

Young Farmers, Ranchers Should Participate In Farm Credit Survey

DENVER, Colo. — A current effort to capture information about of young farmers and ranchers — and their opinions — is important to the future of agriculture, according to Lynn Cornwell, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). The effort is being conducted as an internet survey by the Farm Credit System Foundation, Inc., and is worth the time of every young cattleman or woman, Cornwell says.

The 12-week internet survey is targeted at those farmers and ranchers who are 18-35 and/or have less than 10 years of experience. The deadline is June 1.

The survey can be accessed at www.surveyhost.net/barriers/barriers-1.htm. More information about the Farm Credit System Foundation can be found at www.fccouncil.com/fcsfound.

In addition, a link to the survey can be found on www.beeff.org.

According to USDA census statistics there are 152,156 farmers between the ages of 18 and 35, but the FCS Foundation points out that the USDA only counts a farmer if that farmer is the most senior decision-maker for that operation. Junior partners or other owners of closely-held farming operations are not counted.

As a result, there are many young and beginning U.S. farmers and ranchers who are being ignored and facing barriers to success that are not being addressed.

"One of the seven key objectives I outlined when I became NCBA president was to improve the beef industry's ability to keep and attract talented young people," says Cornwell. "I think this survey will provide crucial information from which we can determine what attracts people to our business, and what kinds of changes to programs and policies will get them to remain in it."

Estimated completion time for the survey is 25 minutes. As an

incentive to complete it, the FCS Foundation is offering a chance to win an all-terrain vehicle of the participant's choice, valued up to \$6,000, if contact information is included in the survey.

Data from the survey will be analyzed and made available

broadly to policy makers in preparation for the next Farm Bill. It will also be used to provide an accurate and comprehensive demographic profile of young and beginning farmers and ranchers that does not exist today.

Dickinson College Students Tour Poultry Farm

CARLISLE (Cumberland Co.) — A dozen Dickinson College students accompanied by Candi Wilderman, professor of environmental studies, expanded their knowledge of agriculture and its environmental strengths and challenges by touring Arlin Wadel's advanced layer-poultry farm outside of Shippensburg on Thursday, April 19.

Wadel's farm is family owned and operated with a contract relationship with Wenger's Feed Mill, Inc. According to Wadel, "I wouldn't have it any other way. Farming with a contract allows me to keep the farm in the family, and offers an opportunity for

my six children to continue farming."

The Dickinson College students were dressed in plastic boots, hats and coveralls to comply with the strict bio security protocol required by the farmer to protect the birds from outside diseases. Bill Achor, environmental coordinator for Wenger's answered questions ranging from bird health to egg production.

Wadel emphasized that his 125,000-bird house, labeled advanced agriculture, is a cost effective, efficient means of producing quality, abundant and environmentally safe food.

Horse Park Announces New Sponsors

ALLENTOWN, N.J. — The Horse Park of New Jersey has announced the addition of Hooper Incorporated and Kubota Tractors as corporate sponsors for the facility.

The 147 acre Horse Park of New Jersey at Stone Tavern, Inc. is a unique combination of private not-for-profit organizations and state government joining together to develop a world-class equine facility. The facility is located just off Interstate 195, approximately five miles from Exit 7A of the New Jersey Turnpike.

The newest addition to the park is the newly constructed 162-foot by 300-foot clear span building that may be used for exhibition purposes in bad weather and the winter months of the year.

Hooper Incorporated is a third-generation family owned farm business that began operation in Intercourse, in 1941. Since that time, they have added dealerships in Middletown, Del. and McAlisterville, and they sell and service tractors out of all three locations.

"We're really excited about this partnership with the Horse Park of New Jersey," said Don Beidler, who has been selling tractors for Hooper for 25 years.

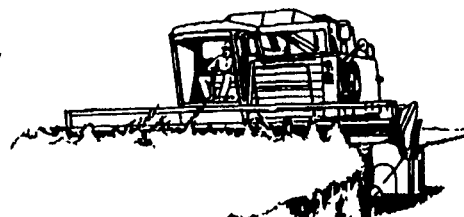
As part of their sponsorship of the Horse Park of New Jersey, Hooper and Kubota have donated the use of an M9000, 80 HP

tractor to be used at the horse park from May 1 through October 31 of this year.

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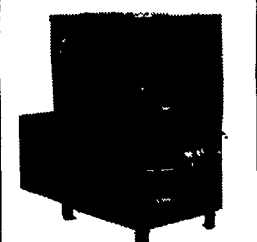
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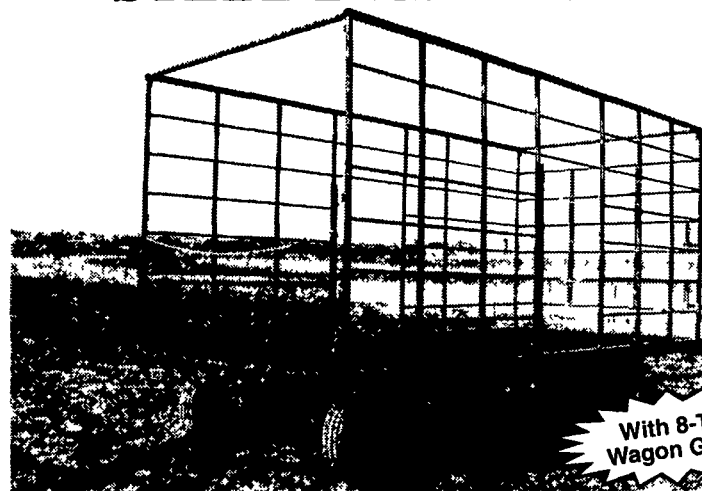


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