

Leprino, Eastern Milk Celebrate Cheese Plant Expansion

WAVERLY, N.Y. — A Waverly, N.Y., mozzarella cheese plant, owned by Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative and operated by Leprino Foods, is in the final

stages of a more than \$5 million expansion, Eastern and Leprino officials recently announced in a news release.

Leprino, headquartered in Denver, Colo., is the country's leading manufacturer of mozzarella, supplying pizza restaurants such as Pizza Hut, Domino's, and Little Ceasars.

Eastern Milk Dairy Cooperative, headquartered in Syracuse, N.Y., has member-farmers in nine states and last year marketed 1.95 billion pounds of milk, or nearly

182 million gallons. The expansion increases daily plant capacity to 2,280,000 pounds of milk, according to Cy Carne, vice president for Leprino. He said that compares to year-ago daily capacity of 1,900,000 pounds of milk.

"This represents a 20-percent increase which will take the plant's annual milk volume from 640 million pounds up to 720 million pounds over the next two years."

Lewis Gardner, president of the board of directors for Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative, said that the expansion project comes on the heels of a renewed 20-year contract between Leprino and the co-op.

According to Gardner, "It helps to provide stability for the 300 employees associated with the cheese plant, for our milk haulers who deliver up to 65 tankers of milk each day to the plant, for more than 1,300 dairy farms and their 70,000 cows who produce 186,000 gallons of milk each day for the plant."

Michael Donovan, general manager of the co-op, said that Leprino and Eastern have been working together at the plant for more than 15 years, and that in 1993 they renegotiated their original agreement and extended the contract to 2013.

Eastern agreed to recruit additional milk supplies for the plant in anticipation of the expansion planned by Leprino, and Leprino agreed to help fund increased incentives for farmers. In the past year, almost 300 farmers joined the 3,200-member cooperative.

Calling themselves partners in progress, Eastern and Leprino officials held a picnic and special plant tours for member New York and Pennsylvania farm families on Sept. 15.

Nearly every area of the plant was upgraded.

There are eight new 50,000-pound cheese vats; new pasteurization equipment capable of pasteurizing 144,000 pounds of milk per hour; a 50-percent increase in brining (salt solution) capacity; expansion of plant electrical service and distribution; a new reverse osmosis system for concentrating whey, along with new whey evaporator and spray dryer; additional refrigeration equipment; silos to handle additional volumes of condensed whey, cow water, and boiler condensate; and a new layout for box-making equipment and additional dicers in the processing area.

Western Md. Aquaculture Workshop Set

FOREST HILL, Md. — The Maryland Cooperative Extension Service and Maryland Sea Grant have announced the upcoming program, Western Maryland Aquaculture Workshop on Saturday, November 12, at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center (WMREC).

This full-day workshop will introduce production systems and management techniques that are appropriate to the hillier terrain of western Maryland, western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and parts of Virginia.

Topics will include cage culture and production, marketing, trout

production, crawfish farming, recirculation systems, water resource evaluation, and more.

Industry exhibitors will also discuss their products and services with potential producers.

Because of the widespread interest; in recirculation systems for the production of finfish, the last

talk will discuss these systems, followed by a tour of a nearby recirculation facility.

For registration information, call: Anne Wakeford at Harford County Cooperative Extension (410) 638-3255 or Steve Bogash at WMREC (301) 432-4492. Registration forms and program scheduled will also be available from Maryland Cooperative Extension offices throughout the area.

