

Century Farmers Will Farm With Their Minds

WILMINGTON, Del. — The farmers of the next century will work as much, or more, with their heads as with their hands, according to the 1998 class of DuPont New Century Farmers.

These young farmers believe the skills that will be critical to their success are people management, technology use, marketing, financial astuteness and business sense, as well as the ability to be flexible and adaptable.

"The main thing will be the ability to adapt," said Philip Eby.

"The agricultural industry is ever-changing. We will need to change our ways in order to keep up with demands."

The 1998 class is the second class of DuPont New Century Farmers, a program initiated in 1996 in cooperation with the National FFA Organization. The program is designed to help young people, who are committed to pursuing farming as a career, learn and grow into successful farmers in the 21st century.

Philip Eby is one of 38 young

farmers who were selected from a pool of competitive applications filled out by young farmers (18-22 years of age) from coast to coast.

The selected applicants participate in an intensive four-day seminar to learn from each other and a host of industry experts during a series of workshops and sessions on issues and topics ranging from the global marketplace to farm financing to creating a vision to family businesses. In addition to classroom learning, students are exposed to the latest developments in agricultural technology, field tours, sessions on personal and professional development, and team-building and self-esteem exercises.

The power-packed program is designed to provide participants with valuable learning that they can take home and apply to their operations and studies, as well as resources and friendships that they can draw upon throughout their careers.

The New Century Farmers also have the opportunity to visit the operation of a successful grower, talk with and learn from him or her about the farming business, and begin to develop key relationships with today's leaders in agriculture.

"The future of the agriculture industry is dependent on young

farmers who are motivated, educated and open to possibilities," according to Dale Darling, ag relations manager, DuPont Agricultural Enterprise. "The DuPont New Century Farmers program is about providing new information, resources and mind-stretching opportunities to help these top-notch young farmers be successful in building their future enterprises."

Gap, Pennsylvania is home to Phil Eby, where his family has a 60,000-poultry laying operation and grows corn, alfalfa, wheat and soybeans. Phil serves as a Pennsylvania State FFA officer and will attend Penn State in the fall as a freshman majoring in agronomy.



Philip Eby, 1998 DuPont New Century Farmer, is congratulated by James Borel, president, crop protection products and VP/GM, DuPont.

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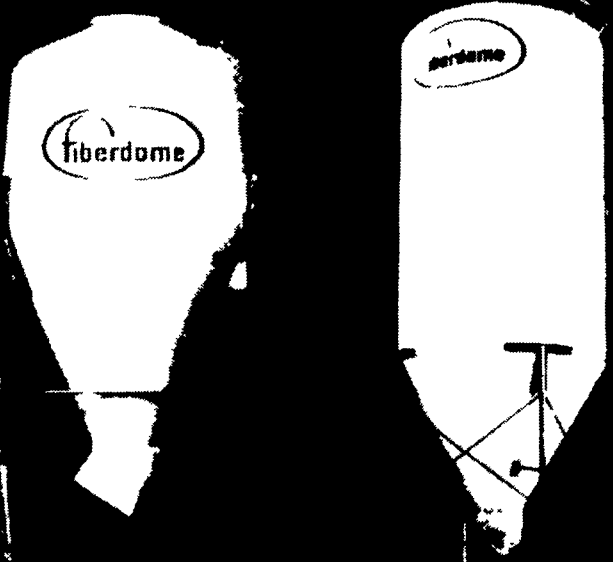
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