

Junior Angus Breeders Parade 95 Entries At NAILE

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Judge Matt Claeys, Raleigh, N.C., selected champions from the 95 heifers exhibited at the 1995 North American International Livestock Exposition Junior Angus Heifer Show.

Top honors went to Jenna Gilbert, Greenville, Ohio, on Champion Hill Aerial 918. Her grand champion is a May 1994 daughter of Century Touchstone 131. She was first named the intermediate champion.

Sonya Smith, Lebanon, Tenn., walked away with the reserve grand champion heifer award. HSAF Miss Pride 113B was the name of her winning entry that was also the reserve intermediate champion. HSAF Prompter ET sired the May 1994 heifer.

Senior champion heifer honors went to Kristopher Lynn, Springfield, Ky., on DKL Garnet Gal 3165, while reserve senior champion was awarded to Champion Hill Jestres Athena, shown by Robert Woodward, Gallipolis, Ohio.

In the junior division, Christy Bell, Monroe, Ga., exhibited the champion. Her entry was Harmony Hill Jestress 435. Patton



Grand champion female honors were awarded to Jenna Gilbert, Greenville, Ohio, at the 1995 North American International Livestock Exposition Junior Angus Heifer Show in Louisville, Ky. Champion Hill Aerial 918 is the name of the May 1994 daughter of Century Touchstone 131. She was first named the intermediate champion.

Lady Agnes 1054 CAF took the reserve junior champion heifer award for Beth Patton, Crawfordsville, Ind.

Kristopher Lynn led Sedgwicks Pride 9974 to the senior heifer calf champion title. Reserve honors in the senior heifer calf division went to Hutch Porter, Jefferson, Ga., on

Meldons Bess 8574.

The junior heifer calf champion was NPF Blackbird Forever 5P04. She was exhibited by Cindi Parr, Mason City, Ill. Suzanne Uhey, Perrysville, Ind., won the reserve junior heifer calf champion award with Highland Katy 5.



Wynn Dalton, Altavista, Va., was presented the 1995 National Junior Angus Association's outstanding leadership award at the American Angus Association's annual banquet held during the 1995 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky. Dalton, who attends Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan., currently serves on the National Junior Angus Board. Pictured from left are Fred Smalstig, Naples, Fla., and Dalton.

National Survey: No-Till Tops 40 Million Planted Acres

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — U.S. farmers relied on an environmentally beneficial crop growing system more than ever this year, according to a national survey released by the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC).

The annual survey shows farmers used the system, called no-till, on a record 40.9 million acres of cropland in 1995. No-till saves labor, fuel, and equipment costs for farmers while providing soil, water quality, and wildlife benefits.

Total cropland acres planted this year were down 5.4 million nationwide, prompting a decline in every crop growing system except no-till. Farmers planting soybeans led the no-till increase by using the system to plant and manage an additional 2.2 million soybean acres this year, compared to 1994.

"The fact that no-till is the one system that increased in use this year is significant," said John Hebblethwaite, executive director, CTIC. "An overall total of 1.9 million additional cropland acres were planted using no-till, making it obvious farmers are gaining confidence in the economic and environmental advantages of this system."

The three conservation tillage systems are no-till, ridge-till and mulch-till. Following harvest, conservation tillage farmers avoid disturbing (plowing or tilling) the soil in their fields any more than necessary. Instead, they leave the plant materials from the recently harvested crop in the field. The old stem, stalks, and leaves, called crop residues, are left on the soil surface to provide a protective blanket. The goal with conservation tillage systems is to keep 30 percent or more of the soil surface covered with crop residues, even after a new crop is planted.

Farmers planted an additional 2.2 million acres of no-till soybeans this year, compared to 1994. No-till soybean acres now account for 30 percent of all soybean acres planted in the U.S. Farmers, apparently hoping to take advantage of higher cotton prices, planted an

additional 2.3 million acres of cotton this year, compared to last. No-till cotton increased by almost 116,000 acres or 20 percent this year. Farmers planted 6.1 million fewer acres of corn in 1995, compared to last year. No-till corn planting declined by 1.2 million acres but remains at 18 percent of total corn acres planted in the U.S. (same as last year). Total cropland acres planted in 1995: 278.6 million, compared to 283.9 million in 1994, for a decline of 5.4 million planted cropland acres in 1995.

- No-till added an additional 1.9 million planted acres for a total of 40.9 million acres.

- Mulch-till declined by 2.2 million acres for a total of 54.5 million acres.

- Ridge-till declined by almost 165,000 acres for a total of 3.4 million acres.

- Reduced-till declined by 3 million acres for a total of 70.1 million acres.

- Conventional-till declined by 1.9 million acres for a total of 109.6 million acres.

