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9th Annual Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge Supported by Alliance

The Northeast Ag and Feed Alliance co-sponsored the October 27-29, 2011 Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge, hosted by Morrisville State College, in Watertown, New York. This three-day educational competition is designed to prepare students for careers in the dairy and agribusiness industries. The event drew 111 students from 12 northeast colleges and two Canadian universities.

Four to five students work in mixed-university teams to assess all aspects of a dairy farm including facilities, nutrition, financials, reproduction and animal health. Students collaborated on a 20-minute team presentation that detailed their observations and suggestions to a panel of judges and participating host farm families. Teams were ranked as platinum, gold or silver based on how well their evaluations matched the judges' evaluations of the dairy operation.

The objective of this evaluation process is to create a real-life situation that stresses the importance of teamwork and professionalism. Industry chair Cathy Wickswat of Cargill Animal Nutrition explained, "Not only does the Dairy Challenge teach technical knowledge, it excels in helping students develop people skills."

Farms evaluated at the 2011 competition included Beller Farms, LLC in Carthage, NY, Deer Run Dairy, LLC in Adams, NY and Murcrest Farms, LLC in Copenhagen, NY. All teams participated in educational workshops at Wood Farms in Clayton, NY and attended an industry career fair. Team-building and fun activities were held throughout the weekend to encourage networking among students and sponsors.



The University of Maine will host the 2012 Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge

Teams were named for the top sponsors. The Northeast Ag and Feed Alliance Team included (top) Angela Thomas, Deleware Valley College; Michael Bonoffski, Cornell University; (bottom) Doug Calderwood, Vermont Technical College; and Sarah Weimer, Penn State University. Calderwood, a junior in the Diversified Agriculture Program at VTC

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valued the educational opportunities provided by the Dairy Challenge. "This was an intense event; I look forward to competing again next year and hope to go to the national Dairy Challenge as well."

Alliance Joins Effort to Push Back on Dust Regulations

The Northeast Ag and Feed Alliance joined over 190 other organizations from across the country to voice strong support for the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act of 2011 (HR1633). The Act would bring much needed certainty to agriculture and other rural businesses by exempting rural "nuisance dust" from EPA regulations.

If EPA were to revise the dust standard now or in the future, states would be put in a position of having to impose regulatory restraints on rural operations, increasing production costs when they are already at historically high levels. This dust regulation is being proposed despite the lack of scientific evidence that rural dust at ambient levels is a health concern.

Through the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act of 2011, Congress has the opportunity to ease this potential burden on rural America. The Act would exempt rural "nuisance dust" from regulation under the Clean Air Act if states and localities regulate it on their own. In the event a state or locality does not regulate rural dust, the administrator could regulate it only if validated scientific analysis shows there is a significant health effect from such dust in a particular area and that the costs to the local economy associated with dust regulation would not outweigh any benefits. A copy of the letter to Congress, co-signed by the Alliance, is on our website at www.northeastalliance.com.

Feed Alliance President Focuses on Connecticut Agriculture

Northeast Ag and Feed Alliance President Art Whitman continued his New England states agricultural leadership meetings by visiting Connecticut on November 9th. Whitman was impressed by the diversity of agriculture and the extent of efforts, by state government, the University of Connecticut and individual farmers, to increase agricultural production and enhance the necessary infrastructure to support farmers.

Steven Reviczky, the Connecticut Commissioner of Agriculture, explained that many of the state agriculture programs, including the Farm Reinvestment Grant Program, are to insure the viability of agriculture in Connecticut. By providing money for capital enhancement to farms, the department hopes to improve farm production across the state.

Dr. Sheila Andrew, UCONN Associate Professor of Animal Science, provided an overview of UCONN'S vibrant Animal Science Department. From the on-campus ice cream plant to the university farms, UCONN is providing outstanding programs in applied research and education to over 400 undergraduate animal science students. Andrew serves on the Alliance Education Committee and assists in development of the annual Herd Health and Dairy Nutrition Conferences. She is also instrumental in organizing an annual week-long dairy study tour for students from New England colleges.



