

## Dairy Farm Tour Aug. 11

**HONEY BROOK** (Chester Co.) — A dairy farm tour will be conducted on four farms in the area Friday, Aug. 11, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Learn how the dairy farms cut their feed bill while they increase their milk.

Following is the farm tour schedule:

- 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Mervin Stoltzfus, 3677 Horseshoe Pike, Honey Brook. Featured will be pasture mats, TMR, tunnel ventilation, and other techniques to create a Pa. RHA of 23,498M, 872F, and 735P. This farm had a 1,317 RHA increase last year.

- 10:30 a.m.-noon. Jonas Stoltzfus, 355 White School Rd., Honey Brook. Tour highlights include a high-volume water system, tunnel ventilation, and pasture mats. This farm, with a 4,000 RHA increase, has records of 23,300M, 803F, and 708P.

- Noon-2 p.m. Mark Stoltzfus, 413 September Rd., Honey Brook. Featured are a 60-foot waterer, excellent heifer facilities, tunnel ventilation, and a new Rissler TMR mixer. Lunch is served on this farm, which has an RHA of 23,377M, 879F, and 757P.

- 2 pm.-3 p.m. Tom and Joy Crothers, 301 Whiteside Dr., Oxford. The tour includes a milking parlor, freestall barn, simple rations, and a high-producing Brown Swiss and Holstein herd. The farm had an approximately 5,000 RHA increase with an RHA of 25,800M.

The tour is sponsored by NuTeam and is co-sponsored by SoyPlus, Triple M Farms, C.E. Sauders and Sons Mill, Mount Joy Dairy Co-Op, Deer Creek John Deere, Fisher & Thompson, Lapp Barn Equipment, and Annlick Farm Supply.

## Gleaner Returns To Kansas Roots

**ATLANTA, Ga.** — Agco Corporation (NYSE: AG), a major worldwide manufacturer and distributor of agricultural equipment, announced that manufacturing of its Gleaner combines will be returning to Kansas, to within just a few miles of where three brothers from Nickerson introduced the first self-propelled Gleaner combine.

Through all those years of history and evolution, the familiar silver color and Gleaner name have stood for harvest innovation and engineering excellence. Now that storied history has come full circle, with the announcement that Gleaner manufacturing will be located in Hesston, Kan. Gleaner traces its roots to 1923 when Curtis, George, and Ernest Baldwin, all brothers, introduced the combine.

"We're moving our combine manufacturing line to our Agco facility," said Tom Draper, general marketing manager, Gleaner combines. "The move enables Agco to take advantage of a more modern manufacturing plant and to centralize many engineering and production functions at one location."

The facility has served as the

manufacturing center for the Hesston hay equipment line. Gleaner combine production is being moved from an Agco operation in Independence, Mo.

The Kansas facility and its employees have been honored many times for product innovation and engineering excellence. "This move exemplifies our commitment to maintain and even strengthen our role as a leader in providing combines for producers in North America," Draper said. "The Kansas facility will enable us to continue the tradition of quality that's synonymous with the Gleaner name. And it will better position our engineering, design, manufacturing, and marketing team to be even more responsive to our customers' changing needs."

That's especially important as harvesting technology moves to sophisticated guidance and yield monitoring systems. All Gleaners come equipped to accept Agco's advanced Fieldstar yield monitoring system, which uses global positioning satellites to relate yield information to field position. Fieldstar mapping software is then used to process accurate field maps, which helps analyze crop and yield data.



Homer Stamm, left, of Rovendale Ag and Barn Equipment, Watsonstown, Pa., was presented with the Silver MVP Award and Farmstead Equipment Top Sales Leader Award by John Ryan, general sales manager, J-Star Ag Division at a recent banquet.

## USDA Scientists Rapidly Expand Gene Segments Database

**CLAY CENTER, Neb.** — Progress by a team of Agricultural Research Service scientists shows that biotechnology's best shot at improving livestock may be to help conventional breeders identify genetically superior animals.

"This team of 15 scientists is generating a vast amount of new genetic information that's being shared with researchers around the world," said Floyd P. Horn, administrator of ARS, the chief research agency of the USDA. The team is based at the Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) operated by ARS at Clay Center.

The team's findings are accessible through the databases of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) Genebank in Washington, D.C., and databases at the Clay Center facility.

In the past year, the team has deciphered 50,000 gene sequences in the cattle genome, and more than 30,000 sequences in swine. Within the next three months, the scientists hope to add 30,000 additional sequences from cattle and 10,000 from swine.

The numbers to date repre-

sented about 95 percent of the publicly available information on DNA segments called expressed sequence tags (ESTs) for cattle and almost 90 percent for swine, according to Dan B. Laster, who retired as director of the Clay Center facility on June 30. Laster began assembling the Clay Center team in the early 1990s.

ESTs represent significant parts of genes that determine the proteins produced by certain tissues. "Most of an animal's DNA never seems to do anything," said biochemist Timothy P. Smith, who leads the ARS team. So the scientists focus on two to five percent of the DNA that's turned into RNAs — ribonucleic acids — which are an intermediate step in making proteins.

A similar but small effort is also being conducted by an ARS group in Beltsville, Md. That group is sequencing genes that function in the mammary gland of dairy cattle. The Maryland group is working to identify all of the genes responsible for milk productivity traits and the genes that cause superior animals to produce larger quantities of

milk proteins in their mammary glands. By using computers to compare gene sequences from different cows, the researchers will sort out the genes that control milk composition. The Clay Center and Beltsville group work together to deposit the information into the NCBI and Clay Center databases.

