

Angus Journal Names Land Stewardship Winner

CROOKSVILLE, Ohio— Don, Tom and Bob Pletcher of Pletcher Brothers farm, located here, were named the eastern regional winner of the 1994 Land Stewardship Award presented by the Angus Journal, official publication of the American Angus Association.

Pletcher Brothers work side by side to carry on their father's farm and dream. He taught them the importance of conserving soil, water, and other natural resources to benefit the environment as well as their farming business.

Don, Tom, and Bob began their full-time farming partnership in 1970. They manage 675

deeded acres and 393 leased acres. The beef operation consists of 160 brood cows, including 60 registered Angus, and 260 head of market cattle which are fed out each year. They crop corn, alfalfa-grass hay, small grains and pasture.

The farms are characterized as moderately rolling with Westgate silt loam soil. The deep, moderately well-drained soil was formed by wind blown silts.

They were among the first in this Ohio region to use conservation tillage. This innovative approach to solve a resource management problem was a bold move at the time. By 1979, the

Pletchers were planting all of their corn using the no-till planting method.

The three brothers have also addressed other soil erosion challenges on their farms by planning out and adopting a variety of common-sense conservation practices. Their steepest ground is maintained in permanent hayland. This allows them to more intensively manage the land for a single crop. They have also established new forage seedings by using no-till establishment methods.

Soil testing is done on a yearly basis for each field. This helps them identify fields where lime and fertilizer may be needed. It saves not only time and money, but also conserves energy resources by not over- or under-applying lime and fertilizer to their fields. It also reduces the possibility of ground water pollution from excess nitrates.

Special attention is given to their crop fields where corn silage has been harvested. A cover crop of rye is established on these fields to prevent soil erosion through the winter and early spring. Tritacale is another innov-

ative plant material they have experimented with for cover crop protection.

This cover crop practice also controls wind erosion. Their soils were formed out of windblown silts and the cover crop keeps these lighter soil particles in place. In the spring, corn is then no-tilled directly into the winter cover crop.

Several seep areas in Pletchers' pastures have been developed into livestock watering

facilities. This prevents erosion problems and increases livestock productivity. By providing fresh, clean water in different pastures, they are able to more effectively manage the cattle. This flexibility allows them the option of rotating the cow herds to different pastures based on forage conditions and seasons.

Pletchers will be honored Nov. 14 at the American Angus Association's annual meeting in Louisville, Ky.

AgriPro Names Regional Sales Manager

MISSION, Kan. — AgriPro Seeds, Inc., announces the promotion of Larry Brake to sales manager of the company's east central region. The appointment was made by Jack Tredinnick, AgriPro executive vice president.

Brake will be responsible for sales of AgriPro Seed products in a 15-state area from Indiana to the Eastern Shore and New England. In his new position, he will have 10 district sales managers report-

ing to him.

Brake has been with AgriPro since 1984, most recently as marketing manager for AgriPro Biosciences, Inc. (ABI) Alfalfa in the northeastern United States. Prior to joining AgriPro/ABI, he worked in sales for A.E. Staley and Ohio Grain Company.

A 1980 graduate of The Ohio State University, Columbus, Brake earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture.

Dairy Farmers Cooperative Pays Dividend

JACKS REEF, N.Y. — Syracuse Dairy Farmers Cooperative declared a patronage dividend for 1994 for their members.

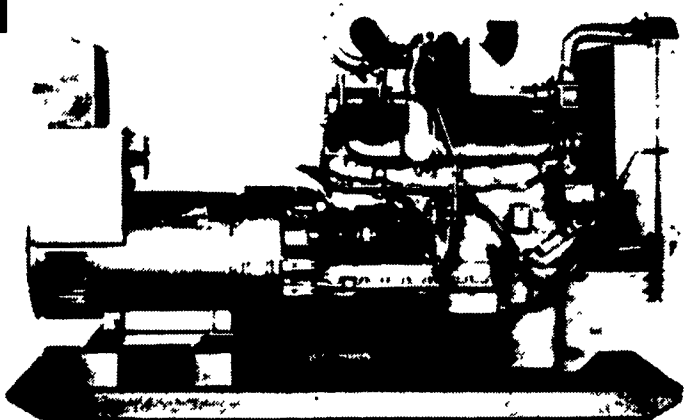
Syracuse Dairy Farmers Co-op has consistently paid a patronage dividend to their producer members for several years. Dairy farmer members received their dividend checks at their annual meeting held recently in Jacks Reef.

Stephen Crego of Baldwinsville, N.Y., president at the Co-op, said he was pleased with the performance at the cooperative for the past year and their ability to consistently pay a patronage dividend. Furthermore, their quality market rewards their members with premiums that provide a farm gate price above the minimum established by the Federal Order 2 Market Administrator.

He also stated that the co-op's association with Byrne Dairy of Syracuse, N.Y. has been a very gratifying arrangement. Bill Byrne, of Byrne Dairy, was a guest at the meeting. He echoed Stevens feelings about their association with Syracuse Dairy Farmers.

James Patsos of United Ag Services presented Tamara Crego at Baldwinsville with the outstanding quality award for 1994. This is the second year in a row that Crego received this award.

Officers elected for the coming year were Stephen Crego, Baldwinsville, president; Duane Eibert, Marcellus, vice president; and Mary Crego, Baldwinsville; secretary/treasurer. William Lukins of Marcellus was elected director to replace Lewis Wellington of Skaneateles who retired from dairy farming.



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