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West/Southwest • winter/spring edition 2009-10

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**The Benefits
of Idaho
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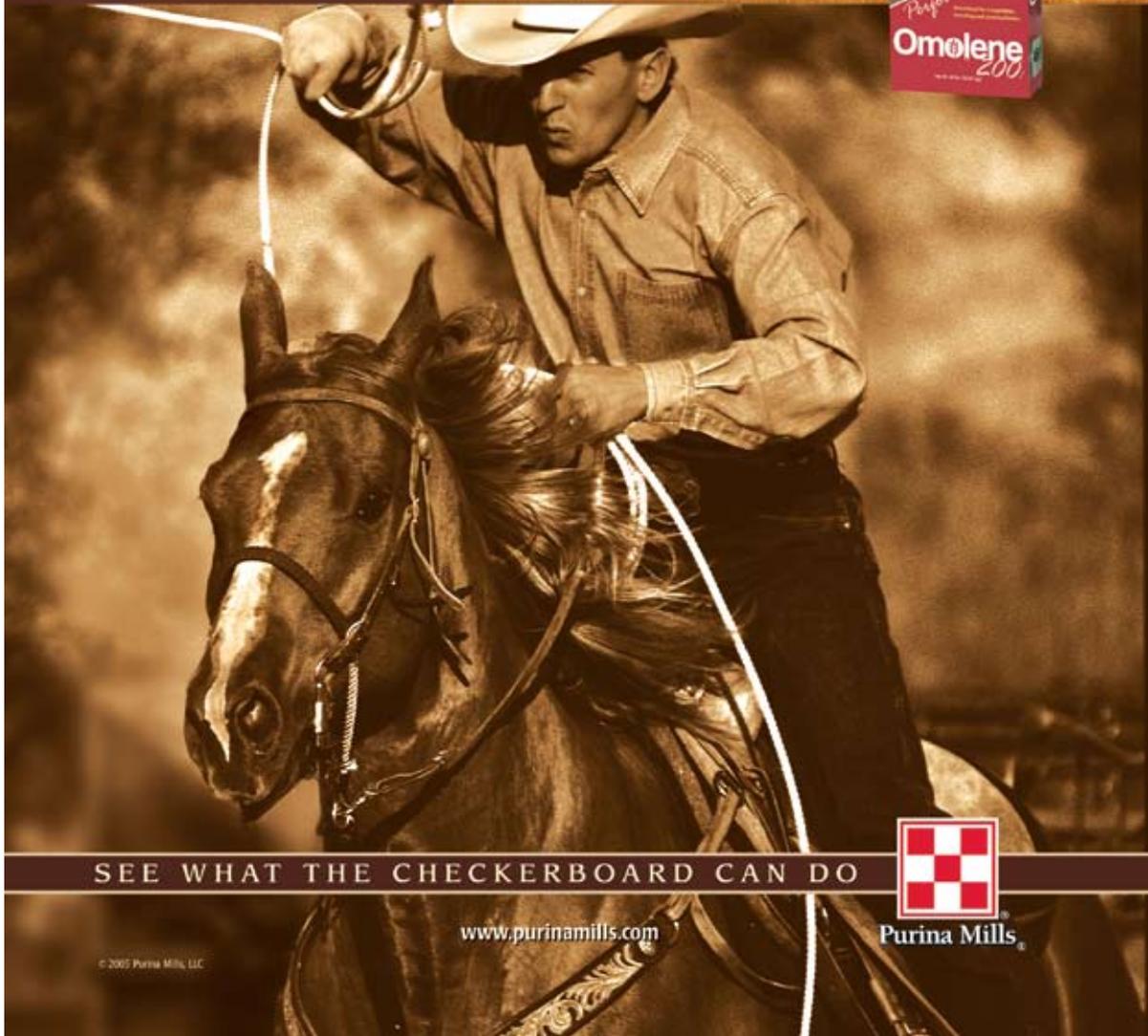
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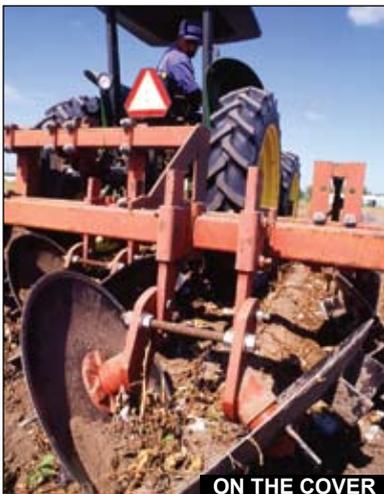


