



Blue Seal Names Senior Dairy Nutritionist

LONDONDERRY, N.H. — Dr. Clay Zimmerman was recently appointed senior dairy nutritionist at Blue Seal Feeds, Inc.

His responsibilities include formulation and technical support for Blue Seal's full line of dairy feeds and supplements. He will be based in the Syracuse, N.Y. area.

Zimmerman has a bachelor's degree in dairy science from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. and master's and doctorate degrees in ruminant nutrition from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C.

Before joining Blue Seal, he served in a similar role with another major agricultural firm in the Midwest.

Blue Seal Feeds, Inc. is head-



Dr. Clay Zimmerman

quartered in Londonderry, N.H. and is affiliated with Kent Feeds, Inc. in the midwestern states and Evergreen Mills, Inc. in the Southwest.

High-Capacity Vermeer Balers 'Love To Eat Hay'

PELLA, Iowa — Thirty years ago, Vermeer started a hay harvesting revolution with the invention of the big round baler. "And, today, with the introduction of a new family of XL Series Balers, we're starting a new one," said Mark Core, Vermeer ag division director.

"A year ago, when we asked several of our serious hay baler customers and dealers what improvements they wanted to see in their next baler, general feedback from various groups described a baler 'simpler to operate and maintain; one that gives [them] more hay per day, high density bales, excellent leaf retention, and, in the end, fewer bales to handle when the baling is done...and, for extra measure, don't significantly change the price,'" said Core.

The manufacturer quickly responded with the recent introduction of the new Vermeer 500XL and 600XL Series balers.

"During this past year, we've fought hard to add more value to our complete baler family and still keep prices in line. The new XL Series is our first, giant step towards this goal, with a big menu of changes and improvements addressing requests of customers and dealers alike.

"These balers love to eat hay," Core said. "They're equipped with a five-bar pickup to handle big windrows; bottom drum design, which promotes fast hay intake; a horizontal bale-starting system for quick starts; and the best Hay Saver Wheels in the field today. In many instances, we've found producers can drive a full gear faster with this Vermeer Baler."

Core cited several XL Baler "extras": a stronger tailgate and tailgate pivot area, larger sprockets on the output drive shafts to improve wearability and chain life (for one of the biggest wear points on round balers), and a reinforced belt tightener assembly on 500XL



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Series Balers. Rust-resistant yellow zinc plating, ground-level pounding test safety-duty chain, and high flotation tires (31.5 x 13.5-15, 6-ply) are also standard on XL models.

Another improvement is a cut-out clutch which totally eliminates hot or burnt out discs in accidental overfill and overload situations. (This is a problem with slip clutch protection, especially if you're overpowered, or trying to squeeze the last few feet of a windrow into an over-filled baler.)

Wide belts provide maximum belt-to-bale contact. Rubber-mounted pickup tines not only improve pickup action, but also lower replacement costs. Drop 'n Go Bale Ejection System, now standard on all XL models, eliminates the need to disengage and re-engage the PTO when dropping a bale.

A significant change in 500XL Series Balers is maximum bale size with the new larger 65-inch diameter bale. This gives producers 17 percent more bale capacity than the old five-foot diameter bale size for basically the same price. Plus it reduces field time, resulting in fewer bales to move and handle.

MidAtlantic Farm Credit Receives Distinguished Service Award

WESTMINSTER, Md. — MidAtlantic Farm Credit, the region's largest agricultural lender, recently received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from the Maryland Farm Bureau.

The award was announced recently at the annual Maryland Farm Bureau banquet in Ocean City, Md.

In presenting the award, Maryland Farm Bureau president Steve Weber cited the support of MidAtlantic, and the former Maryland Farm Credit associations, for programs such as LEAD Maryland (a two-year leadership program), studies of the effect of zoning on ag land values, and general support of broad based ag initiatives.

Chairman of the board, Walter Hopkins of Lewes, Del., accepted the award on behalf of MidAtlantic Farm Credit.

