

Wenger Feeds Acquires Hog Company

ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — In an effort to focus on its core feed business, White Oak Mills Inc. recently signed an agreement to divest its pork production sector. This will enable White Oak Mills to provide quality livestock feeds and value-added services to independent dairy, swine, and other livestock producers.

Wenger Feeds Inc., with headquarters in Rheems, has signed a letter of intent with White Oak Mills' owners, Mark and John Wagner, to acquire White Oak Mills' commercial sow, farrow-to-finish pork production operation.

"This serves as a natural, strate-

gic move for our company," said White Oak Mills' President Mark Wagner. "White Oak Mills' main focus is to maximize its feed manufacturing operation with increased dairy, independent swine, and other livestock feed business to expand new market positions and further our company's strategic goals."

In addition, this renewed focus will allow White Oak Mills to explore new agribusiness opportunities.

Wenger Feeds will assume responsibility for certain existing leased or contracted Pennsylvania sow, nursery, and finish operations. Additional terms of the agreement have not been disclosed.

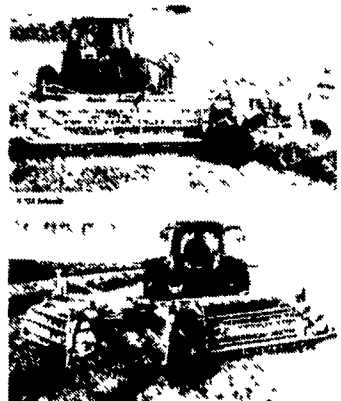
Vermeer Launches New Upgraded TwinRake Line

PELLA, Iowa — Significant design enhancements to improve strength, field performance, and serviceability are incorporated into the new improved R-23A and R-24A TwinRakes from Vermeer.

Both TwinRake models perform well in virtually any hay harvesting system. Raking widths are adjustable (18 to 24 feet on the R-24A; 18 to 23 feet on the R-23A). Windrow widths are hydraulically adjustable (independent of ground speed) to handle different crops or conditions.

Vermeer's new top-of-the-line R24A TwinRake, built to handle the most demanding field conditions, features an improved, heavier 5"x7" rectangular steel main frame with continuous round cross-section toolbar. The new Command II Monitor allows the operator to adjust the windrow widths and switch from transport to field-ready without leaving the tractor seat. New grease-free windrow width adjustment slides keep service and maintenance time to a minimum.

Transport width has been reduced to just 98 inches. Going from field to transport takes just seconds. The process is all hydraulically controlled from the tractor seat. The rear assembly lifts to start the folding sequence. A 2-stage hydraulic



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system slides the telescoping stabilizer/linkage arms along the tongue, drawing the front-fold baskets together. The baskets then are locked into position on a center post and lifted for transport on 11Lx15 tires. Tooth height is preset with easy-to-adjust cylinder stops and ratchet jacks (on the rear of rake). Minimum hydraulic requirement is 6 gpm at 2,250 psi.

Large caster-type wheels (27x9.50x15, 4-ply ribbed) help cushion the ride, smooth out turns and maintain the rake's setting as it negotiates changing contours and terrain.

New Agronomist At BACS



Dave Swarr

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Brubaker Agronomic Consulting Service, Inc., (BACS) has introduced Dave Swarr as a senior agronomic consultant.

BACS's newest agronomist, Swarr has more than 15 years experience in agriculture. After receiving his bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Delaware, Swarr worked on many farms and in the fertilizer industry prior to his employment at BACS.

Dekalb Genetics, Forage Genetics Join Forces

DEKALB, Ill. — Dekalb Genetics and Forage Genetics announced that they have reached an agreement to collaborate in the research and development of Roundup Ready® alfalfa.

The development of Dekalb Brand Roundup Ready® alfalfa will allow growers to apply Roundup Ultra™ herbicide to their alfalfa crop to control labeled weeds and grasses.

The two companies will be working closely to develop, evaluate, and release new alfalfa varieties with the Roundup Ready trait.

Recently, Forage Genetics and Monsanto Company announced they had signed a letter of intent to collaborate in the research and de-

velopment of important agronomic traits that add value to alfalfa, with Monsanto contributing gene technology and Forage Genetics contributing the alfalfa transformation.

Under the agreement between Dekalb and Forage Genetics, Dekalb will conduct product evaluation and marketplace assessment. Dekalb will also use its distribution network to support the development of the new products.

Both companies are optimistic that new Roundup Ready alfalfa will be released sometime shortly after the year 2000. "We are really excited to be on the forefront of bringing Roundup Ready technology to the alfalfa crop," said

Jim Rich, northern area brand marketing manager for Dekalb Genetics. "By having the opportunity to use Roundup on their alfalfa to control weeds and grasses, alfalfa growers will be able to produce higher yields of higher quality forage. That means more income per acre for our customers."