Over the last five years, no-till has continued to post solid gains, led by substantial increases in no-till soybeans. The no-till gains have come despite the Great Flood of '93 and a very wet planting season in many parts of the country this year, which delayed or prevented corn planting. Ridge-till traded several consecutive years of slight increases for a slight decline this year, which apparently represents a shift to the no-till category. Mulch-till's numbers have stayed rather flat to down for the last five years but it remains the largest category among conservation tillage systems. Reduced-till was the category which lost the most acreage this year and could account for some of the shifts to higher crop residue categories. Conventional-till systems, which tend to involve the most intensive tilling or plowing of the soil surface, posted a sizable loss in acres planted this year.

The top five no-till states, based on planted acres, are Illinois (5.9 million acres), Indiana (4.4 million), Iowa (4.3 million acres),

Ohio (3.9 million acres), and Missouri (2.8 million acres).

The top five no-till states, based on percentage of total cropland acres planted to no-till, are Kentucky (47 percent), Maryland (43 percent), Tennessee (42 percent), Delaware (39 percent), and Ohio (38 percent).

The top five mulch-till states, based on planted acres, are Iowa (6.7 million acres), North Dakota (4.7 million acres), Texas (4.6 million acres), Nebraska (4.5 million acres), and Kansas (4.4 million acres).

The top five ridge-till states, based on planted acres, are Nebraska (1.5 million acres), Minnesota (361,000 acres), Kansas (330,000 acres), Iowa (225,000 acres), and South Dakota (119,000 acres).

Illinois leads no-till season (single crop) soybean states (3.2 million acres planted), followed by Indiana (2.4 million acres), Iowa (2.3 million acres), Ohio (2.1 million acres), and Missouri (1.3 million acres). In 1995, Indiana became the first major soybean producing state to plant more than 50 percent (51 percent) of all its soybeans no-till. States which registered a 29 percent or greater increase in no-till soybean acres this year include South Dakota, Kansas, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Nebraska. Illinois, Ohio, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska showed the greatest growth in no-till season soybean acres, each adding 200,000 or more acres in 1995.

Iowa is the leading no-till corn state (1.9 million acres planted), followed by Illinois (1.8 million acres), Nebraska (1.6 million acres), Indiana (1.4 million acres), and Ohio (1 million acres). No-till corn acres declined in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, and Indiana this year while increasing in Kansas, Nebraska, North Carolina, Kentucky and Alabama.

No-till small grains, led by wheat, posted an 800,000-acre increase this year. North Dakota, Kansas, Montana, Ohio, and Illinois each gained more than 50,000 acres of no-till wheat and small grains in 1995.

North Carolina and Georgia helped lead the way in the southern and mid-south states where no-till cotton increased by almost 116,000 acres this year. North Carolina and Georgia each grew an additional 44,000 acres of no-till cotton in 1995 and Louisiana added more than 15,000 no-till cotton acres. Virginia, Florida, South Carolina, Arkansas and Oklahoma also contributed to the upswing. Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama posted slight declines but Tennessee remains the leader in no-till cotton with more than 200,000 acres planted in 1995.

These highlights are from the *National Crop Residue Management Survey* which is compiled and published annually by the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) in cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

(NRCS). CTIC is a nonprofit information/data transfer center that promotes environmentally and economically beneficial natural resource systems.

The Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) is offering its new '95-'96 catalog free. The eight-page catalog is ideal for anyone interested in crop residue management, watershed management, water quality, wetlands, nutrient management, and pest management. It's packed with publications, videos, fact sheets, kits, booklets, brochures, manuals, and data sheets!

CTIC will mail the catalog to you — free — in single or multiple copies. Just give us a call at (317) 494-9555, fax us your request at (317) 494-5969, or write CTIC Catalog, 1220 Potter Dr., Room 170, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1383.

American Cyanamid, Deere Share Safety Technology

WAYNE, N.J.—Two of the nation's leading agricultural companies, American Cyanamid Company and Deere & Company, announced that the patented valve technology utilized in the innovative Lock 'n Load closed handling system is now more widely available to the agrichemical industry.

The two companies jointly developed the Lock 'n Load closed handling system and this unique valve interface which allows virtually exposure-free filling of insecticide hopper boxes.

Howard L. Minigh, president of Cyanamid's Agricultural Products Division, said, "When we launched the Lock 'n Load closed handling system, we were hopeful that it would become the industry standard—and we are very close to achieving our goal. The availability of this proprietary valve technology will allow agrichemical companies to offer a standard interface for planters whether they

choose to use the established Lock 'n Load closed handling system or alternative containers or delivery systems. We are pleased to take this additional step towards industry standardization and encourage all companies to approach Cyanamid or Deere & Company for licensing details."

Industry-wide adoption of this valving system, as a part of the Lock 'n Load closed handling system or as a part of delivery systems that are under development by other manufacturers, will insure that all granular insecticides can be delivered through one standard interface. Insecticide product manufacturers benefit through access to a commercially available valve with proven marketplace performance. Standardization of this state-of-the-art valve will allow farmers the flexibility to alternate between insecticide brands without changing planter lid receiving valves.