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TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006

Two Cargill Animal Nutrition Mills Become the First in Vietnam to Receive HACCP Certification

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam - CARGILL VIETNAM LTD. announced that its Cargill Animal Nutrition feed mills located in Bien Hoa and Hung Yen have received HACCP certification. Cargill Animal Nutrition is the first Vietnamese animal feed producer to have any of its plants HACCP certified.

"By being HACCP certified, Cargill Animal Nutrition can demonstrate that we have the processes and systems to provide safer feeds to Vietnamese livestock and aqua farmers," stated Cargill Vietnam General Director Scott Ainslie. "We take pride in partnering with livestock growers, and when they succeed, we succeed. Doing all we can to provide Vietnamese farmers with quality feed is our first job. HACCP certification is another way to demonstrate Cargill Animal Nutrition's commitment to creating high quality products for our customers".

Cargill Animal Nutrition's decision to implement this program is part of Cargill's Feed for Food™ program, which is focused on the company's commitment to quality. Mr. Ainslie added, "We also have feed mills located in Can Tho. We plan on completing their HACCP certification later this year. This will make all of our products in Vietnam HACCP certified."

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THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2006

Livestock Experts Challenge Organic Community to Implement Science-based Animal Welfare Standards, Independent Audits

Independent Research Reveals Animal Welfare Among Consumers' Top Organic-Food Concerns, Following Food Safety Issues

Should science serve as the primary guide when hammering out stricter animal-welfare and other farming standards currently under discussion in the organic dairy industry?

"Absolutely; without a doubt," said Dr. Juan Velez, lead veterinarian and vice president, farm operations of Aurora Organic Dairy (AOD), the nation's leading producer-processor of private-label organic milk and butter. Dr. Velez's stance was echoed by his fellow, scientifically trained presenters who, during a symposium's panel presentation, called for standards based on science and "measurable indicators" of animal welfare.

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture invited Dr. Velez, along with a who's who list of other nationally recognized animal-care experts, to provide professional observations during the ag. department's organic dairy symposium. The USDA scheduled its dairy symposium, held this week in State College, Pa., in conjunction with the federal agency's National Organic Standards Board meeting.

Dr. Velez noted that some organic-dairy farmers and activist groups had been lobbying for narrow parameters - such as the number of days an animal spends on pasture and the percent of dry matter from pasture that should contribute to the animal's diet - as the changes needed to tighten animal welfare standards in organic dairying. However, Dr. Velez and other experts emphasized that pasture, though important, was only one piece of a larger issue - the need for measurable, uniform, animal-welfare standards in the organic dairy industry.

He said that such standards would positively affect animal welfare throughout the organic dairy community, from small family farms to large-scale dairies. What's more, results from an independent, national poll of more than 1,000 consumers were presented at the symposium.

The study was conducted by the Natural Marketing Institute whose researchers surveyed purchasers of both organic and conventional foods. Findings revealed consumers' primary concerns related to organic dairy products. Pesticides, antibiotics and hormones in their foods were their greatest concerns, followed closely by organic feed and animal welfare.

Dr. Velez, an internationally recognized dairy-herd-management and animal-welfare expert, has published and co-authored numerous technical articles in peer-reviewed journals and is a frequent speaker at animal-health and dairy-farm-management conferences. At the dairy symposium, he offered his audience a lengthy list of additional, scientifically-based criteria that he and his fellow veterinarians use to monitor animal welfare on the Aurora Organic Dairy farms in Tex. and Colo. Critical measures included individual animals' scores for body condition, locomotion and somatic cell count, as well as cow comfort and farm facilities measurements. He explained that the criteria also were geographically neutral. That, no matter if a dairy farm operated in the arid West, the rainfall-heavy Upper Midwest, or the knee-deep snows of New England, the animal welfare criteria would provide a comprehensive picture of a dairy animal's overall health and welfare.

Dr. Velez urged the audience to look 'beyond the organic barn door' to assess the current state of care and welfare of organic livestock. "I encourage all of us in the organic industry, and consumers alike, to avoid focusing on image, and, instead, to consider the true factors that create healthy, productive, well-cared-for dairy cows," Velez said.

"As animal-care professionals, we know that a combination of important elements contribute to excellent animal care, and those often are not apparent to the casual observer."