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Stukenholtz Laboratory Inc. Celebrating 38 Years of Agricultural Testing

In 1970, there were no commercial soil and plant testing laboratories in Idaho. Farmers applied fertilizers based upon educated guesswork. Dr. Dale Stukenholtz and his wife Joyce saw an opportunity to build a business and started a soil and plant testing laboratory and field consulting service based in Twin Falls, Idaho. Dr. Stukenholtz had an unusually diverse background as an educator at the University of Nebraska, an agronomist in the fertilizer industry, and a farmer, and he saw a need for more modern fertilizer recommendations to produce greater yields at less cost. His clients were the growers, so he could make unbiased recommendations that maximized economic return to the farmer. After extensive field research, he developed these improved fertilizer recommendations that quickly became popular with growers and form the basis for nearly all fertilizer applications in the intermountain west area. Stukenholtz Laboratory clients include growers from all neighboring states and

several foreign countries including Australia, Canada, Egypt, Russia, Mexico and New Zealand.

Stukenholtz Laboratory provides 1 to 2 day service, including picking up and delivery time, across Southern Idaho from St. Anthony and Grace to Parma and Homedale. Results can be delivered, mailed, faxed, or pulled from the Laboratory's webpage: www.stukenholtz.com. To improve their service, Joyce and Dale Stukenholtz expanded the laboratory 11 years ago, installed the latest in computerized instrumentation and quality control, and made it the most modern and well equipped agricultural laboratory in their market area.

Critical to the success of Idaho's most efficient laboratory and largest field consulting firm has been its personnel. Dr. Stukenholtz has had a PhD in Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition since 1964 and his son and Laboratory Manager Paul has nearly completed his own. Consulting agronomists include J.P.

Kruckeberg of American Falls, a 29 year veteran of field consulting and the most successful single agronomist in the state, and Bart Kunz. The Laboratory and office staff are equally good.

Stukenholtz Laboratory continues with research and improvement. In conjunction with the Idaho Crop Production Association and University of Idaho CFEP research project, Stukenholtz Laboratory has helped to ensure that fertilizer recommendations in Idaho are the most cost efficient possible and produce the maximum economic yield while protecting the environment. Stukenholtz Laboratory personnel have conducted field research on over 40 different products and continue to be the experts at "cutting edge" agricultural technology. As we end our first 37 years of business and begin our next, we would like to thank our current and former employees for their dedicated work and our customers and clients for their years of support. 

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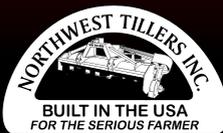
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The Benefits of Idaho Certified Seed

By Todd Cornelison

Idaho Potato Commission Industry Relations Director

Idaho has always been known for its potatoes, however most people don't realize that Idaho's leadership in potatoes doesn't start at the grocery store or the restaurant, it starts at the beginning – the seed.

Idaho seed growers' primary goal is to grow top-quality potatoes that produce top-quality seed. However, despite strict quality control measures and extensive year-round testing, growers are still plagued by viruses, specifically Potato Virus Y (PVY) and Potato Virus A (PVA), which severely hamper yields and impact overall crop quality. Three years ago, Idaho potato seed growers

joined together to add yet another quality control measure in effort to combat the increasing presence of damaging viruses. These increased measures are paying off.

