Delaware and across the nation constantly work to ensure the accuracy of the tools used to weigh, measure, and price verify; and

*Whereas*, the Delaware Department of Agriculture's Weights and Measure's section regulates scales and price verification, package checking, motor fuels, liquid petroleum gas, and grain moisture meters; and

*Whereas*, each year, the first week in March is set aside to commemorate the anniversary of the enactment of our nation's first Weights and Measures Law in 1799 and to increase public awareness of the importance of this law.

*Now, Therefore, We, Ruth Ann Minner, Governor,  
and John C. Carney, Jr., Lieutenant Governor,  
do hereby declare March 1-7, 2008*

### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK

in the state of Delaware and urge all Delawareans to recognize the importance of equity in the marketplace and the role that Delaware's Weights and Measures staff plays in ensuring their protection in commercial transactions.



*Ruth Ann Minner*  
Ruth Ann Minner  
Governor

*John C. Carney, Jr.*  
John C. Carney, Jr.  
Lieutenant Governor

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