Heifer Housing at UConn

Robin Chesmer's Graywall Farm, home of the Farmer's Cow brand of bottled milk, provided for an impromptu visit. Chesmer and six like-minded dairy farmers originally joined forces to host field days and tours for legislators, educators and the public to increase awareness about agricultural in Connecticut. As visitors frequently asked "where can we buy your milk" the group decided to launch the Farmer's Cow brand of fresh local milk.

"I was captivated by the scale and value of agriculture I saw in Connecticut" stated Whitman. The commitment of Commissioner Reviczky, the excellence of the UCONN Animal Science program and the quality of Graywall Farm and the Farmers' Cow brand were impressive."

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Super Committee Fails: Farm Policy Opens to Public Input

Following the failure of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to develop a proposal into which the 2012 Farm Bill could have been included, Washington policy analysts say the crafting of national farm policy will be a more open process, with programs facing additional scrutiny.

"What is going to happen now is the process will slow down a little bit and it will become a little bit more transparent for everybody who is interested," said Mark Maslyn, American Farm Bureau Federation public policy executive director. "We'll have more time to do the things that normally occur in a farm bill, whether they be hearings or analysis for different proposals."

Asked to achieve \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction during the next 10 years, the "super committee" members failed to reach an agreement by the Nov. 23 deadline set by Congress. As a result, the Office of Management and Budget will likely announce early next year that farm programs will be subject to "sequestration," or across-the-board cuts.

The chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate agriculture committees, who helped identify \$23 billion in cuts to farm programs for the super committee, indicated that work on the new farm bill will now return to their respective committees for further discussion under a more deliberative process than was possible under the time constraints imposed on the Joint Committee.

Following the Super Committee's failure to reach an agreement, Rep. Frank Lucas, R-Okla., chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, stated, "We will continue the process of reauthorizing the farm bill in the coming months and will do so with the same bipartisan spirit that has historically defined the work of our committees."

Excerpted from the California Farm Bureau Federation

NY FarmNet Recognizes Feed Alliance



Alliance Immediate Past President John Mitchell and Executive Director Rick Zimmerman receive a plaque of appreciation from FarmNet President Dick Peterson

The Northeast Ag and Feed Alliance received warm appreciation for its generous support of NY FarmNet during the organization's November 3rd annual banquet. FarmNet, a not for profit organization focused on providing needed support to farm families, suffering from economic, physical and emotional stress, has a proven track record in New York. A team of professionals throughout New York State are available to work one on one with farm families dealing with crisis.

The organization has enjoyed strong state support over the past decade. However, due to the significant increased work load caused by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, resources were stretched to the limit. The Feed Alliance Board of Directors approved a generous contribution from the Good Works Account to help sustain FarmNet through this very difficult time. Further, the Alliance has been a strong advocate for state funding of FarmNet during state budget negotiations.

INDUSTRY NEWS

2012 Annual Meeting and Forum

February 5-7, 2012
Albany Marriott Hotel

Animal Agriculture: The Future for the Northeast

Meetings with Legislative Leaders
Excellent Seminars
Great Speakers

Important Networking
Spouse's trip to Norman Rockwell Museum
Distinguished Service Award

Don't Miss This Event

Sponsorship and registration brochures were mailed last week!

Magician Timothy Stone to Close 83rd Annual Meeting and Forum



Nationally known magician, Timothy Stone will be at the Albany Marriott performing his well honed skills of illusion and entertainment to close out the February 5-7 event. You won't want to miss this event packed meeting and registration is open online to reserve your place. The Albany Marriott Hotel is our host facility again this year; in the heart of the Capital District and close to great restaurants and excellent shopping.

For more information go to: www.northeastalliance.com or call Sue

Kinner at 888-445-4595.