According to Steven M. Kappes, a recent member of the MARC genomic team and now ARS National Program Leader for Animal Production and Germplasm, each of many genes may have a small impact on an inherited trait, but when added together they may have great economic importance for a herd and for the livestock industry.

The accelerated pace of gene mapping stems partly from successes by international scientists in the much larger Human Genome Project. Humans and livestock basically have the same genes, but with small differences in sequences and arrangement on chromosomes. Comparisons and contrasts between gene sequences of various species are helping biomedical researchers learn how proteins work and how the human body works, said Kappes.

## Monsanto Guarantees Roundup Ready® System Will Boost Bottom Line

**ST. LOUIS, Mo.** — Research shows the Roundup Ready® system can boost a soybean grower's bottom line. That's why Monsanto is offering the Bottom-Line Booster Guarantee.

The program encourages growers to compare the Roundup Ready soybean system in reduced tillage to non-Roundup Ready soybeans with conventional tillage and herbicide programs. If the Roundup Ready system doesn't provide equal or better net income than the traditional system in the comparison, Monsanto will pay each qualified grower up to \$10,000.

The Roundup Ready soybean system has three major components.

- Replace tillage with a pre-plant burndown using Roundup Ultra® or Roundup UltraMAX™ herbicide.

- Buy Roundup Ready soybean seed from any authorized dealer.

- Spray Roundup brand her-

bicide over the top for proven crop safety.

"Farmers like the weed control they get with Roundup over the top of Roundup Ready soybeans, but the economic benefits are displayed when farmers use the whole system, including reduced tillage," said Monsanto market manager Kurt Rahe. "With the Bottom-Line Booster Guarantee, farmers have everything to win and nothing to lose by making the switch to conservation tillage and Roundup Ready soybeans."

Research at Monsanto Centers of Excellence shows that, on average, no-till soybeans grown in narrow rows add \$16 per acre more to a grower's bottom line than conventional soybeans grown in wide rows, noted Rahe.

"Seeding soybeans in no-till, or in a conservation-tillage system with a spring burndown program following limited fall tillage, saves time and money at planting, and yields are at least as good as conventional soy-

beans in wide rows," he said. "On a 1,000-acre farm, no-till can save as much as 450 hours of time and 3,500 gallons of diesel fuel each year. That's eleven 40-hour weeks in time savings and \$4,000 less for diesel at \$1.15 per gallon."

Qualifying farmers must sign up by Oct. 15, 2000, indicating the number of no-till/conservation-tillage acres they will enroll in the Bottom-Line Booster Guarantee and how many acres of soybeans, both Roundup Ready and non-Roundup Ready, they intend to plant in crop year 2001 compared to 2000.

The Bottom-Line Booster Guarantee is now available in most of the Plains, Midwest, and eastern United States, except for certain counties in Missouri, Virginia, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. For more details, complete eligibility requirements and program rules, contact your Monsanto representative or your agricultural retailer, or call 800-ROUNDUP.

## J-Star Honors Dealers

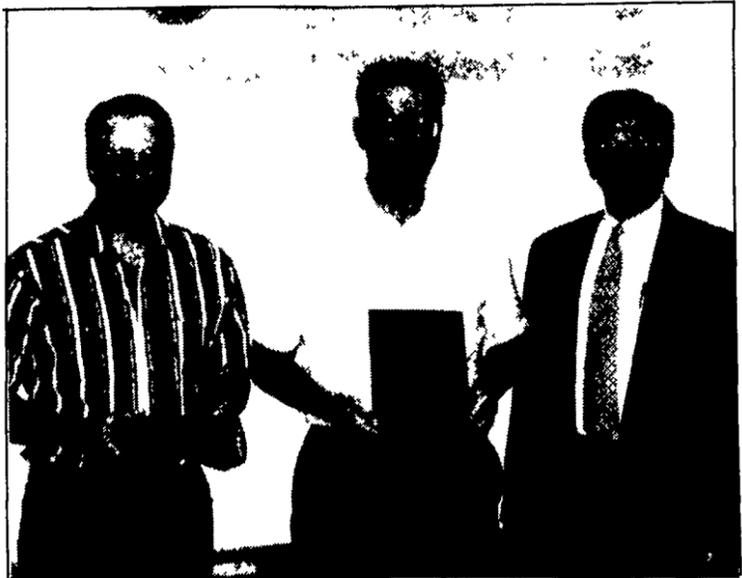
**FORT ATKINSON, Wis.** — J-Star has honored several dealers with sales awards at a recent banquet in State College, Pa.

Rovendale Ag and Barn Equipment, Watsonstown, Pa., was presented with the Silver MVP Award and Farmstead Equipment Top Sales Leader Award.

Clee McMillen and Clair McMillen of McMillen Brothers, Inc., Loysville, were presented with the Silver MVP Award and Farmstead Equipment Top Sales Leader Award.

The MVP Award (major volume performer) recognizes the company's top dealers who have achieved bronze, silver, gold, or platinum levels of sales and performance objectives during 1999.

The Top Sales Leader Award recognizes the top sales leaders for J-Star's main product lines.



Clee McMillen, left, and Clair McMillen, center, McMillen Brothers, Inc., Loysville, were presented with the Silver MVP Award and Farmstead Equipment Top Sales Leader Award by John Ryan, general sales manager, J-Star Ag Division.