

Policies Clarify Producer Responsibilities

DES MOINES, Iowa — Pork producers involved in farm-to-farm sales of feeder pigs and seedstock who are not yet remitting checkoff funds are asked to begin checkoff remittance between now and July 1.

The National Pork Board has approved a temporary policy that forgives any past checkoff payments or late penalties on producers not yet remitting checkoff. The board believes producers involved in farm-to-farm sales may not have been aware of their checkoff obligations and this are not remitting checkoff.

Direct delivery of feeder pigs from one farm to another has increased in recent years. Direct delivery enables producers to purchase feeder pigs with a known health status and genetic quality. Today's definition of feeder pigs includes weaner pigs or segregated early weaned pits. In these producer-to-producer transactions, the seller has the responsibility for paying checkoff on the feeder pigs.

Buyers of feeder pigs should

be certain the seller is taking the responsibility to remit the checkoff, otherwise there is a buyer responsibility to deduct it from the seller's payment and remit it to the Pork Board.

"The National Pork Board, a 15-member producer board, wanted to take a proactive approach to compliance with the checkoff regulations on farm-to-farm sales," said Board President Esther VerMeer of Leighton, Iowa.

"The temporary policy is a way to draw attention to the producer responsibility that we feel has been overlooked. All we want is for producers responsible for paying checkoff to begin remitting their funds. The checkoff system was intended to include all types of producers and the board is charged with fairly and equitably applying the checkoff system," said VerMeer.

The penalty for not remitting checkoff is \$1,000 per infraction and a 1.5 percent per month late fee. "If a producer is found not remitting checkoff on farm-to-

farm sales after July 1, the National Pork Board, under the Pork Act, has the authority to collect up to three years worth of unpaid checkoff and penalties," according to Mike Simpson, executive vice president of the National Pork Board. "If records exist and it can be proven, uncollected checkoff going as far back as the beginning of the legislative checkoff many also be collected."

The Pork Board has also approved a policy that clarifies the responsibility of checkoff remittance for pigs received

from limited liability corporations, also known as Sub Chapter S corporations. No checkoff is due if a producer receives pigs in the same percent as his/her ownership in the corporation. For example, if a producer receives 20 percent of the feeder pig production from the limited liability corporation of which he owns 20 percent, no checkoff is required. However, if this producer receives more than 20 percent of the feeder pigs, a checkoff remittance is required on the difference of the percent he received and his 20

percent ownership share.

Checkoff is collected at the rate of \$0.45 per \$100 value from all market hogs, feeder pigs and breeding stock produced in the United States, as well as imported hogs and pork products.

If there are questions about the responsibilities of producers or a need for further instructions and forms used for remitting checkoff on farm-to-farm sales, contact the National Pork Board at (800) 456-7675. The e-mail address is <porkbd@nppc.org>.

Research Foundation Recognizes Scientists

NEWARK, Del. — The University of Delaware Research Foundation has announced the 1998-99 awards. Of the 14 awards, totaling \$406,390, five were awarded to researchers in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Established in 1942 as the Haskell Research Associates, the foundation supports fundamental research in all fields of science and engineering and focuses on assisting junior facul-

ty in promising research projects. Awards are determined by a committee representing area industries.

Award recipients from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources are:

Dr. Yan Jin, plant and soil sciences, received \$29,786 for her "Study of Transport of Dense Organic Vapor Released from Non-aqueous-phase Liquids in Subsurface Soil."

Dr. Pamela Plotkin, entomology and applied ecology, was

awarded \$29,484 for "Fitness Consequence of Divergent Reproductive Behavior."

Dr. Carl Schmidt, animal and food sciences, received \$29,570 for "Subcellular Localization of Marek's Disease Virus with Green Fluorescent Protein."

Dr. Allan Shapiro, plant and soil sciences, was awarded \$30,000 for "Identification of Disease Resistance Signaling Genes through Suppression of ndr1-1."

Dr. Mark VanGessel, plant and soil sciences, received \$29,056 for "Influence of Poultry Litter on Early-season Weed Growth."

Cargill Monsanto Announce Joint Venture

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Cargill and Monsanto announced that they have signed a letter of intent to form a worldwide joint venture to create and market new products enhanced through biotechnology for the grain processing and animal feed markets.

The 50-50 joint venture would draw from Monsanto's capabilities in genomics biotechnology, and seeds and from Cargill's global agricultural input, processing, and marketing infrastructure to develop and market new products with traits aimed at improving the processing efficiencies and animal nutrition qualities of major crops.

The venture is the first to create a system that links biotechnology research and development from seed through processing to the customer.

"The resources and capabilities of both companies will be deployed to speed the research and launch of new products, and to do so in a way that will create the greatest value for farmers and ranchers, the grain processing industry and consumers around the world," said Ernest S. Micek, Cargill chairman and chief executive officer. "This will yield more and better options for feeding a growing world population in an efficient and environmentally friendly way."

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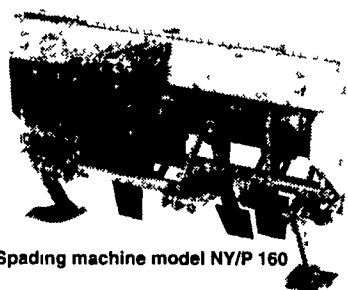
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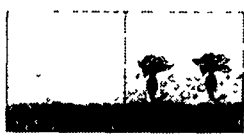
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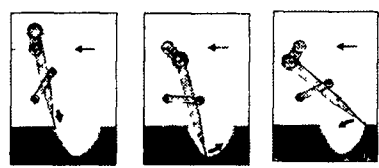
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