

Farmland Industries Certifies First International AG•21 Cooperative

HENSALL, Ontario, Canada — Farmland Industries Inc. made history as it certified its first international AG•21 cooperative. The Hensall District Co-operative, Hensall, Ontario Canada, is the program's first cooperative outside the United States to be certified, making it part of an elite group of Farmland cooperatives.

Tom Sawyer, executive vice president of The Fertilizer Institute of Ontario, and H.D. "Harry" Cleberg, Farmland president and chief executive officer, addressed guests at an open house held at the cooperative's Hensall facilities to honor the achievement.

AG•21 is an innovative crop production process developed by Farmland Industries to raise the agronomic, environmental, and managerial standard for cooperatives across North America. The program is a partnership of the local cooperative, their farmer-members and Farmland to provide enhanced services, cutting-edge technology and an emphasis on environmentally sound management practices. Its goals are to use the best crop production techniques and the latest technology to maximize crop potential in an environmentally friendly manner.

"AG•21's comprehensive process enables us to add value to our traditional products and services, while helping our producer-owners improve crop yields and quality, increase economic returns, conserve soil and water, and protect the environment and human health," said Earl Wagner, Hensall District Co-operative general manager.

To become a certified AG•21 dealer, a Farmland cooperative must undergo a stringent auditing process and complete an extensive employee training

program, said Richard Sipe, AG•21 systems manager. "This certification process usually takes one to two years to complete, during which time the cooperative is audited on its agronomic practices, environmental safety, and marketing and human resource efforts. The Hensall cooperative was certified in an inspiring nine months," he said.

Technology and extensive training programs help the cooperative's producer-owners develop personalized Integrated Crop Management (ICM) programs. These programs incorporate nutrient management plans, pest management plans, and other best management practices (BPMs) to maximize efficiencies, optimize economic returns, and enhance the environment. The AG•21 ICM record-keeping software can help document crop field results and field history by recording detailed agronomic practices, including the tracking of identity-preserved crops, crop protection practices, crop rotation, and cost analysis.

"As the government gets tougher on chemical and fertilizer application and manure management practices, agriculture is required to do a better job of record keeping. The AG•21 process helps producers maintain better records and apply the right products in the right amounts at the right times," Wagner said.

The ICM programs provide customers with total agronomic planning, field-by-field history, assistance with environmental regulations and the opportunity to use the most recent technology in precision agriculture, such as global positioning systems (GPS) field mapping.

"AG•21 matches our field-to-

fork concept," Wagner said. "The people we are marketing our products to want to know where the products come from — from the exact field and producer through to the processing plant. Without record-keeping programs in place, we wouldn't be able to fulfill this particular market demand."

A progressive and diversified agribusiness that has provided

its member-owners with quality products for more than 60 years, Hensall District Co-operative serves 4,500 member-owners from 10 branch locations.

The cooperative records sales of more than \$89 million, and in the past five years, it invested more than \$17 million in buildings and facilities. In July 1994, it opened a world-class bean pro-

cessing facility that has the capability of electronically inspecting every edible bean as many as seven times.

The cooperative's innovative processing capabilities and field-by-field record-keeping practices allow its producers' beans to be marketed directly to Japan — something no other Ontario cooperative offers.

Pasto Museum Is Hands-On History

Book At Ag Progress Days

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — How did we light our homes to "keep out the night" before electricity? How did we cool our food? Visitors to Penn State's Ag Progress Days, August 18-20, can tour the Pasto Agricultural Museum and get a taste of what life was like before gasoline engines and electricity.

"The museum is like a hands-on history book," said Jerome Pasto, museum curator and associate dean emeritus in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "There's a story behind every item."

The museum houses more than 300 implements used for farming and homemaking. Items range from a 6,000-year-old clay sickle used for grain harvesting, to a charcoal-heated clothes iron, to a dog powered treadmill used to churn butter and wash clothes. "Everything is operated by power from the muscles of humans and animals," said Pasto.

Sections of the museum are devoted to harvesting grain, cutting and handling hay, planting and harvesting corn, plowing and cultivating soil and caring for animals. One display focuses on ice harvesting, which provid-

ed winter work for rural people. Using horse-drawn ice plows, checkerboards were scored on frozen ponds, then cut in perfect blocks.

"Ice harvesting was a huge business at the turn of the century," said Pasto. "Trainloads of ice were shipped to Philadelphia and New York City to keep food cool in ice boxes. The horses wore nooses while working. If a horse fell in, people pulled the noose tight, leaving air in its lungs so it would float like a balloon. Then, everybody would grab the rope and haul the animal quickly to shore."

Household displays include devices for washing clothes, from primitive wood plungers to "modern" clothes washers with lever-operated tubs and wringers. A collection of irons for pressing clothes includes flat irons with heated inserts, some that burn charcoal and have chimneys and adjustable drafts, and one that is gasoline powered with a tiny carburetor.

Also on display is a hand-cranked ice cream freezer, invented by Mary Johnson in 1834. "It's one of three items in the museum whose concept was so great that it's lasted over 100 years," says Pasto. "Today's ice cream makers still work on the same principle."

The Pasto Agricultural Museum is arranged in chronological sequence to show technological progress. Many artifacts have been restored to working order so visitors can turn the cranks and pull the levers. The museum will be open to the public during all three days of Ag Progress Days.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the museum, everyone who has donated antiques to the museum (over

100 living donors) has been invited to the Ag Alumni Annual Meeting and luncheon on August 18 at Ag Progress Days.

If you can't visit the museum, you can order two new educational videotapes narrated by Dr. Pasto as he walks through the museum. "Farming in the Old Days: Small Grains" reviews the production, harvesting and threshing of small grains from 6000 B.C. to the 1930s. "Farming in the Old Days: Corn" covers planting methods used by early Native Americans and pioneers and traces progress in corn planting and harvesting through the 1930s.

For more information about the videos, contact Ag Information Services, The Pennsylvania State University, 119 Ag Administration Building, University Park, PA, 16802; phone (814) 865-6309; FAX (814) 863-9877. Price is \$35 for one video, or \$50 for both. Allow three weeks for delivery. Make checks payable to Penn State, or include a purchase order.

Penn State's Ag Progress Days features more than 500 acres of educational and commercial exhibits, tours and machinery demonstrations. It is held at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rockspring, nine miles southwest of State College on Route 45. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, with extended hours of 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday. Admission and parking are free.

For more information, call (800) PSU-1010 toll-free from July 13 to August 20 or visit the Ag Progress Days site on the World Wide Web at <http://apd.cas.psu.edu>.

Highland Assoc.

Names Member Of Year

HILTON, N.Y. — The American Highland Cattle Association has named Roger Jestel 1997 "Member of the Year."

Roger and Donna Jestel have been breeding Highland cattle on their upstate New York farm since 1982. They purchased their first Highland cattle in Massachusetts and have added to their Honey Hill farm herd with purchases of registered breeding stock from the premier Highland breeders in the

Northeast.

The rugged longhaired cattle are perfect for their Hilton, N.Y. farm. The Highlands spend the winter outside preferring a brushy windbreak to a barn.

Since both Donna and Roger also work off the farm, they needed a breed that could fend for themselves.

Highlands calve easily. Only two have been pulled on the farm. Most cows go off and calve with-

out help.

Using high-tensile fencing, the Jestels now rotationally graze their herd. Moving the Highlands every day to new pastures improves the fields, breaks the parasite cycle, puts weight on the cattle, and gives the Jestels a chance to see the herd daily. Regular handling also accustoms the cattle to being around humans.

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Roger Jestel and Who's Hill MacLeod in upstate New York.