

Cabbage Research Development Program Awards \$35,400 For 2001

GENEVA, N.Y. — Michael Riner, president of the New York State Cabbage Research and Development Program's advisory board, announced \$35,400 in funding for eight cabbage research proposals during the New York State Vegetable Conference in Syracuse in early February.

"The proposed research projects were excellent," he said.

He announced that the R&D assessment would increase to \$3 per acre in 2001.

"The Empire State ranks first in total cabbage acreage in the U.S., which includes fresh market and kraut cabbage," said Cornell University vegetable horticulturist Stephen Reiners, who

works at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, in Geneva. New York's 2000 cabbage crop was worth more than \$80 million.

The Cabbage Research and Development Program Advisory Board met Feb. 8 at the Experiment Station to consider the cabbage research proposals they would fund with the money they raised under the \$2.50 per acre research and development fund assessment in 2000. Last year was the first season the assessment was in effect.

Nine research proposals were received, requesting \$60,000 in funds. Among them were proposals from Cornell University re-

searchers Helene Dillard, Phil Griffiths, Tony Shelton, Lisa Earle, John Roberts, Steve Reiners, Al Taylor, and others.

Projects funded included research in weed management, controlling alternaria leaf spot, breeding improved varieties, controlling pests such as Diamond-back moth and cabbage maggots, the effects of hot water treatments on cabbage seed quality, processing, and storage.

"Cabbage usually ranks near potatoes and onions in value among vegetables in New York," said Reiners. "Since it is important to such a large segment of the industry, cabbage researchers at Cornell need to keep the in-

dustry up to date on all aspects of production-pest management, culture, post harvest, etc. The industry usually wants to see research on topics that will benefit them in the short term-things like how they'll control thrips or rot next year, or what they can use to control weeds."

Reiners noted that, in the past, the New York State Cabbage Research Association (the former industry funding group comprised only of kraut growers and processors) had been quite good about funding projects more long-term in nature.

"Perhaps the best example is breeding," said Reiners. "They know that a new and better variety may not be available in a single year but realize that an investment in breeding will pay long term dividends."

Reiners expects cabbage production in New York to maintain current levels. "One encouraging note is that some of our competitors — Texas, Georgia and Florida - have reduced acreage over the past two years," he said. "That coupled with extreme cold this winter in those same areas has led to better prices for our growers who sell storage cabbage throughout the winter."

Cabbage is one of the true stars in terms of nutritional value and anti-cancer compounds, and more and more Americans are consuming it for this reason. Because of its nutritional value, Reiners expects to see greater use of cabbage in prepackaged salad mixes — "a use that would directly benefit the New York industry," he said.

NFU Urges Access To Affordable Credit For Farmers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Farmers Union (NFU) recently urged Congress to ensure equitable access to farm credit programs and reemphasized credit as an important risk management tool to help farmers and rural communities during a time of economic instability in agriculture.

Dave Carter, president of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, told members of the Senate Agriculture Committee that family farmers depend on access to adequate and reasonably priced credit and that credit must be made available to all producers regardless of race, gender or operating scale.

"Since the farm crisis of the 1980s, both farming and agricultural lending have undergone significant restructuring and consolidation," Carter said.

"Though we do not see the rash of bankruptcies we saw during the previous farm crisis, the

underlying problem is much the same as then.

"While access to credit and other risk management programs will not, by themselves, replace the need for sound agriculture policy, it is imperative that family farmers have the same access to credit as large operations and that lending institutions compete in order to achieve fairly priced credit."

The Farmers Union recommendations would assure access to credit in a timely fashion to all producers who meet eligibility requirements and would provide the agriculture secretary broader flexibility to transfer funds between programs and states in order to ensure timely availability of credit.

The policy calls for assessment of the impact on the access, cost and credit terms for smaller producers of the growing consolidation in the farm lending industry.

NFU recommends expansion

of the Farm Service Agency loan guarantee program to include loans to finance producer-owned, value-added enterprises that are becoming increasingly important to beginning, socially disadvantaged and smaller producers.

The recommendations also urge the extension of Chapter 12 bankruptcy, at least through June 30, 2002, or until the provisions are made a permanent part of the bankruptcy code.

Moyer Joins American-International Charolais Association

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Taylor Charles Moyer of Whiting, Vt. has recently joined the American-International Charolais Association (AICA), a purebred beef cattle association, according to Mr. J. Neil Orth, executive

vice president of the international organization with headquarters in Kansas City, Mo.

The AICA is the official beef cattle registry of the Charolais breed with more than 5,500 active and junior members. The association maintains the pedigree, performance, and carcass information on individual animals for its members.

These computerized records are used to calculate the most accurate and up-to-date EPD to promote the use of Charolais genetics to all profit minded purebred and commercial cattle.

For more information about the Charolais breed, call (816) 464-5977 or visit the AICA Website at www.charolaisusa.com. The AICA is the official breed registry for Charolais and Charbray cattle in the U.S.

Lancaster Farm Markets highlight Grower & Marketer

Familiar Lancaster County farm markets grace a special pull-out poster created by Lancaster Farming staff in this issue.

The poster page, starting in the Grower & Marketer section on page 2, can be mounted on the wall, courtesy of Lancaster Farming.

Market operators are identified on the cover of Section A.

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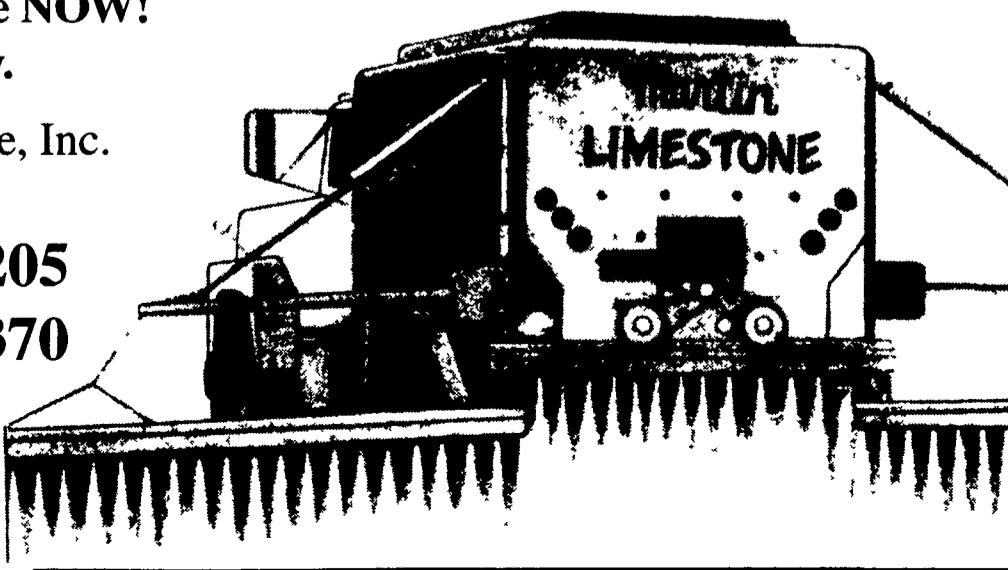
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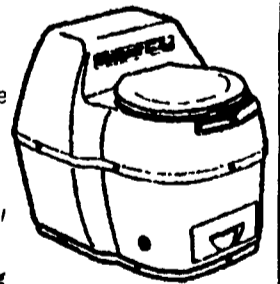
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