

## October is National Cotton Gin History Month

Trans fats were not yet invented in 1794 when Eli Whitney filed his patent for the cotton gin, but his contraption would alter the very fabric of our nation's food heritage. Two centuries after cottonseed oil replaced lard as the preferred fat for baking and frying, it is being rediscovered as a healthy, trans-free cooking oil.

This October, the cotton industry will pay tribute to the late inventor as the U.S. Department of Agriculture proclaims "National Cotton Gin History Month."

"The cotton gin not only changed what our nation wears, it changed what it eats," says Ben Morgan, executive vice president of the National Cottonseed Products Association (NCPA). "We want to educate Americans about cottonseed oil's historic and modern-day role in our food supply."

A premium vegetable oil, cottonseed oil is derived from the seed of the cotton plant, he explains.

"Cottonseed oil was borne out of a proliferating cotton industry, and the need to find a use for all the cottonseed left over after gins remove the fiber," Morgan says. "Today, restaurateurs, bakers and manufacturers are incorporating cottonseed oil into their recipes, taking advantage of the oil's time-tested attributes, including neutral flavor and natural stability."

Because of its high stability, cottonseed oil does not require the hydrogenation process that produces artificial trans fats.

"With so much public discussion over the removal of trans, we want to do our part to ensure consumers and those in the commercial food industry know that cottonseed oil is a safe and healthy choice, and is even recognized as "heart-healthy" by the American Heart Association."

To learn more about cottonseed oil, visit [www.CottonseedOilTour.com](http://www.CottonseedOilTour.com).

## Campbell Soup begins campaign supporting National FFA

Campbell Soup Company is partnering with the National FFA Organization and Grammy-nominee Jewel to help raise awareness of the importance of supporting the future of American agriculture—the nation's largest employer. Through the "Help Grow Your Soup" campaign, Campbell will donate \$250,000 to champion FFA efforts. Singer/songwriter Jewel, who grew up on a homestead in Alaska and now lives on a working ranch in Texas, said growing up on a farm helped her appreciate the important role farming plays in ensuring families have good, quality food on their tables.

"Most people don't realize that the American farm is one of our most precious national resources," said Jewel. "As someone who has deep roots on the farm, I'm proud to support the future of agriculture across America."

Beginning Sept. 29, consumers can visit [HelpGrowYourSoup.com](http://HelpGrowYourSoup.com) and for each click on the red barn, Campbell will donate \$1 (up to \$250,000) to the National FFA Organization to support its educational and sustainability efforts, as well as preserve several barns across the country. The National FFA Alumni Association will spearhead the barn preservation effort, which also will provide a memorable educational opportunity for high school-age FFA members who will assist.

## Clean Water Farm-River Friendly Farm Project secures funding

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) notified the Kansas Rural Center of continued funding of the Clean Water Farm-River Friendly Farm Project (CWF-RFFFP). The funding comes from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 Grant Funds and is administered by KDHE.

Currently, the CWF-RFFFP is in year 4 of a 4-year grant from KDHE, which will end in March 2009. The newly approved funds are part of KDHE's new funding process built around WRAPS (Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy) watersheds, using EPA 319 funds and state water plan funds to address agriculture related water quality issues in key watersheds around the state. KRC will receive EPA 319 funds to work within up to 18 specific WRAPS watersheds from early 2009 into early 2010.

Working with local stakeholder teams and WRAPS Coordinators, KRC submitted proposals to individual watersheds to bring KRC's "services" to the watersheds. KRC has two related but separate projects—the CWF-RFFFP and a Grazing and Forages Education Project that will be merged under the new

grant to offer more efficient service to farmers and ranchers.

The project will continue to offer one-on-one consultations to farmers and ranchers using the River Friendly Farm Plan environmental assessment and grazing management and planning tools, to create whole farm plans and grazing management plans for individual farms and ranches.

The project offers \$250 incentive payments for completion of the River Friendly Farm environmental assessment within specific watersheds. The RFFFP is a self-assessment tool a producer can use to evaluate the environmental strengths and weaknesses of his or her farming operation. The planning process includes identification of needed and workable management changes and available financial and technical resources to plan and implement those changes.

Limited cost-share funds will also be available within specific WRAPS watersheds for demonstrations. KRC will work with these watersheds to recruit and develop these demonstrations. For more information, contact Mary Fund, at KRC at 785-873-3431, or [ksrc@rainbowtel.net](mailto:ksrc@rainbowtel.net).



## Ag-Chem expands, joins Challenger dealer network

By Larry Dreiling

As farms change, so too, do the needs of farm operators.

Nowhere has that change been apparent lately than in the needs of operators with large soybean crops. While soybean acres increased in 2008, so too did the number of states infested with Asian soybean rust.

The usual way to attack the fungus is with quick and timely spraying of the crop with strobilurin and triazole fungicides.

Unfortunately, this need for speed has made commercial applicators often too busy to handle the workload of preventative and curative care soybean crops affected by rust need to make a crop.

