S.D. State University May Get Brown Swiss Herd

BELOIT, Wis. — The Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Board of Directors unanimously approved a plan to cooperate with South Dakota State University (SDSU) in bringing a herd of registered Brown Swiss to the university.

The proposal calls for 60 head of Brown Swiss heifers to come to SDSU through member donations which will be fully tax deductible for the donors.

SDSU has a new dairy cattle unit complete with a state-of-the-art, double-eight parallel milking parlor and a drive-thru center feed free stall housing area.

Capacity for the new unit, opened in November 1994, is 160 head. Currently the unit houses 80 Holsteins with a herd average in excess of 21,000 pounds of milk.

Dairy department chairman Dr. John Parsons said, "The addition of Brown Swiss will give us an added teaching dimension, increased exposure to the breed and the opportunity to have significant cow numbers for vital research."

The goal is to have Brown Swiss breeders donate an animal or for two breeders to donate one together.

Bred heifers are being sought to form the nucleus of a herd, starting this spring. When the project is complete the new herd should have a year around calving schedule, a genetic mix and unlimited opportunity.

According to project coordinator and assistant professor Dr. Michael Brouk, "SDSU will work closely with BSCBA on all relative association programs including PTPR, young sire proving and computer mating services."

The return to Brown Swiss breeders, according to Dr. David Schingoethe, a dairy science professor at SDSU, is numerous projects utilizing Brown Swiss cows and Brown Swiss milk to identify the advantages of the high proteins in processing. They will also look at feeding and management techniques that maximize the production of high protein milk.

All research project results will be regularly reported through the Brown Swiss Bulletin magazine and at the annual meeting.

SDSU combines a modern, practical curriculum in dairy science together with what is regarded as the top dairy product processing and manufacturing program available for undergraduates and post graduates. The demand for SDSU grads far outstrips the supply.

The new dairy facility and the addition of Gene Stegeman as dairy herd superintendent, now allows for a full range of management short courses to be offered. The first was offered in March of this year.

If you are a Brown Swiss breeder interested in this project, please call the national Brown Swiss office at (608) 365-4474 and let them know you are interested in the SDSU "Send a Cow to College" project.

Donated animals should be from above breed average dams for protein, sired by a plus proven sire and bred to a plus proven sire or a young sire with an above average pedigree value. Dams should be at least Good Plus in mammary. Brown Swiss Enterprises will work with donors to establish a value of the donation for tax purposes.

In reaching the agreement to endorse this program, SDSU agreed to maintain a herd of a least 50 registered Brown Swiss cows for a 25-year period.

As an added bonus Dr. John Bryant, dean of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences announced that a scholarship fund will be started from funds generated by the salvage value of the original donated animals when they eventually leave the herd. This scholarship will be offered to incoming students attending SDSU and coming from a Brown Swiss farm

Precision Ag Field Day June 19

NORCROSS, Ga.—The Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI), Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR), The Fertilizer Institute (TFI), and the USDA/ARS Beltsville Agricultural Research Center are coordinating plans for a Precision Agriculture Field Day on June 19 at the USDA/ARS Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, located on U.S. Route 1 just outside the Beltway in Beltsville, Md.

Visitors will see how space-age technology is providing important tools for nutrient management and other aspects of modern crop production. Site-specific or precision management in crop production could enable U.S. agriculture to remain a competitive player in world markets and at the same time to safeguard our environment. Those attending will also learn how farmers can begin to set the stage for using this available technology by developing record systems and management plans for their fields.

Exhibits will open at 9 a.m., displaying various hardware, software, and related technology developments. Representatives will be on hand to answer questions.

The joint House and Senate Agriculture Hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the 500-seat Beltsville Center Auditorium. Leading experts will testify on the technology available, how it is being used, and expected future advancements. Farmers from various sections of the U.S., who use precision agriculture techniques, will testify and discuss their experiences.

Lunch will be sponsored by the Maryland Grain Producers Association and the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board. Exhibits will remain open during the lunch hour. In the afternoon, bus tours will include live demonstrations of on-the-go yield monitors, variable rate input applications and other components of the system. Analysis of results can be observed based on grid sample soil tests and other site characterizations developed prior to the field day.

Precision or site-specific management is rapidly evolving as a component for maintaining a viable agriculture. This could become an important technology in the environmentally sensitive region around the Chesapeake Bay. The field day will provide the opportunity to observe and learn more about recent developments.

Preregistration is required. The deadline for receiving preregistration forms is Friday, May 26. For information, contact Bill Griffith, 865 Seneca Road, Great Falls, VA 22066, fax (703) 450-4835.

Acreage Reports More Vital Than Ever

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)—Farmers were reminded that their crop insurance and certain U.S. Department of Agriculture benefits are in jeopardy if they fail to file their planted acreage reports on time.

The reminder, from Kathryn Baxter, acting CED of the Consolidated Farm Service Agency, said that crop insurance acreage reports must be signed by the insured or a designated agent by the required deadline, which differs by crop and locality.

Acreage reports for farm program purposes must still be filed at the CFSA office; however, crop insurance acreage reports must also be filed with the insurance provider. If insured through a private crop insurance agent, the crop insurance acreage report must be submitted to that agent.

If farmers purchased the basic catastrophic insurance coverage (CAT) through the CFSA office, they can sign their crop insurance acreage reports at the same time they report acreage for farm program purposes, Baxter said.

The other major risk management program, termed the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), applies only to those crops for which insurance is not available. NAP provides a comparable level of benefits as that offered under CAT, but no premiums are charged. Planned acreage of NAP-covered crops must be reported on time to the CFSA office or no NAP benefits will be paid if a crop loss occurs.

The CAT and NAP coverages replace the ad hoc crop disaster programs of past years. Unlike previous disaster programs, however, they require timely reports of planted acreage to receive benefits.

Uninsured crops must be reported by July 15. There are various dates for reporting crops that are insured. The next reporting date is July 15 for corn, soybeans, tomatoes, grain sorghum, potatoes, tobacco, and peas. The report date has passed for other crops insured. Contact the CFSA office for assistance.