"It's an honor to be recognized by an organization as proactive and well-respected as Maryland Farm Bureau. I'd like to thank the MidAtlantic staff and board of directors for their efforts in working with Farm Bureau over the years. Both of our organizations are committed to the future of agriculture in the state, and we will continue to work together to make farming



Walter Hopkins, left, chairman of the board, accepts the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award on behalf of MidAtlantic Farm Credit from Steve Weber, president of Maryland Farm Bureau.

a stable and viable industry in the future," said Hopkins.

"MidAtlantic's recent consolidation further strengthened our position in the Maryland area, allowing us to combine support staff for both central Maryland

and the Eastern shore. As a result, we look forward to increased opportunities to work with Maryland Farm Bureau and their membership in the future."

Chisel Plow Performance Enhancements Focused On Customer

RACINE, Wis. — Improved field finish, superior residue distribution, and long-lasting durability are features that farmers can count on with the new Case IH 5850 chisel plow.

"With new shank enhancements and harrow options on the 5850, we are building on our established reputation for superior soil penetration, consistent leveling, and ease of operation," said Keith Whitaker, Case IH product and marketing manager, tillage. "We've used input from farmers to focus these latest performance improvements."

Originally introduced on the 5800 chisel plow, the edge-on shank design has been redesigned to provide even better performance and durability. The entry angle of the new shank is reduced by 50 percent and the wing angle of the sweep by 33 percent compared to traditional shank and sweep designs.

The reduced entry angle decreases the horsepower required per sweep. Less soil is thrown to the surface and more crop residue remains exposed, helping prevent erosion.

"We've gone to great lengths to improve the reliability and durability of this new shank," said Whitaker. "We've made



New shank assemblies and harrow options help the new Case IH 5850 chisel plow provide superior performance and long-term durability, as well as improvements to field finish and residue distribution. In addition, walking beam axles and an automatic self-leveling hitch ensure precise depth control.

improvements from top to bottom, from a reinforced head bracket and mounting clamp to recessing the lower sweep-mounting hole on the shank to help prevent bolt and nut wear."

Tough residue destruction aren't a problem with the 22-inch heavy-duty coil tine harrows featured on the new 5850 chisel plow. The three-bar harrows have an adjustable down pressure spring to provide extra pressure where needed to obtain

the right surface condition and field finish. The tine angle also is easily adjustable to provide uniform residue flow.

The Case IH tradition of excellent depth control continues with the 5850 chisel plow. Walking beam axles on all mainframes provide better flotation over uneven terrain. The same axles are used on the wing frames of 25- to 53-foot machines to provide precise depth control across the entire machine width.

An automatic self-leveling hitch maintains a uniform depth even when the working depth of the machine is changed. This equipment, standard on all 5850 chisel plows, combines mechanical and hydraulic linkages to keep the front and rear shanks of the machine level as it moves up and down.

"Customers also may take advantage of the optional floating hitches offered on the 5850," Whitaker said. "Close-coupled front caster wheels on the floating hitch work with the mainframe walking beam wheels to provide a virtual machine suspension, allowing the chisel plow to hug the ground. Instead of using a conventional rigid hitch that often flexes and scrapes uneven ground, causing erratic depths, the floating hitch is able to move with the terrain."

Scholarship Program Targets Future Agriculture Professionals

ST. LOUIS, Mo. and PARK RIDGE, Ill. — Monsanto Company and the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture announced the details behind the third annual Commitment to Agriculture Scholarship Program.

Open to high school seniors from all 50 states, the competitive scholarship program is offered by Monsanto in

association with the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

To be eligible, the students must come from farm families and plan to pursue careers in agriculture. One-time awards of \$1,500 will be made to 100 high school seniors chosen by an impartial selection committee of agricultural educators and industry leaders.

Applicants will be evaluated on their high school records, standardized test results, extracurricular activities and personal essays submitted as a part of the application process. Applications will be available in mid-December from Monsanto dealers, county Farm Bureau offices, and on the following Websites: <http://www.farmsource.com> or <http://www.agfoundation.org>.