

National Watermelon Promotion Board Issues Call For Production Research Proposals

ORLANDO, Fla. — The National Watermelon Promotion Board continues to expand its production research program in 1998 by issuing a call for research proposals addressing production issues that would benefit the watermelon industry on a national level.

The board is requesting proposals by Jan. 24 and has slated \$40,000 to fund projects selected by the NWPB Research Evaluation Committee, comprised of watermelon producers, handlers, and importers.

Scientists may propose projects with short-term results or long-term goals, as long as the benefits are applicable to the entire watermelon industry. All proposals should include the economic impact and geographic scope of the proposed research.

"We're searching for research projects that would help find solutions to disease problems that have caused significant crop losses for growers throughout the country," said NWPB Executive Director William Watson.

The nonprofit NWPB is funded by watermelon producers, shippers, and handlers whose assessments support a variety of research, promotion, and educational programs.

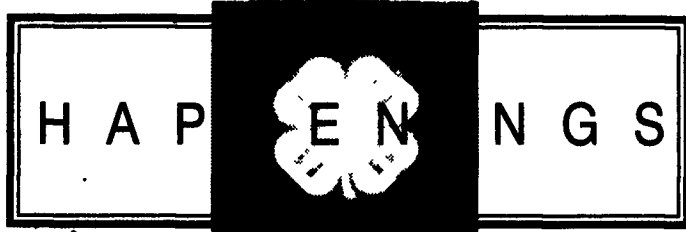
NWPB President Percy Bunch said the production research directly benefits watermelon growers. "I think production research has enabled the National Watermelon Promotion Board to take giant steps forward in building relationships with growers," said Bunch. "The research gives growers satisfaction that their assessed money is being used to benefit them in growing melons."

Three watermelon production research projects were launched in 1997 with \$12,500 in NWPB funding. A newly created NWPB Research Evaluation Committee selected three proposals designed to combat three destructive watermelon diseases. North Carolina State University scientists started screening and testing various watermelon varieties and breeding lines for resistance of Papaya Ring-spot Virus, also known as Watermelon Mosaic Virus-1, while University of Florida scientists began working to develop watermelon varieties resistant to Watermelon Mosaic Virus-2. In addition, scientists from Texas A & M University have begun establishing a Fusarium Wilt Disease Nursery in Overton, Texas, to screen commercial varieties and breeding lines for wilt resistance.

Research proposals should be a maximum of five typewritten pages and must include a two-page CV and list of publications for each investigator included in

the proposal. Scientists should send 11 copies of the proposal by Jan. 24 to: NWPB Research Evaluation Committee, Attention:

NWPB Executive Director William Watson, P.O. Box 140065, Orlando, FL 32814-0065.



Hoofs In Clover

The club had a Christmas party at the 4-H building in Montrose on Dec. 7 at 2 p.m.

A brief meeting was held. A suggestion was made to see what community service projects could be done for Christmas. They decided to call "Interfaith: to see if they needed any help. Suggestions were

made for trips for 1998.

Members who were there took a tour of the 911 station during the party. Members also planned to go roller skating together.

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, Jan. 14 at the Elk Lake High School.

'People

(Continued from Page B19)

"We had a black lamb this year out of a white mother and a white father. He was super good from the time he was born," said Doris. "We took him to the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival when he was 10 weeks old. We took him not necessarily to win, because we knew he was going to be too young, but he won. Then we took him to the Troy Fair, and he was the supreme champion ram. Then we had him at Eastern States and he was only third and we took him to Louisville and he was first spring ram and reserve champion ram down there."

Natural colored sheep are becoming more and more popular, but on the Powell and Moore farms, they have not been plentiful.

"Dad has raised Rambouillets for 70 years and we've had three black lambs," said Doris.

Years ago no one talked about black lambs. Now people are looking for them.

"We had one in the 80s and it was when people were just starting to talk about natural colored

sheep," said Doris, "and my mother was going to keep it. She was thinking, it's worth meat price which might have been \$50 at the time and so she asked like a couple hundred dollars, because she wanted to keep it, and the people said, 'we'll take it!'"

Because of the fine fleece of the Rambouillet, buyers usually pay premium prices. The Powells have marketed their fleeces through wool cooperatives as well as individually. This winter, they plan to branch into another market; that of selling yarn made from the fleece of their Rambouillets.

"We're going to take it to the woolen mill and have it processed into yarn. Then we'll try to sell the yarn," said Doris.

If the marketing proves successful, they will continue to market their fleece as yarn, adding a new dimension to their farm enterprise.

Regardless of how the newest venture turns out, the family will always share a love of sheep and shepherding and will cherish the memories and friendships that have been created along the way.

"The people you meet are the good part of showing anything," said Moore.

Farm Safety



Prior to the establishment of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, a study by the Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center estimated that 300 children and adolescents were dying each year from farm injuries, and that another 23,500 were suffering nonfatal trauma. An update of that study now indicates that the farm fatality rate for children and adolescents has declined by 39 percent.



With the help of Cargill Hybrid Seeds and other corporate sponsors, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids is celebrating its 10th year of advocating the prevention of farm-related childhood injuries, health risks and fatalities. Through educational programs and a large network of grassroots volunteers this nonprofit organization is leading the way to a safer future for the children of today's farming communities.



For more information about Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, call 1-800-423-5437.



LEAVE IT TO A SEED COMPANY TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO MAKE YOUR MILK PRODUCTION GROW.

A year ago, we introduced FullTime™ forage. A remarkable new feedstuff that can dramatically boost a herd's milk production. Now, a year later, university trials show that feeding FullTime to top producers on a high-fiber diet can increase their already high production levels by as much as 10%. So, if you're feeding a high-fiber ration, consider FullTime. Nothing can match its digestibility, forage quality or increased milk production. No wonder we say it's the biggest thing to hit dairy since automation. To learn more about FullTime or any of our other forage quality products, see your nearest Cargill dealer or visit our Web site, www.cargill.com/seed.



©Cargill, Incorporated 1997 All products subject to Cargill's limitation of warranty and remedy