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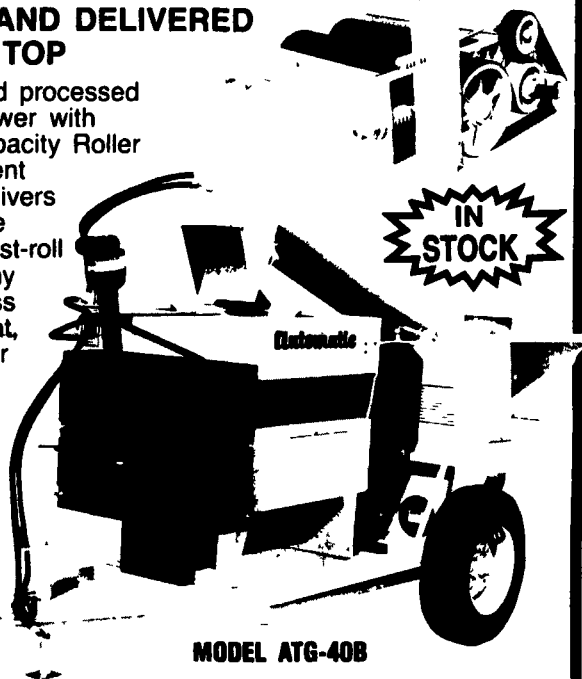
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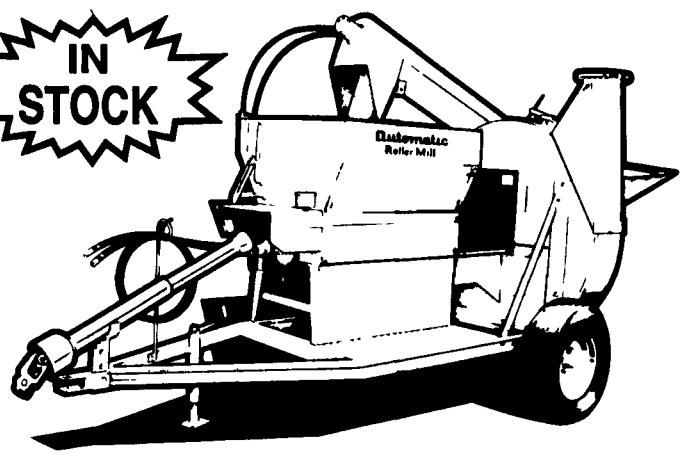
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Pit-Boss pit and lagoon treatment is a unique, environmentally safe, pH-controlled product—not an enzyme or bacteria like most competitive products Here's how it works

Waste digestion involves three distinct bacteria types aerobic bacteria, which break solids down into fatty and amino acids, anaerobic bacteria, which convert those acids into nuisance gases such as ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and methane; and facultative bacteria capable of performing either role Pit-Boss interacts chemically with waste constituents to boost the aerobic manure digestion process. The result? Accelerated solids breakdown and relatively lower gas production

The guaranteed solution to your toughest pit problems.

Virtually eliminates odor. Relatively less gas and faster suspension of solids means dramatically reduced odor

The first application of Pit-Boss, for example, typically lowers combined gas levels 20 - 25%. With some confinement buildings recording levels as high as 55 ppm, that's a considerable reduction Subsequent applications achieve similar results In most cases, odor measures just 3 - 4 ppm after the third application, so your facility is safer for people, better for stock, and less likely to be targeted as a nuisance

Speeds the suspension of solids for faster, easier, more complete pump out.

Highly liquified waste not only emits less odor, it also saves you time and money by making quick, efficient pump-out possible

Pit-Boss pit and lagoon treatment breaks down solids

In fact, the first application of Pit-Boss typically reduces the sludge blanket on a holding pit by 4" - 6", the second by another 12" After the third application, most pits and lagoons are entirely free of solids What's more, digesting the top crust on your pits or lagoons destroys egg-laying habitat for flies With Pit-Boss, you can count on less odor, easier pump-out, and fewer flies

Enhances the fertilizer value of waste by reducing nitrogen loss. Up to 90% of the nitrogen in untreated slurry is lost as ammonia What's left at pump-out generally contains about 25 Lb of N, 19 Lb of P, and 20 Lb of K per 1000 Lb of waste

Guidelines for effective application

1. Start with an empty pit whenever possible.
2. For pits that are partially or completely full, the pH must be adjusted to 6.5 before applying Pit-Boss. This can be accomplished using Chem-A-Co's Adjust-A-Boss pH balancer according to the instructions on the label.
3. Apply one gallon of Pit-Boss pit and lagoon treatment for each 60,000 gallons of usable pit volume (pit length x width x depth x 7.5) Premix each gallon of Pit Boss with 3-4 gallons of water and empty into the pit at several locations.
4. Do not agitate the pit or use lime or ammonia in or near the pit.

GRAIN HULLS A PROBLEM? Ask Chem-A-Co how to suspend hulls so they're pumped out of your pits right along with the waste.



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