Enter Ag-Chem, considered one of the world leaders in commercial chemical sprayers. Just as recently as a year ago, Ag-Chem, with their RoGator sprayers and TerraGator high flotation applicators, had a small "Built For Business" dealer network dedicated to commercial operators.

That's all changed as AGCO, Ag-Chem's parent company, has recently announced that the full line of Ag-Chem products are now available at Challenger dealers across North America.

Under a contract with Caterpillar Tractor Co., AGCO sells Challenger products at select Caterpillar dealers and uses Cat's familiar yellow paint scheme on its products. Ag-Chem products use Cat engines and also are painted in the same way, so the joint sales venture seems to have great symmetry.

"We've worked to meet the needs of producers across the country, particularly in the soy-

bean belt where rust is a challenge. We think we have a great fit between Ag-Chem and Challenger and that will really benefit those producers," said Mark Sharitz, director of marketing for the Ag-Chem Application Equipment Division of AGCO.

"These great products will find an expanded audience as they're sold under the Challenger dealer network."

At a recent product launch, held at AGCO's Hesston, Kan., manufacturing facility, Challenger dealers were given an introductory session into two new RoGator Super Sprayer products, the SS884 and the SSc1084.

Both use the 7.2-litre CAT C7 turbocharged fully-electronic engine, with 275 base horsepower and 299 peak horsepower, a peak torque of 977 pounds per foot and a 42 percent torque rise.

Like all RoGator sprayers, the SS884 is engineered from the ground up to handle both pre- and post-emergent applications over a wide range of terrain and crop conditions.

RoGator's boom racking design provides a safe, clear view of traffic for optimal on-road travel.

The SS884 can be equipped with booms ranging from 80 to 120 feet. No other 800-gallon sprayer offers a 120-foot boom.

Whether applying liquid or dry material the SSc1084 has the operator covered. Changing the RoGator SSc1084 from liquid tanks to New Leader dry boxes can be done in as little as half a day. Two conveyor options handle a wide variety of products, including heavy material like lime.

Changing chemicals is as easy as changing out the injection tank utilizing either a 20 or 40-gallon interchangeable tank—allowing the operator to only run clean water in the product tank.

"It's hard to beat the performance of the RoGator SSc1084. Adjustable track widths, interchangeable application options and advanced technology will combine to make it the choice of ag professionals everywhere," Sharitz said.

Features common to both models include:

—RoGator's wheel-leg stance that offers a narrow, tucked-in profile.

—Chemicals that are discharged from the rear, away from the front-mounted engine to maximize performance and minimize engine maintenance.

—An exclusive C-channel frame to absorb shocks and flexes with field conditions.

Ergonomically designed to sustain the operator during the longest workdays, the Super Sprayer line also features an advanced six-post Crenlo cab with unobstructed panoramic views, easy flat deck entry, powerful night lighting and perfectly placed controls. The Super Sprayer's roomy, luxurious cab features industry-leading air-ride suspension to minimize operator fatigue.

"We think we have a great marriage here between Ag-Chem and Challenger dealers," Sharitz said. "The producer can only benefit."

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## In other agribusiness news....

**U.S. Wheat Associates** (USW) announces the appointment of Shane Townsend as Trade Policy Analyst at the Arlington, VA, headquarters. Townsend will report to USW Director of Policy Rebecca Bratter and contribute to the analysis of such policy issues as tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, food aid, credit programs, biotechnology and trade with sanctioned countries.

**Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.**, (BIVI) swine division announces Dan Kearney has joined the company's swine division as a regional sales manager for Region 5, which includes Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Jill Johnson has joined the BIVI swine division as a sales representative for the South Dakota, North Dakota and southwest

Minnesota sales region. Ron Rampersad also has joined the BIVI swine division as a senior sales representative for the national accounts team.

**Browning Seed, Inc.**, Plainview, Texas, a regional and international seed supplier, announced it has signed an agreement with AgriPro COKER, a division of Sygenta, to become a Certified Wheat Seed Associate. This agreement will open up new wheat and triticale genetics to be grown and marketed by Browning Seed, Inc., in addition to its own private and public genetics.

The **Association of Equipment Manufacturers** (AEM) has named two off-road equipment manufacturing industry executives to the AEM Board of Directors. They are: Robert G.

Harvell, President and CEO of LBX Company LLC in Lexington, Ky., and Scott R. Nelson, President of Bobcat Company Worldwide and CEO of Doosan Infracore International in West Fargo, N.D.

**Midwest Ford Dealers**, Manhattan, Kan., has committed more than \$10,000 in support of the Kansas FFA Foundation to contribute to the leadership and educational success of Kansas FFA members. The donated funds will sponsor the Environmental Sciences and Natural Resource Management Proficiency award, help members to attend Washington Leadership Conference and, through partnerships with local dealers, offer scholarships for higher education to FFA across the state of Kansas.