

BUSINESS ♦ NEWS

Progressive Pressure Systems Hires Bridges

ROTHSVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Progressive Pressure Systems has announced the hiring of James Bridges of Reading as an additional mechanic to assist in the repairs of pressure cleaning equipment.

Bridges comes to Progressive Pressure Systems with a vast amount of knowledge in the industrial equipment repair industry.

Some of Bridges' accomplishments include past factory instructor for Thermo King in Minneapolis, Minn. for three and a half years, teaching all phases of transport refrigeration.

He then went on to work for two Caterpillar dealerships. One was at Wyoming Machinery in Casper, Wyo. where he worked in management and as a master field mechanic for 11 years. The other was at Giles and Ransome in Allentown where he worked



James Bridges

as a technical field specialist for five and a half years.

Bridges also worked for Brubacher Excavating in Bowmansville as a master mechanic

Bank Names Agriculture Officer

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Jared Rottmund of Akron has been named agriculture loan calling officer in the agricultural lending division of the Business Financial Center of Fulton Bank. In this position, he will be responsible for agricultural loans.

Rottmund comes to Fulton Bank from Farmers First Bank where he was an agricultural loan trainee/marketing repre-

sentative.

Outside of Fulton Bank, Rottmund is a member of the Ephrata Area Young Farmers Association and the chairman of the Denver Swine Show. He also serves on the committee for the Harrisburg Farm Show and the Keystone International Livestock Expo.

Rottmund has a degree in business management from Harrisburg Area Community College.

Aventis Set To Join Program

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. — BASF and Aventis Crop Sciences, USA LP, announced that they have signed a letter of intent to facilitate their continuing negotiations concerning Aventis participation in the Harvest Partners® preferred customer program from BASF.

The program, launched in 1993, is a loyalty program that rewards eligible, participating Harvest Partners program members for the purchase of selected products and services. Assuming negotiations are successfully completed, BASF and Aventis would both offer the program, but each company would have separate promotions for Harvest Partners program member participation and product eligibility. Aventis would have selected products in the program in 2001.

The proposed arrangement, say the companies, would give participating Harvest Partner program members increased opportunities to earn Harvest Points® award credits for valu-

able redemption items. For retailers, participation in the industry's first and only preferred customer program means they would be able to fulfill Aventis product promotions quickly and efficiently through a single fulfillment mechanism.

Assuming negotiations between the companies result in final agreement, Aventis would join the awards program that now includes participation by BASF and Novartis. Negotiations are under way to add several other manufacturers and suppliers to the program.

"We are pleased that another major crop protection supplier wishes to enter the program," said John Rabby, BASF group vice president, North America. "This demonstrates the strength of the Harvest Partners preferred customer program in reaching our grower audience while providing significant product choices in crop protection. We look forward to completing negotiations with Aventis welcoming them to the program."

Asgrow Introduces Innovative Soybean Varieties

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia soybean growers will have several new Asgrow soybean varieties to choose from in 2001.

They join the existing strong lineup of Asgrow soybeans that offer growers advanced technologies for improved potential for growth and profit.

"These new Asgrow seeds combine the best defensive and agronomic traits for maximum crop productivity," said Rob

Hannam, market manager. "We're discovering new ways to help plants protect themselves. These elite new seeds reflect our continued investment in turning seed science into more profit potential for the farmer."

The new soybean varieties include AG4403 and AG5501.

• AG4403 is a mid-Group IV Roundup Ready® variety that is a trendsetter for high yields in its maturity. It has excellent emergence and moderate resistance to Race 3 of soybean cyst nema-

tode. This variety can be positioned in fields where Frogeye leaf spot, southern stem canker, and brown stem rot have been problems.

• AG5501 is a high-yielding mid-Group V Roundup Ready variety with resistance to soybean cyst nematode. This variety exhibits very good standability, excellent tolerance to southern stem canker, and excellent Frogeye leaf spot tolerance.

Stump Grinder Attachment Now Twice As Powerful As Previous Generation

FARGO, N.D. — Bobcat Company, a business unit of Ingersoll-Rand, announced the new BobcatSG60 Stump Grinder attachment.

Ideal for Bobcat 773, 863, 873, and 864 standard and high-flow skid-steer loaders, the new SG60 stump grinder is twice as powerful as the previous SG50 model.

