



Purina Hires Dairy Consultant



Dr. Frank Janicki

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — Dr. Frank Janicki has been hired as dairy nutritionist and management consultant for Purina Mills, Inc.

Based in Camp Hill, Janicki, who began work in August with Purina, provides a technical and marketing support to a staff of 20 Purina dairy nutrition and

management specialists and more than 25 Purina dealer farm consultants.

Janicki's geographic responsibilities for Purina's Northeast Dairy Team include New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and northern Virginia.

Janicki worked previously at Cargill's Animal Nutrition Division in Mentone, Ind. for three years as technical services manager. Prior to relocating to Mentone, he worked at Young's Livestock Nutritional Services in Roaring Spring for seven years as the technical services manager and dairy product manager.

Janicki earned a bachelor's degree in animal science in 1980 at the University of Maine, a master's degree in animal and nutritional sciences in 1983 from the University of New Hampshire, and a doctorate in 1986 in animal science (dairy nutrition) from Virginia Tech.

Farm Bureau Announces Gold And Silver Key Awards

GLENMONT, N.Y. — Each year, New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm advocacy organization, recognizes various county farm bureaus for attaining outstanding achievements by involving leaders and members in programs serving agriculture.

This year — at the organization's state annual meeting in Buffalo — Chenango, Erie and Fulton County Farm Bureaus were awarded the coveted Gold Key Award.

The following counties each received various Silver Key awards: Cattaraugus, Chenango, Clinton, Dutchess, Erie, Fulton, Long Island, Montgomery, Niagara, Ontario, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schoharie, Seneca, Washington, Wayne, and Yates counties.

"It's with great pleasure that New York Farm Bureau award County Farm Bureau's with

these honors. It is recognition for their hard work and dedication to the agricultural industry," said John W. Lincoln, president of New York Farm Bureau.

"Programs and projects carried out by county Farm Bureaus allows us to succeed as an industry, garnering all the support and promotion we can. On behalf of our more than 31,000 member families New York Farm Bureau represents, we thank these counties and look forward to future promotions and activities for the betterment of agriculture."

Silver Keys are awarded to county farm bureaus that have met the award criteria and are worthy of special recognition for their program accomplishments. Gold Keys are only awarded to three county farm bureaus per year for overall program accomplishment.

Cattle Producers Asked To Verify Signing Beef Petitions

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced recently that 3,000 of the nearly 126,000 producers who signed a petition requesting the U.S. secretary of agriculture to conduct a referendum on the beef checkoff would be surveyed to determine the validity of the petition.

"In the next few days, 3,000 cattle producers will be receiving letters and questionnaires from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), the company selected to validate the petition," said Deputy Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Dr. Enrique Figueroa. Producers will be asked to verify that they signed the petition and that they were cattle producers subject to the beef checkoff as-

essment at the time they signed the petition. The words, "Beef Checkoff Validation," will be printed on the envelope to let producers know that it is important that they open the envelope and read the letter.

Each producer will be asked to respond to the following questions:

(1) Did you sign a petition sheet or card requesting a referendum on the Beef Checkoff Program during the period Sept. 1, 1998, through Aug. 31, 1999?

(2) Did you sign the petition as an individual or a representative of a corporation?

(3) Were you a cattle producer subject to the mandatory \$1-per-head assessment at the time you signed your petition?

Producers also will be requested to include documenta-

Miller Electric Enters TIG Torch Market

APPLETON, Wis. — Designed in-house by its own tungsten inert gas (TIG) welding engineers and operators for optimum performance and hand comfort, Miller Electric Mfg. Co. has introduced its Diamond Back™ TIG torch series.

The head of the Diamond Back torch features scalloped indentations on right, left, and top sides for finger-grip placement. For precision operators who hold the torch like a pencil, this shape increases control over torch movements while reducing hand fatigue.

"The Diamond Back torch falls into the hand much the same way an ergonomic pencil does," said Mike Sammons, product manager, Miller Electric. "It's patent-pending Dia-

mond Grip™ shape is much more comfortable than a plan grip. We hope it will encourage more bench-top operators to hold the torch by the head, as that often helps increase precision."

A more comfortable grip also makes it easier for operators to maintain weld consistency throughout the day.

For operators TIG-welding pipe, many of whom hold the torch by the handle, the back of the handle features a recess where operators can rest their thumb. The torch naturally pivots around this recess, making it easier to walk the cup around the pipe's circumference. The handle also features tighter knurling than other torches, so it's less likely to slip out of the operator's grip.

"Because everyone holds a torch differently, we designed the Diamond Back torch to accommodate a wide variety of personal styles," said Sammons. "In fact, if an operator doesn't use the Diamond Grip or cup walking features, he or she won't even notice them."