According to the veterinarian, adopting a set of measurable indicators related to animal welfare and then enforcing them via third-party certification would provide the best assurance for both professionals and consumers that organic farms are upholding excellent animal-care standards. "Cow comfort and animal health and welfare are everyone's prime concerns," Dr. Velez added.

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He also addressed another animal welfare issue. While he's an expert trained in the latest techniques related to bovine reproduction, nevertheless, Dr. Velez said that he discourages the use of artificial insemination. Instead, he supports natural breeding as the better reproduction method for organic dairying.

"After joining the organic industry, I observed, early on, that natural breeding is much closer to the organic ideal, reducing animal stress and resulting in higher pregnancy rates at lower cost," he said.

"In addition, natural breeding eliminates the antibiotics that are typically used in artificial insemination, even in organic systems. Our on-farm research has proved that relying on Mother Nature still works best."

A native of Colombia, Dr. Velez received his veterinary training at the Universidad de la Salle before receiving his advanced degrees from Texas A&M University, College Station, Tex. He later completed his residency in bovine production medicine at the University of Florida in Gainesville and then undertook further studies at the American College of Theriogenologists, Jacksonville, Fla.

Aurora Organic Dairy is America's leading producer of private-label and store-brand organic milk and butter. The organic production company includes headquarters offices in Boulder, Colo., and St. Vrain Organic Dairy Farm, a large organic dairy farm and on-farm organic dairy processing plant near Platteville, Colo. In July 2005, a second organic dairy farm near Dublin, Texas, completed its year-long transition to certified organic production. The company recently announced the initiation of a third, state-of-the-art organic dairy farm - High Plains Organic Dairy -- near Kersey, Colo., to begin organic milk production in fall 2006.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2006

Potential Case of BSE in Canada

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is currently conducting confirmatory testing of samples from a cow from British Columbia suspected of having bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

No part of the animal--an approximately six-year-old dairy cow--entered the human food or animal feed systems, and the entire carcass has been placed under control. The cow was identified on a Fraser Valley farm through the national BSE surveillance program. Since detecting Canada's first case in 2003, Canada's surveillance program, which targets animals most at risk of having BSE, has tested approximately 100,000 animals. After initial screening tests conducted provincially produced inconclusive results, samples from the animal were sent to the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease in Winnipeg for further analysis. The first part of this process has been completed and produced a preliminary positive result. Final testing is now underway and will be completed over the holiday weekend. In the interest of transparency, the CFIA decided to proactively provide currently available information.

The age of this animal would be consistent with previous cases and exposure to a low level of BSE infectivity. Following normal BSE protocols, the CFIA would, if a positive is confirmed, initiate a comprehensive epidemiological investigation to identify other animals of potential interest and to determine how and when the animal became infected. This

investigation would be conducted on a priority basis, and information would be shared with the public as it became available.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2006

Trouw Nutrition International sets next step in China

Nutreco's subsidiary Trouw Nutrition International (TNI) announced today that it will take over all shares of the Chinese producer and nationwide distributor of feed specialities 'Beijing Dejia Animal Husbandry Technology Co Ltd'. The price has not been disclosed.

Dejia produces farm minerals and concentrates in its Beijing plant and distributes these products to Chinese farms via a nationwide distribution and sales network. Dejia is a rapidly expanding company with growth rates above 30% per annum.

With this acquisition TNI will be able to increase substantially its current feed specialities operations which are located in the Hunan area of China. It is the intention to merge the Trouw Nutrition Hunan activities into the Dejia business and add piglet feed to the product portfolio. TNI will further invest in Dejia to facilitate its future expansion in China. The combined business will have approximately 600 employees and a sales revenue of € 40 million per annum in the production and distribution of minerals for the on-farm feed mixing segment in China.

The new step in China fits within the framework of Nutreco's 'Rebalancing for Growth' strategy, which aims to expand the company's animal nutrition and fish feed businesses in growth markets. Over the past 12 months Nutreco has acquired animal nutrition and fish feed companies in Mexico, Russia, Japan and it begun a new operation in Brazil.

Nutreco Holding N.V. is an international animal nutrition and fish feed company that seeks to create added value in its markets through the company's knowledge of the food chains. Nutreco has a selective presence in various stages of the fish and meat production chains. Nutreco's Business Groups, each comprising several Business Units, have approximately 75 production and processing plants in about 20 countries with in total 7,000 employees.