For many years the seed growers of Idaho have partnered with Idaho Crop Improvement (ICI) to conduct field inspections each season to minimize the quantity and spread of viruses in Idaho's seed production. During the growing season, ICI inspectors walk through seed fields and visually inspect the plants. Their objective is to estimate the percentage of crops infected and types of viruses present. Suspect plants are

flagged and leaf samples are taken to the ICI lab where they undergo testing to determine if the plant has any viruses. The grower then removes the flagged plants from the field and leaf samples undergo an ELISA test, which stands for Enzyme-Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay. The ELISA test is one of the most complicated, but accurate devices for identifying potato seed viruses because it can detect them at the cellular level. In the lab, the techs take the leaves and lay them on top of each other in batches of five. Then a device punches a hole through the leaves giving the tech a miniature five-layer leaf circle; this cir-

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cle is called a well. The well is put into a machine that looks for different kinds of proteins – specifically virus proteins.

Testing is also conducted in the winter months as a way to further decrease the damage caused by viruses. During the harvest season, a seed grower sends 400 tubers from his seed crop to a testing facility located in the Imperial Valley of California, where potatoes can be grown in the winter and “grown out” into plants. The tubers are planted in the same 400-tuber increments in which they were submitted; these increments are called seed lots. The lots are then tested for several diseases including viruses. The winter tests also determine whether the seed lots qualify for recertification and can be used to grow another generation of seed.

Prior to 2007, inspectors would conduct ELISA tests only on “winter” plants that visually displayed virus characteristics, much the same way they do for the summer tests. However, Idaho seed growers continued to see a steady increase in the number of plants infected with viruses in the seed lots. The frustrated group decided that every plant would undergo

the ELISA test. Despite a total testing cost approaching \$29 per acre – coming directly out of the grower’s pocket – this added step offers two primary benefits. One, the inspectors no longer have to wait for the plants to grow to maturity, they can test the plant as soon as it has grown three to five leaves. Two, with ELISA and the use of statistical analyses, the inspector has a much clearer picture of the amount of virus in the seed lot because a greater percentage of the lot is inspected.

The entire inspection process is arduous, expensive and time consuming.

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Colorado has a new Mesa The Mesa Russet Potato

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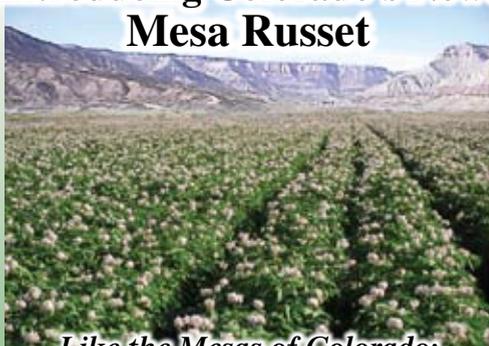
Article by Robert Davidson, David Holm and Samuel Essah.

Colorado's Cultivar Development Program has recently released a new russet cultivar, The Mesa Russet. (CO94035-15RU). The Mesa Russet produces a medium-high yield (418 cwt under SLV conditions) of very attractive, oblong to long, dark russet tubers. It produces a high percent of NO 1's (86%) with approximately 25% of the yield in the > 10 oz range. External and internal defects are minimal. The Mesa Russet is moderately resistant to hollow heart and second growth, blackspot bruise, and shatter bruise. While specific gravity is medium (1.082), this is a dual purpose potato suitable for both the fresh market and processing. Mesa Russet has upright, medium large vines that emerge quite uniformly with an average of 3 stems per plant. Vine maturity is medium at a 2.9 (Canela Russet = 3.1; Centennial Russet = 3.0). This cultivar has acceptable long-term storage characteristics (dormancy around 95 days after harvest, which is similar to Russet Nugget and Russet Norkotah, but shorter than Canela Russet) and growers have commented that late season storage has been quite good with tubers showing little to no blackspot and good appearance. Market acceptance has been quite good since the tubers have such an attractive appearance.

Work completed at the SLV Research Center indicates that the Mesa Russet requires a 12 to 14" spacing in the field to produce the best yields (12" spacing maximizes the 4-10 oz range while 14" spacing maximizes the 10-16 oz range). Total nitrogen applications should be in the 180#/a area with 80#/a pre-plant and the balance applied prior to the end of July in 3 to 4 increments after tuber initiation. Irrigation management is similar to the Rio Grande Russet. Disease issues have been minimal to date. While the cultivar is susceptible to both leaf roll and PVY, there have been few problems seen in the crop, even when grown quite late into the season. This cultivar is of note because of its extremely low powdery scab susceptibility; both with any tuber symptoms and with a very low root galling index. This could be of help in reducing or minimizing the impact from powdery scab during your rotation cycles with potatoes. It has shown excellent resistance to Verticillium Wilt. Growers have commented that the Mesa Russet tends to fit into their operation quite nicely as a medium maturing cultivar with few tuber defects.

