DuPont expands ag research

WILMINGTON, Del. — The DuPont Company has unveiled two new agricultural research facilities which extend the company's capacity to discover and develop new products that improve crop yields and control weeds, insects and plant diseases.

The buildings are located at the Experimental Station near Wilmington and at the Stine-Haskell Research Center outside of Newark, Del. Built at a cost of more than $60 million, they represent the largest single capital investment the company has ever made in agricultural research.

Approximately 130 university researchers, agribusiness leaders and government representatives attended recent ceremonies which marked completion of the buildings. The guests toured the new facilities and heard remarks by DuPont senior managers and representatives of the company's Agricultural Chemicals Department.

Edgar S. Woolard, Jr., a DuPont executive vice president, said the new facilities reflect a corporate commitment to expand efforts in the life sciences. "We believe the life sciences, which include our activities in agriculture and health care, offer considerable long-term growth and diversification opportunities for DuPont," Mr. Woolard said.

Dale E. Wolf, a DuPont group vice-president who heads the company's agricultural chemicals business, said the new facilities "will expand the breadth and scope of our efforts to find new, more efficient products, and will add tremendous impetus to a business that has been important to DuPont for more than 55 years."

Wolf said the new investment expands the company's laboratory, greenhouse and test farm facilities by more than a third. "These facilities are the most recent example of an ongoing program which has seen the number of scientists engaged in plant research double in the past four years," he added.

The new Experimental Station building, a five-story structure, contains more than 100,000 square feet of biological and chemical laboratories and 20 plant growth chambers. Featuring state-of-the-art equipment, it can house more than 150 scientists and support personnel.

At the Stine-Haskell site, the new crop research building includes 15 laboratories, 26 plant growth chambers and 16 large greenhouses. The structure, which replaces a smaller research facility established in 1951, can accommodate 150 researchers and other personnel.

The Stine-Haskell expansion also includes the addition of 100 acres to the Stine Research Farm where agrichemical candidates are field tested. The farm, with about 150 acres devoted to small plot tests, is now the largest of the 15 research farms operated by DuPont in major markets throughout the world.

Broiler feed test held

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — A performance test comparing the effects of feed additives containing lincomycin and virginiamycin in broiler productivity shows lincomycin-fed birds produced more meat for less money.

The test was conducted on three farms in the Southeast, with 130,000 birds fed Lincomix, a feed additive containing lincomycin, and 130,000 fed an additive containing virginiamycin. The two groups were housed in similar facilities, with similar equipment, and the rations contained identical levels of arsenicals and coccidiostats. The broilers were also placed and processed on the same day.

The lincomycin-fed birds produced a total of 7,200 pounds more meat for $1,210 less cost than the virginiamycin-fed birds.

The trial involved feeding half the broilers lincomycin at a rate of two grams per ton in both starter and finisher rations, and a withdrawal ration containing four grams of lincomycin per ton.

The other half of the test broilers was fed virginiamycin at a rate of 10 grams per ton in starter, finisher and withdrawal rations.

Lincomycin-fed birds had a 5.6 point advantage in average final weights (3.874 vs. 3.818), and a slight advantage in cost per pound of meat produced (17.745¢ vs. 17.751¢). The virginiamycin-fed broilers had a .2 point advantage in feed conversion (1.950 vs. 1.948).