Nutreco's net sales in 2005 were EUR 3,002.4 million. Nutreco Holding N.V. is quoted on the Official Market of Euronext Amsterdam and is included in the Amsterdam Midkap Index and the Euronext 150 Index. www.nutreco.com

Trouw Nutrition International B.V. is the global leader in premixes, innovative feed specialities and nutritional services for the animal nutrition industry. The company has locations in 25 countries and around 1,400 employees. Since 1931, its feed to food solutions have met the needs of feed producers, integrators, distributors and home mixers, as well as the companion animal industry.

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MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2006

Research feedmill in Hawai'i a step closer to reality

Hawai'i's scientists, manufacturers, cattle, swine and poultry farmers, and local agriculture and aquaculture farmers are rallying behind a pilot-scale research feed mill planned by aquaculture research institute, [Oceanic](#)

Institute (OI).

OI, an affiliate of Hawaii Pacific University, is requesting a grant from the State to complete the building of the facility in Hilo, on the Big Island of Hawaii. \$3.7 million has been raised and another \$4 million is required to complete the mill. Once fully funded, OI will move forward to build the facility that will enable commercial-scale demonstration trials of prototype aquaculture systems.

The OI research feedmill has been the dream of feeds specialist and lead scientist, Dr. Warren Dominy, for almost two decades. Leading feed equipment supply companies have donated approximately \$1 million in equipment. At present five containers of processing equipment are on site at the University of Hawai'i Panaewa Farm, where the feedmill will be situated, with five more containers waiting to be shipped if funding is obtained. Originally conceived as a dedicated aquafeed research facility, the plans have been broadened to incorporate terrestrial feeds in response to Hawai'i's unique needs and circumstances.

"The facility will allow for new research in using waste from Hawaii-grown agricultural products—like pineapple, papaya and macadamia nuts—to create cost-effective new feed ingredient sources," Dr. Dominy said.

Dr. James Carpenter, of the Department of Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences at University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. "With a fully funded facility, locally available ingredients could be researched and developed to supplement premixes currently being imported. This would be a definite economic benefit for both producers and the state of Hawaii."

According to Carpenter, by-products such as molasses and wheat mill run are not being used effectively as livestock feeds in Hawaii but are being shipped back to the mainland for sale there. Kevin Hopkins, Interim Director of the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center and Professor of Aquaculture within the College of Agriculture, Forestry, & Natural Resources and professor of agriculture at the University of Hawaii-Hilo said: "The lack of low-cost feeds is a severe impediment to profitability in both the livestock and aquaculture industries here in Hawai'i. Our mechanism to reduce feed costs is to utilize local agricultural products and byproducts within our feeds. "But feed mills and labs on the mainland are not really interested in developing feeds that utilize those agricultural byproducts unique to us. We need a facility in Hawaii to do that," Hopkins said. "Further, we need a facility in Hawai'i to train people in the development and manufacturing of feeds suited to the tropics and subtropics".

Hawaii's current annual feed usage for the livestock industries is estimated to be valued at more than \$28 million.

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MONDAY, APRIL 03, 2006

Riaz and Anjum Receive Grant to Establish Extrusion Research Center

Dr. Mian N. Riaz, Head, Extrusion Technology Program, and Graduate Faculty of Food Science and Technology Program at the Food Protein Research and Development Center, Texas A&M University and Dr. Faqir M. Anjum, Director, Institute of Food Science and Technology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad have received a grant of \$709,000.00 to establish an Extrusion Center at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan.

The two years award is from the Pakistan-US Science and Technology Cooperative Program (National Academy of Sciences, US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Higher Education Commission of

Pakistan). The selection process was highly competitive with only 11 awards out of 112 proposals.

Extruded food and feed products play a significant role in human and animal health in the US and other nations. To date this technology is absent in Pakistan, where it could have a major impact on food quality and utilization. The present project will establish the Centre for Excellence in Extrusion Technology. This Centre will facilitate teaching, research and product development for students. Moreover, this project will strengthen cooperation between two nations in the field of research and development through close collaboration between scientists from both nations. The Extrusion Center will also provide educational support to private and government entities.

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