The Mesa Russet provides another high quality russet to put into your grower's toolbox of cultivars. It should perform well in a variety of environmental conditions and should be of help in maintaining a profitable crop.

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In 1925, Rue R. Elston, the founder of the Elston Company and his wife, Clara, and son, Wendell, moved to Sioux Falls, SD from Spencer, Iowa. Rue found employment with the Manchester Biscuit Company. The next



year his son Jack was born. In 1927 Rue, wife Clara, and two sons, Wendell and Jack moved to Minneapolis, MN where Rue found work as a bus driver for Twin City Motor Bus.

One snowy night, Rue saw a young man get hit by a car while spreading sand with a shovel at a bus stop. The man lost his leg in the accident. After seeing this accident, Rue thought a unit could be manufactured to mount in front of the drive wheels of a bus and be electrically controlled by the driver. Such a unit could help eliminate this type of accident by spreading sand in front of the drive wheels of the bus. After extensive testing and engineering, the first units were installed on Greyhound buses.

In 1938 a corporation was formed to manufacture the Elston Electric Sander. Today sanders are used on city buses such as those in Seattle, Washington and are mandatory on school buses in many Northern States. They are also used on fire trucks and a special design for railroad trains.

In 1952 Rue, and his son Jack, engineered and designed the Elston Cargo Space heater, a unit that controls the inside temperature of semi-trailers that transport products that cannot



be frozen. Through the years several models have been designed. These units are sold in the United States, Canada, and parts of Europe. 

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Laforge Sarl., the parent company back in Europe, first entered the front hitch business in 1979. Laforge products have always been on the leading edge of technology. In fact, over 40 international patents and a multitude of engineering awards have been collected over the years, including seven (7) AE50 awards by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE, formerly ASAE).

This prestigious award honors fifty Outstanding Innovations in Product or Systems Technology every year.

Laforge received a 2009 AE50 award for their new FrontPower PTO systems. The FrontPower is using advanced technology derived from automotive and high-end tractor transmission designs to ensure durability, low maintenance, and minimal power loss. Front mounted mowing, shredding, and snow removal equipment is seen much more now and this product becomes an essential link in these systems.

In 2007 the FLEXIMASS® ballast management system received an AE50 award. The main purpose of this system is to replace the very cumbersome wheel weights with a quick-attach system that allows adding or removing thousands of pounds of ballast weights

in seconds. With ever more powerful tractors, matching ballast to the task at hand becomes essential for improved fuel economy, eliminating unnecessary compaction, and even for safety.



Laforge took another step in improving support for our dealers and customers in 2007 by acquiring manufacturing capability in North America through the purchase of Bruns Machine, Cedar Falls, IA.

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Aldor SmartPlugs, designed with medium to high mileage engines in mind, enhance engine performance at all speeds and any fuel-octane level. These high-quality, pre-gapped plugs with a patented built-in "brain" provide up to 40% more spark power, improve horsepower and increase fuel economy. Self-cleaning and non-fouling, they also burn away excess oil to provide cleaner emissions. They are, most notably, guaranteed to last three times longer than the average plug, and will fire in oil. Although Aldor SmartPlugs outperform all original equipment and standard replacement spark plugs, the cost differential is minimal.

A.L. Doering Spark Plug Corp. (Aldor), a leader and innovator in spark plug design since 1914, is also seeking new distribution channels and representation in several states.

For more information, contact Aldor:

Phone: 1-800-886-7074

Email: www.aldorspark@aol.com

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Fence Fixing Made Easy

One of the most valuable assets for a farmer and rancher is their time. That time can be saved by use of a unique tool called the Texas Fence Fixer.

