

Ribbon Cutting At Hagerstown Purina Mill

HAGERSTOWN, Md. — A ribbon cutting ceremony was held here Friday evening to celebrate the opening of the new Purina mill. Dave Abbott, president and CEO of Purina Mills, Inc. flew in from St. Louis for the ceremony, and other company officials and a representative from the Maryland Department of Agriculture were on hand to officially cut the ribbon for the new totally automated bulk plant.

Abbott said it was easy to support the proposed mill when it was in the planning stages. "The board supported the Hagerstown mill because of the tremendous record of growth, achievement, and tremendous record of delivering the results that have been promised," by Purina's Eastern region. "We see tremendous opportunities in agriculture in the U.S., in the production of meat, milk, and eggs, as well as the companion animal aspect that is so popular in this area," Abbott said.

Kurt Loudenback, division sales manager for the Eastern division, cited the business community's accommodation as a main factor in electing to build the plant in Hagerstown. "They really rolled out the welcome mat," he said. The town is also a crossroads for major East, West, North, and South interstate and rail traffic, and offered strong customer demand and large numbers of commercial livestock, said Loudenback.

Robert Hopkins, manager of product registration for the Maryland Department of Agriculture, extended a warm welcome to Purina. "The Maryland slogan is 'Maryland With Pride,' and tonight Maryland is bursting with pride to welcome Purina to Hagerstown," said Hopkins.

With a total of 11 employees, the plant will be almost completely automated, from the receiving area set up to handle rail and truck unloading, to the load-out facility

that can bulk load 75 dry tons per hour. A six-ton batch mixer, capable of mixing 12 to 15 batches per hour, and a fully automated pellet mill capable of pelleting 12 to 16 tons per hour highlight the inner workings of the plant. Production capacity is currently 5,000 tons per month, but space was left next to the pellet mill for another identical unit to be installed at some point in the future, said Larry Belluscio, division sales manager for the Eastern region.

Built by the T.E. Ibberson Co. from Hopkins, Minnesota, construction of the plant took approximately 18 months from the time ground was broken. The mill officially opened on June 1, and the first load of feed went out on the 6th.

The Hagerstown plant is strictly a bulk manufacturing facility, said Belluscio. The bag plant will still be in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, and all support services including sales, order entry, and customer service.



Dave Abbott, center, president and CEO of Purina Mills, Inc. cuts the ribbon at the new Purina mill in Hagerstown. On the left is Robert Hopkins representing the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and on the right is John Zerbe, vice president of Purina Mills, Inc. Eastern region.

Association Announces State Ayrshire Sale

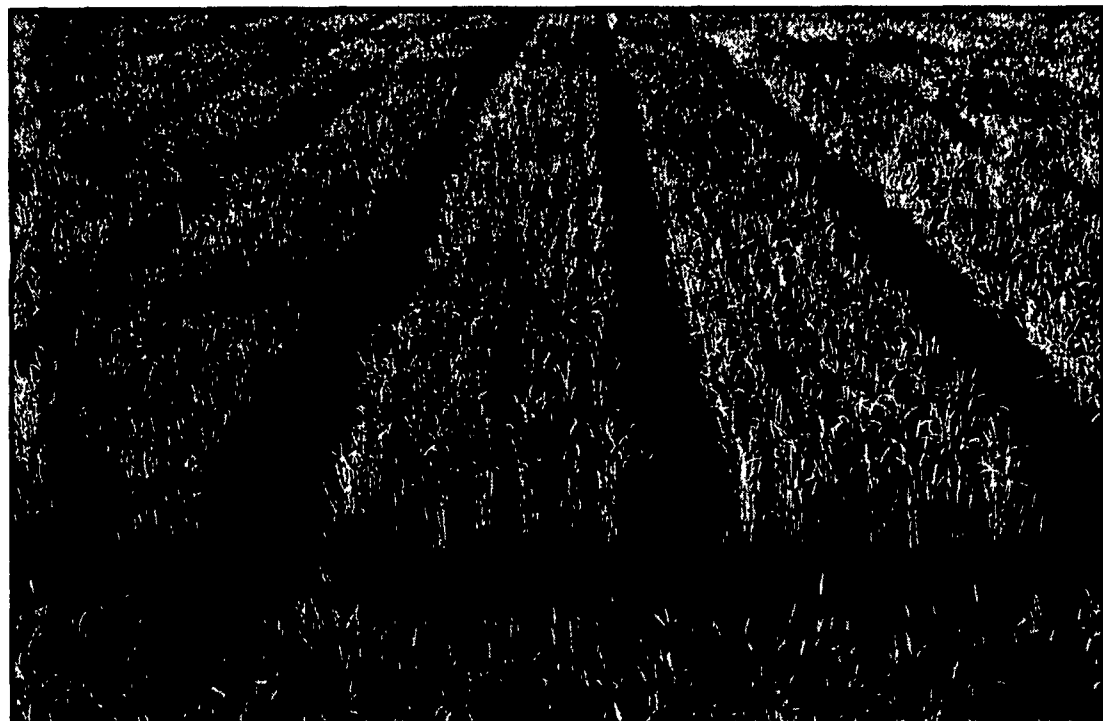
ULSTER (Bradford Co.) — The 1997 Pennsylvania Fall Ayrshire Sale is set to be held Monday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m., in the Small Arena of the state Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg in conjunction with the Pennsylvania All American Dairy Show (PAADS).

A social hour at the Small Arena is to precede the sale. Catalogs are to be available at the sale and show ring, or upon request.

The auctioneer is to be Bo Elliott of Towanda. Pedigrees are to be read by Howard Hammond III of Corry.

For more information, or to

request a catalog, contact the sale manager, Ben Hillyard of Ulster at (717) 596-4371.



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