Forage Genetics, a wholly owned subsidiary of Research Seeds, Inc. of St. Joseph, Missouri is an industry leader in the research, development and marketing of value-added alfalfa technologies. Research Seeds is recognized as a worldwide leader in the development, production, and marketing of proprietary forage and turf seed.

Carrier's Low Profile Allows Use Of 3-Point Hitch Spear

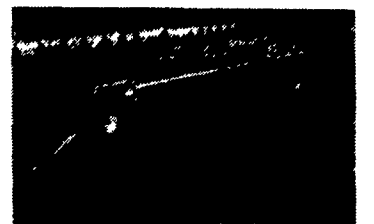
HONEY BROOK (Chester Co.) — Stoltzfus Manufacturing, has announced the addition of a round bale carrier to their Well Built™ line of farm equipment.

Designed to handle big loads of low or high moisture round bales, the carrier's low profile allows the use of a three-point hitch bale spear to load and unload, reducing the amount of equipment needed. Constructed of heavy 1/4-inch steel tubing, vertical and horizontal bracing, and 2 1/4-inch back spindles, the Well Built™ Round Bale Carrier is built to last.

"Bale cradles" tilt in for load

stabilization and are capable of double stacking over the main beam when loading with a front end loader. The overall design works to reduce the effects of unbalanced loading.

All of the three models — 6-, 8-, and 10-bale — are available with the popular Well Built™ dolly assembly featuring a wide bushing and pin to maintain a straight track in road transport, and an extendable tongue for easier hookup. Other options include bale spacing of 4 feet, 5 feet, and 6 feet, and a two-wheel trailer with ball-type or gooseneck hitch.



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Ventrac Ground-Gripping Tractor Is The Ultimate In Groundskeeping

ORRVILLE, Ohio — Quick-release front attachments allow the operator a full range of interchangeable implements on the Ventrac 4000 ground gripping, AWD, articulated tractor.

An optional category 1 rear three-point hitch accommodates a wide range of rear mounted attachments. The hydrostatic control forward/reverse lever is mounted beside the seat for con-

venience and operator comfort.

Three engine options — 25 hp Kohler, 23 hp Mitsubishi water-cooled diesel, or a 24 hp Kubota water-cooled gasoline engine — provide the horsepower to tackle tough jobs.

Agway Profits Increase In Fiscal 1998

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Agway, Inc. reported increased profits for fiscal 1998, which ended on June 30. The farmer-owned cooperative reported net earnings of \$41.8 million on sales of \$1.56 billion. Last year, Agway reported net earnings of \$10.7 million on sales of \$1.67 billion.

Agway's fiscal 1998 net earnings included a one-time benefit of \$29 million, reflecting a change to a preferred method of accounting for the cooperative's pension investments. This benefit coupled with improved operating earnings resulted in the strong performance for the year.

"Overall, we are satisfied with the continuing progress that our fiscal 1998 financial results reflect, especially in light of the difficulties that many dairy farmers faced in early 1998 and the impact of the unusually warm winter on our Energy business," said Donald P. Cardarelli, Agway president and chief executive officer. "We see the opportunity ahead for making much more progress as we

remain focused on two related objectives: growing and improving the profitability of our businesses, and improving the profitability of our farmer members."

Agway's Agricultural Products business reported strong volume growth in feed, fertilizer, corn seed, and soybean seed in fiscal 1998, which helped offset declines from falling fertilizer and grain prices during the year.

Sales and revenues increased in the company's food, leasing, and insurance businesses. Agway's food business reported strong growth in fresh produce distribution throughout the eastern U.S. The food business also reported strong growth, both domestically and internationally, in its recently expanded sunflower business. Telmark, Agway's lease financing subsidiary, crossed another significant growth milestone as its lease portfolio topped \$500 million during the year. Agway Insurance Company also grew overall revenues for the year and increased the number of farmowner policyholders.

Agway's Energy business had strong earnings for the year despite a winter that was one of the warmest on record. Sharp declines in fuel prices and lower petroleum

and propane unit volume sales due to the warm winter were primarily responsible for Agway's overall sales decline compared to last year.

Sales by Agway's retail business showed a moderate decline for the year as significant product mix and repositioning continued in order to place focus on the store's nursery, lawn, garden, and pet businesses.

During fiscal 1998, Agway and Telmark paid more than \$38 million in dividends and interest to its investors, principally Agway farmer-members, employees, and retirees.

Cardarelli also announced that Agway will hold its 1998 annual meeting on Nov. 12, at the Hotel at Exit 37 (formerly the Four Points Hotel) in Syracuse, N.Y. Five incumbent directors, nominated earlier in the year, are expected to be officially elected to three-year terms on the Agway board of directors at the Syracuse meeting. The incumbent directors include Keith H. Carlisle, Greenwood, Del.; D. Gilbert Couser, Pine Bush, N.Y.; Andrew J. Gilbert, Potsdam, N.Y.; Thomas E. Smith, Greenville, Pa.; and William W. Young, Clifton Springs, N.Y.