Invented and patented by Ken Evans of Sequin, Texas, the tool will tighten or take slack out of barb wire, horse wire, electric wire, net wire and high tensile wire, all with equal ease. "If you're like me," says Evans. "You've spent a lot of hours mending fences, using come a longs, pieces of pipe and most anything you can get your hands on. It is a back breaking, knuckle busting, time thieving chore and I figured there had to be an easier and faster way. While ranching near San Saba, TX, Ken did a lot of experimenting and modifying until he had invented a tool that really worked on loose fence and the Texas Fence Fixer was born.

Popularity of the tool is easy to understand if you ever had to tighten a sagging fence, only to have it go loose again when the tool of choice is removed.

With the Texas Fence Fixer, no staples or tie wires are removed and with a little practice, the job can be complete in 30 seconds to a minute and when the tool is removed, the fence remains completely tight. To tighten a wire, the arms are spread wide to catch the slack wire between the jaw slots. When the two arms are pulled together and the chain fastened, a loop forms inside the tool area. A piece of spare wire is laid across the face of the tool and wrapped a few times on each side of the tool. Then the handle of the fence pliers or smooth pipe is inserted between the two wires and they are turned (not twisted) together until they almost become one wire and the fence is tight. The wire is not crimped or damaged in any way. The tool is totally American made with parts formed in a Texas foundry, shipped to a 5,000 Sq. Ft. shop in Sequin, Texas, ground to perfection and assembled and painted by the Evans'.

The tool carries a lifetime warranty. For further info or to order, call toll free. 866-882-2896 or visit the web site at texasfencefixer.com Try the Texas Fence Fixer. You'll be glad you did and so will your fences.

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New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranches

Helping Children for 60 Years Without Government Funding

By: Mike Kull

The state of New Mexico and the West are known for many things. At the mention of the name some think of the majestic beauty of the landscape while others remember our magnificent art and cultural diversity. No description would be complete without mention of the wonderful people who love this land and make their home here. These same people should be famous for something else - their amazing generosity. Let me explain...

The New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranches (The Ranches) have been providing meaningful help to children and families for almost 60 years. What is so unusual about that you

ask? There are programs for children scattered throughout this country.

The thing that makes The Ranches unique is the fact that we have done this without the sponsorship of a national organization or denomination, and without accepting government funding. We like to think that rugged self reliance is still alive and well in this part of the country. In fact, many of the people who live here don't seem to find this all that unusual. They seem to think this is the way it has always been and this is the way it is suppose to be. What very few of them know is that for years, people have traveled to The Ranches to see this unique phenomenon for themselves. Some have even tried to recreate it back in their home states. Unfortunately, I currently do not know of anyone who has succeeded. They eventually give up and start accepting government payments or sponsorship from a national organization, which brings me back to the uniqueness of the people who love the West.

Over the past 60 years. The Ranches have grown from a single Boys Ranch south of Belen, NM, to five separate but interrelated programs that are scattered throughout the state. In addition to Boys Ranch there is Girls Ranch near Santa Fe; Pippin Ranch near Clovis; Families for Children, our adoption and foster care program; and The New Mexico Family Connection, our family intervention and therapy program. Both of the latter are in Albuquerque.

Both Boys and Girls Ranch have schools on campus that have been specifically designed to get kids who are way behind their peers in school back to grade level. The children respond well to being involved with animals and a country lifestyle.

The people of New Mexico and sur-

rounding states have donated enough to build all of these programs and provide their daily operating costs since 1944. We actually have donors who got involved when they lived in the West and have continued their support after moving somewhere else. They often tell me that a part of their heart will always be here.

Even though we are proud of what



has been accomplished, we have some great plans to do more in the future. Since we do not believe in debt and do not want to take government funding, the only way this can happen is if more Americans catch the vision.

If you have a desire to really make a difference in the lives of children, consider joining us in this unique partnership. Your donations do not have to be large. Hundreds of our donors can only send a few dollars each month, but because of their numbers their collective impact is huge. Please join us. There is nothing better than knowing that you are making a life changing difference for a child or young person. People tell us all the time that it makes their lives so meaningful.