Cargill - Wooster, Ohio Named 2011 Feed Mill of the Year

Cargill Animal Nutrition of Wooster, Ohio, is the 2011 Feed Mill of the Year, as named by the American Feed Industry Association and Feedstuffs, the sponsors of the annual program. The annual Feed Mill of the Year award recognizes overall excellence in feed manufacturing operations. Increased safety, quality, regulatory compliance, operating efficiencies and overall industry awareness of food safety are among the criteria reviewed for each applicant. Selection of the top plant starts with an online application process and concludes with personal visits to the top sites by an inspection team from AFIA and Feedstuffs. Final selection is based on a combined scoring of the application and personal visit.

"Wooster," as the winning plant is known, is managed by Susanna Wright, only the second female plant manager to win Feed Mill of the Year. She described of the honor, "To be recognized externally by winning AFIA's Feed Mill of the Year is a huge accomplishment, and reflects strongly on the entire team we have in place, from production stakeholders, to sales, to administrative support."

Constructed in 1993, the plant was built to cater to the dairy market in Northeastern Ohio. The mill manufactures 42,000 tons of feed, split between bagged and bulk, including meals, pellets and textured feeds. Both inbound ingredients and finished feeds are tested for various quality specifications monthly, at a minimum, and all plant scales are certified externally twice a year.

Once Wooster expanded to carry Nutrena bagged farmstore feeds, the plant's territory grew to include distribution in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky. In the late 1990s, a 10,000 square foot addition to the warehouse was built to accommodate the Cargill Animal Nutrition brand family which includes Showmaster brand show feeds, Record Rack wildlife feeds and Right Now Mineral. Over the last three years, the facility has installed over \$1 million in new equipment to accommodate sustained growth.

Cargill's Wooster plant was certified in 2010 by AFIA's Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification Program. The mill is in compliance with the Bio Terrorism Act and has been inspected by the FDA within the last year and deemed compliant. Moreover, the mill has an SPCC Plan that has been certified by a professional engineer.

Key to Wooster's success is the focus on employee engagement. "Our continued success out of this location speaks volumes for the team we have in place, both past and present," Wright explained. Wooster has had zero lost time accidents since 2004. Of its safety record, Wright explained, "I feel incredibly privileged to work for a company that places

such a high emphasis on the safety of its employees. There is never a doubt in my mind that when it comes down to doing a job, safety comes first; this is apparent in both day to day operations here at Wooster, and long-term planning around how we continue to grow our business." Cargill Wooster takes its commitment to the community seriously, sponsoring and donating to several causes.

Congratulations to Cargill Animal Nutrition!

MEMBER NEWS ...

2012 Alliance Membership Renewals

It is that time of year again! Calendar year membership invoices have been mailed. If you are part of a group membership, all invoices were sent to the attention of your accounting department. Follow-up invoices are being emailed to members within the next few days. If you have any membership questions, please contact Sue Kinner at sue@nysta.org (or by phone at 518-783-1322).

Remember, if you missed one, past issues of NEAFA News are always available on our website at:

www.northeastalliance.com/newsletter.html

NEAFA News is a publication of the Northeast Ag & Feed Alliance.

Calendar of Events:

International Feed Expo/International Poultry Expo

January 23-27, 2012
Atlanta, Georgia

[Click here for more information](#)

2012 NEAFA Annual Meeting

February 5-7, 2012
Albany Marriott on Wolf Road
Albany, New York

[Click here for more information](#)

NGFA Annual Convention

March 18-20, 2012
Charleston Place Hotel
Charleston, South Carolina

[Click here for more information](#)

2012 NEAFA/PRO-DAIRY Herd Health & Nutrition Conference

April 3, 2012
Syracuse, New York

2012 NEAFA/PRO-DAIRY Herd Health & Nutrition Conference

April 5, 2012
West Lebanon, New Hampshire

NGFA/Grain Journal - Safety, Health & Environmental Quality Grain Grades & Weights Conference

July 26-27, 2012
Westin Crown Center
Kansas City, Missouri

*Wishing you and your families
a happy and safe holiday season!*

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