

ABS Purchases Genmark Technologies

DeFOREST, Wis. — ABS announced final technology purchase of genetic markers from Genmark, Inc. of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Gene marking, the ability to identify which of the parent's genes the calf has inherited, could allow the A.I. industry to accurately identify genetically superior individuals in a population before their actual production data is available. Some genes influencing protein yield, protein percentage, and milk yield have already been identified.

"In the near future, we expect to have the ability to identify many more genes that specifically affect production as well as many traits that effect type traits of cattle, such as teat placement," said Dr. Paul Miller, vice president of product development at ABS.

"When looking at well-proven bulls, gene markers offer few benefits," said Miller. "The genetics these bulls offer are already identified through the performance of their offspring, the most reliable genetic summary."

While markers have limited benefits to identifying elite genes in well-proven bulls, with the selection of young sires, opportunities abound. Genetic markers will allow ABS and the industry to more accurately select young sires for superiority in desirable traits in both production and conformation. The net result of this will be an increase in the quality of young bulls for the ABS Progeny Test program, as well as earlier identification of these young bulls that will move the next generation ahead.

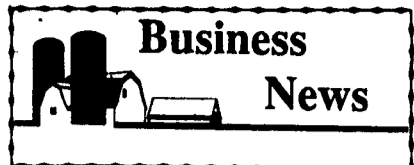
The Genmark DNA commercial testing service operations,

which include laboratory testing for the genes influencing milk proteins, BLAD and Weaver conditions, and DNA parental verification has previously been sold to another private testing lab.

The purchase of this technology is in line with the ABS objectives to research and develop technologies that directly relate to our customers' needs or that will have a

direct benefit to ABS by making genetic advancements faster, more reliable, and with less cost incurred.

"This purchase gives ABS an edge on the industry by adding to other research we have already conducted," said ABS President Jack Shelton, noting that gene marking and mapping have been a common interest of the industry



for some time. "However, the purchase of this technology does not give ABS a corner on the

market. We would be naive to believe only one set of technologies and notes exists."

Sites Announced For Video Conference

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences will offer a corn production satellite video-conference on three dates in January and February.

The free seminar will cover seven key areas of corn production: deep tillage, corn rootworm management, planter adjustment and maintenance, weed management, plant populations and row spacings, nitrogen management, and harvest management.

Below are seminar locations, with the telephone number of the coordinating Penn State Cooperative Extension office. Sites are subject to change and additional sites may be added. Call the number for the seminar location nearest you, the Penn State Cooperative Extension office in your county, or Ag Information Services at (814) 865-6309 to confirm dates and exact sites.

• **January 21 (9:30 a.m.-noon):** Blair Co. — Penn State Altoona Campus (814-695-5541, ext. 210); Bradford Co. Extension Office (717-265-2896); Centre Co. — Logan Grange, Pleasant Gap (814-355-4897); Franklin Co. Extension Office (717-263-9226);

Huntingdon Co. — Huntingdon Vo-Tech (814-643-1660); Jefferson Co. — Penn State DuBois Campus (814-849-7361); Lancaster Co. Farm and Home Center (717-394-6851); Luzerne Co. — Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus (717-825-1701); Lycoming Co. — site TBA (717-327-2350); Tioga Co. — site TBA (717-724-9120); Wayne Co. — site TBA (717-253-5970, ext. 239); and York Co. — site TBA (717-757-9657).

• **February 15 (1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.):** Beaver Co. Ag and Environmental Education Center (412-774-3003); Blair Co. — Penn State Altoona Campus (814-695-5541, ext. 210); Bradford Co. Extension Office (717-265-2896); Cambria Co. Extension Office (814-472-7986); Huntingdon Co. — Huntingdon Vo-Tech (814-643-1660); Jefferson Co. — Penn State DuBois Campus (814-849-7361); Lancaster Co. Farm and Home Center (717-394-6851); Schuylkill Co. — Penn State Schuylkill Campus (717-385-3431); Tioga Co. — site TBA (717-724-9120); and Wayne Co. — site TBA (717-253-5970, ext. 239).

February 22 (7 p.m.-9:30

p.m.): Blair Co. — Penn State Altoona Campus (814-695-5541, ext. 210); Cambria Co. Extension Office (814-472-7986); Chester Co. Government Services Center (215-696-3500); Dauphin Co. — Upper Dauphin High School (717-921-8803); Huntingdon Co. — Huntingdon Vo-Tech (814-643-1660); Jefferson Co. — Penn State DuBois Campus (814-849-7361); Lycoming Co. — site TBA (717-327-2350); Montgomery Co. 4-H Center (215-489-4315); Perry Co. Extension

Office (717-582-2131); Schuylkill Co. — Penn State Schuylkill Campus (717-385-3431); Somerset Co. Extension Office (814-445-8911); and Tioga Co. — site TBA (717-724-9120).

For satellite dish owners wishing to view the seminar, satellite and transponder information will be available after January 4 from Ron Matason at (814) 865-6309, or from any Penn State Cooperative Extension county office.

Farmland Trust Presents Video Award

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The Lancaster Farmland Trust presented a Service Recognition Award to Jerry Greiner of Greiner+Herr+Company, a Lancaster-based advertising agency.

Greiner, a member of the board of trustees since 1991, was acknowledged

for his service as director/producer of a video on the ethics and goals of farmland preservation. The video has 13-minute and 25-minute versions for television and other public presentations. Both are available for loan or purchase from Lancaster Farmland Trust.

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