Tours are available at all of our facilities. For additional information please visit our web site at www.theranches.org or contact us at 1-800-660-0289.

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The H & M Gopher Control PERC system (Pressurized Exhaust Rodent Controller) uses carbon monoxide from pressurized engine exhaust to kill burrowing rodents such as gophers, ground squirrels, prairie dogs, moles & voles.

According to the company, exhaust gas has long been one of the most lethal and least expensive methods to kill burrowing rodents. But until now there hasn't been an economical, efficient delivery system.

Company owners, Allen Hurlburt and Virginia Massey, said that the PERC system involves a narrow steel wand that is used to probe the burrow and inject pressurized exhaust that fills the burrow in two minutes with lethal concentrations of carbon monoxide before the rodent has a chance to either escape or block the burrow.

An internal combustion engine generates the carbon monoxide and drives a compressor pump that pressurizes the exhaust gas to 115 psi in a storage tank. An air hose and a hand held probe inject the gas directly into the burrow without any digging.

Brand new to the PERC lineup is the PERC 620, a trailer-mounted unit with a 20 hp motor and six reels - each with a 50' hose and hand probe. The 620 features a tandem axle with turf tires. It sells for \$12,950 plus S&H.

The PERC 412 is a trailer-mounted unit with a 13 hp motor and four reels each with a 50' hose and the hand probe. The 412 features turf tires and is designed

to be pulled behind an ATV. It sells for \$7,249 plus S&H.

The PERC 206 is a skid-mounted unit with a 6.5 hp engine, two reels with 50' hoses and hand probes. It sells for \$4,595 plus S&H.

The PERC 206T is the skid unit mounted on its own special trailer. It sells for \$4,995 plus S&H.

The PERC system is simple to use and safe for the operator as well as wildlife since there is no poison bait or explosion involved. Crop stands are not damaged during treatment. No other control method is as effective, efficient and as inexpensive to operate as the PERC.

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Units have been shipped to customers from Southern California to central Canada and as far east as Florida. Though most of the market has been with alfalfa growers, orchard and specialty crop growers have also purchased units. The PERC system is the best solution anywhere burrowing rodents are a problem.

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February 1 Is The Deadline To Apply For The 2010 Fred Stout Experience Awards

Reynoldsburg, Ohio, December 3, 2009—High school graduates and college students who are preparing for a career in managing and/or marketing Registered Jersey™ cattle are encouraged to apply for the Fred Stout Experience Awards.

Two awards are offered for 2010: (1) a two- or three-month summer internship with Jersey Marketing Service, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, and (2) an on-farm, structured internship in Jersey herd management.

The awards honor the memory of Fred J. Stout Jr., Mt. Carmel, Ill., a lifelong Jersey breeder and member of the Jersey Marketing Service staff from 1978 to 1997 who believed that the best learning experiences happen in the everyday world.

To apply, submit a one-page résumé listing work experience, skills and relevant qualifications. In a separate cover letter state the option you wish to apply for (JMS, on-farm internship, or both). Discuss your ambitions, goals and career aspirations, including plans for achieving them. Summarize your previous experience with and continued interest in Registered Jersey™ cattle. Explain how and why the Fred Stout Experience will be of benefit to you in achieving your goals.

Applicants must also request two letters of support, one from an active breeder of Registered Jersey™ (excluding immediate family members), and the other from a teacher, mentor or past employer. These must be mailed directly by the supporters to the AJCA office.

Applications and letters of support

must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2010 and addressed to Fred Stout Experience, American Jersey Cattle Association, 6486 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-2362.

Previous recipients of the Fred Stout Experience Award are Tara Bohnert, Illinois (2003), Allison Waggoner, South Carolina (2004), Dan Bauer, Wisconsin (2005), Aaron Horst, Pennsylvania (2006), Jacob Pieper, Maryland (2007), Katie Albaugh, Maryland (2008), and Brady Core, Kentucky (2009).

Financial support is provided by a permanent endowment created in 2001 by friends and colleagues of Fred Stout. For more information on the Fred Stout Experience, contact Cherie L. Bayer, AJCA Director of Development, at 614/861-3636. 

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