The Diamond Back series includes air-cooled torches rated at 125, 150 and 200 amps and water-cooled torches rated at 250 and 350 amps, all at 100 percent duty cycle. The new torches can be ordered as part of the TIGRunner® packages featuring Miller's Maxstar®, Dynasty® and Syncrowave® series of TIG welding machines. They are also compatible with older Miller machines and competitive units.

'Super-Sized' Baler Gives Hay Producers 17 Percent More

PELLA, Iowa — A new larger bale size — 65-inches in diameter? With 17 percent more hay capacity than before?

Too good to be true? Not so, say the hay specialists at Vermeer, who just recently introduced a new "super-sized" hay baler to accompany their original Vermeer® 5400 Rebel Baler.

The Rebel 5500 Baler is described as a cost-effective "super-sized" alternative for individuals with fewer acres to bale; one that gives producers the freedom to bale their own hay without experiencing "sticker shock."

The Rebel 5500 Baler produces a larger 65-inch diameter bale, 17 percent larger than standard 60-inch diameter x 60-inch wide bales. Operators have fewer bales to roll and handle; as a result, they're able to harvest



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more hay per day. (Overall bale capacity: 65-inches diameter x 61-inches wide, up to 1,500-pounds.

"This is one tough little baler," said Mark Core, director of the Vermeer ag division. "We've seen as many as 2,000 bales go through these new

Rebel machines during their first season of baling, well above the 500 to 1,000 bales typically produced by our target audience.

"List price on this machine is extremely competitive," he said, "and it allows more people who have never baled before — and folks with older trade-ins — to get into this market with a proven, one-year warranted baler that, in many instances, costs less than smaller used machines."

The Rebel 5500 Baler is designed for operating ease. It features a "hitch and go" style that's simple to hook up and easy to operate. It has fewer moving parts, requires fewer adjustments, provides ready access for service, and maintenance, and needs just a minimum 60 horsepower tractor to run it.

Growers Planting Pioneer Hybrids Win 25 of 27 Categories In Yield Contest

DES MOINES, Iowa — Growers producing Pioneer® brand corn hybrids won 25 of 27 categories in the 2000 National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) Corn Yield Contest. This includes first, second, and third place winners among nine classes.

Farmers growing Pioneer hybrids finished in first-place in all nine classes. Among second-place winners, those growing Pioneer hybrids won eight of nine categories and, among third-place winners, growers producing Pioneer hybrids won eight of nine.

Among state winners, growers

planting Pioneer hybrids won 373 of 482 categories. Combining national and state winners, those planting Pioneer hybrids won 398 of 507 categories.

The highest yield within the contest was Francis Childs of Manchester, Iowa, who produced Pioneer brand hybrid 34B24 with a yield of 357.3 bushels per acre. Winning in the national AA non-irrigated class, the hybrid contained the Yield-Gard gene, providing resistance to European corn borer.

The NCGA Corn Yield Contest is an annual national competition among corn producers with the goal of producing the

highest yields. Growers compete within a broad range of nine corn production classes, including conventional, no-till/strip-till non-irrigated, no-till/strip-till irrigated, ridge-till non-irrigated, ridge-till irrigated and irrigated classes.

For more information about Pioneer brand corn hybrids produced by contest winners and the broad range of top producing Pioneer products, growers should contact their local Pioneer products providers. More details about individual winners will be found on the Pioneer Hi-Bred International website at www.pioneer.com.

Passing On The Farm Workshop Jan. 18

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — Transferring a family farm to the next generation seems as natural as the change in seasons.

But tax traps, family squabbles, and lack of financing or business planning challenge many families attempting a transition — and outright threaten the continuation of some farms.

Producers are requested to complete the questionnaire and return it along with the requested documentation by the date indicated in the letter so PwC can consider their responses in this important validation process.

To help Pennsylvania farm families navigate these challenges, Pennsylvania Farm Link and Penn State Cooperative Extension will host a "Passing on the Farm" Workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Berlin Community Center.

Pennsylvania Farm Link, based in Manheim, is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the continuation of family farms.

Marion Bowlan, executive director of Pennsylvania Farm Link, said, "In addition to providing for our food and fiber needs, farm families provide economic stability to our rural areas, protect its prime farmland, and steward the land for succeeding generations."

These workshops are a first step. Speakers will address

bringing the next generation into the farm business, farm viability, farmland preservation programs, estate planning, legal aspects of transfers, retirement planning, and financing for new farmers. In addition, farmers from the region will discuss their families' efforts to transfer their businesses to the next generation.

A hot lunch will be available at the meeting at a cost \$7 per person. Reservations and checks payable to Pennsylvania Farm Link must be received by Jan. 12 to reserve lunch. Send them to Pennsylvania Farm Link, 2708 A North Colebrook Road, Manheim, PA 17545. Include your name, address, and telephone number. For directions, contact Farm Link at (717) 664-7077.