Using a Bobcat 863 high-flow loader as the power source, the SG60 can grind a stump 30-inches in diameter to a depth of 10-inches below grade in less than 10 minutes.

The SG60 features several design improvements that make stump grinding faster and more efficient than previous models:

The grinding head is mounted 90 degrees to the operator, as opposed to traditional mounting that positions the cutter wheel in front of the mounting unit. The new 90-degree position provides operators with unprecedented visibility to the cutting area.



Ideal for Bobcat 773, 863, 873, and 864 standard and high-flow skid-steer loaders, the new SG60 stump grinder is twice as powerful as the previous SG50 model.

The swing cylinder generates an arc of 80 degrees, allowing the operator to cut up to a 45-inch diameter stump without repositioning. A 32-inch cutting height provides better access for grinding tall stumps, and a 58-inch reach means less forward

movement of the loader, allowing operators to save time.

The cutting wheel incorporates 32 teeth: 14 right, 14 left, and four straight teeth. The backside of each tooth is supported by a unique holder for increased durability and performance.

The valve design controls the speed of the swing circuit to prevent the cutting wheel from stalling in the cut. When the pressure in the cutter wheel's drive motor reaches a threshold level, the control valve reduces the amount of oil to the swing circuit, thus reducing the swing speed and maintaining the cutter speed.

The SG60 delivers optimum performance using a high-flow loader. Loaders with 20 to 22 gpm hydraulic flow provide satisfactory operation. Loaders with 18 gpm will be able to operate the grinder, but with lower performance levels.

NC+ Unveils 2001 Payment Plan Designed To Give Customers More Value

LINCOLN, Neb. — NC+ is expanding its Farm Plan® financing payment options to offer additional value for customer purchases for the 2001 growing season.

"We want to continue to provide value to our customers," NC+ Director of Sales and Marketing Gene Kronberg said. "Does our new payment program do this? The answer is an unqualified yes. Adding product value is a key issue for farmers and justifiably so. That's why we've addressed it with this program."

NC+ is adding a new third option called Seasonal Terms to their Farm Plan financing pro-

gram. The agreement allows customers to lock in at a fixed rate of 7.5 percent APR that starts at the date of purchase with the option to defer payments until December 2001. NC+ is also waiving the five percent administration fee that would normally go with the Seasonal Terms option. This option is being offered by NC+ from November 2000 through March of 2001.

"If a customer selects the Seasonal Option under the Farm Plan, we are not restricting them from taking additional advantage of the cash discount program we offer," Kronberg said. "And our cash discount pro-

gram is as aggressive as any in the industry."

The NC+ Early Payment Discounts range from 11 percent to two percent depending on which deadline date the customer chooses to make payment.

NC+ will continue to offer the 120 days No-Payments/No-Interest and Regular Terms options as part of their Farm Plan program. The 3.25 percent administrative fee normally assessed for the 120 days option has been waived for 2001 purchases. Farm Plan Dividends, a customer reward based on monthly Farm Plan charge volume, also provides additional value on the purchase of NC+ seed.

Claas Presents 15,000th Jaguar Forage Harvester To Wisconsin Farmer

COLUMBUS, Ind. — Claas of America presented Ron Micke, De Pere, Wis., with a special edition 15,000th Jaguar self-propelled forage harvester at the 2000 Farm Progress Show.

Dr. Theo Freye, president, Claas of America; Martin Richenhagen, vice president worldwide sales and marketing, Claas KGaA, Harsewinkel, Germany; James Walker, Claas of America vice president sales and marketing; and Carey Vanderloop, Vanderloop Equipment Inc., a Claas of America dealer, Wis., presented Micke with the unique forage harvester.

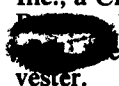
A dairy farmer, Micke and his family farm 5,000-acres and milk 1,700 Holsteins.

The presentation of the Jaguar ends a nine-month auction of the one-of-a-kind forage harvester. Since the beginning of the year, farmers have had an opportunity to bid on the Jaguar at farm shows and on-line where a virtual auction was conducted. Micke was the highest bidder.

The one-of-a-kind self-

propelled forage harvester was manufactured in Claas' plant in Harsewinkel, Germany to mark the production of the 15,000th Jaguar self-propelled forage harvester off the assembly line. The Jaguar has many unique features not normally found on standard production machines including an unique airbrush finish, leather seats, and other special additions.

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