

The Point

NorthStar Cooperative Inc. customer newsletter

Your investment in the future

~ Gary Smith, General Manager

Annual stockowner meetings represent a transition from the end of one business year to the beginning of the next. NorthStar Cooperative closed its chapter on last year accomplishing many milestones. The annual stockowner meeting series was a terrific success and the annual meeting was a big hit as we traveled to Ohio and toured Select Sires. Please see page 7 of this newsletter for detailed information regarding elections, appointments and the proposed resolution.

The annual meeting provided an opportunity to review accomplishments of 2005, while previewing the future. Select Sires continues to be a leader in bovine genetics and market share in the industry. NorthStar's investment in Select Sires continues to provide you with more than just outstanding genetics, but also other tools which will help with your future success.

A new service, Select Reproductive Solutions™ is an expansion of NorthStar's Dairy Production Analysis and allows us to help improve fertility and create more pregnancies in your herd. In addition, DNA testing now available through NorthStar, using Merial's Igenity® tests, provides additional information that will assist with your herd's fertility and herd life traits. Making gender SELECTed™ semen commercially available in 2005 also meant creating replacement heifers got a little easier.

We are pleased with the progress of the gender SELECTed™ product line. Extensive field trials leading up to its release ensures you receive a high quality product with valuable data and experience to back it up. Recently, sorting machines were installed in the Select Sires Freeway Farm facility in Plain City, Ohio and the lab for producing gender SELECTed™ semen is now operating 24 hours a day, five days a

week. With the sorting process now taking place in Ohio we are able to offer an expanded lineup of gender SELECTed™ genetics.



Select Sires has been experimenting and researching sexed semen since the early 2000's. As the industry leader in the sexed semen market, we will continue to gather data and research possible ways to increase fertility to provide you the best available technologies. No other source in the United States for sexed semen currently offers the experience and research that backs gender SELECTed™ semen.

In closing I would like to congratulate the winners of the 2006 NorthStar Cooperative, Inc. Scholarship. Greta Koebel of Three Oaks, Michigan; Marc Shambeau of Two Rivers, Wisconsin and Bryce Slavik of Ashley, Michigan are all recipients of \$500 scholarships. I would also like to congratulate Diane Voelz of Tilleda, Wisconsin and again Bryce Slavik for being recipients of the National DHIA scholarship. For more information on either of these scholarships visit with your area NorthStar representative.

The future looks bright and we are excited to continue to provide you with the latest technologies to assist with production and profitability on your farm.



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Enhancing producer results through integrated services.