

Top Crop Workshop later this month

WITH the hectic planting season over, this month might be a good time to catch Purdue's Top Farmer Crop Workshop.

The 41st annual workshop, to be held July 20-23, has a variety of experts from across the Midwest to address a wide variety of topics. Farm Progress' Bryce Knorr, *Farm Futures* senior editor,

will take an in-depth look at the skills of tomorrow's farmer. In addition, farmers from Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Iowa, Ohio, Nebraska and Idaho will share their experience on topics such as reducing input costs, no-till options and commodity prices.

To view the entire agenda, go online to www.agecon.purdue.edu/topfarmer/

conference.asp. The workshop will be held in the Dean's Auditorium in the Pfendler Hall of Agriculture, on Purdue's West Lafayette, Ind., campus.

Space is limited, so pre-registration is essential to guarantee a seat. The registration fee for the first person is \$300. Each person from the same farm after that is \$100. Registration includes

two meals, coffee breaks and the opportunity to test farm plans using the B-21 linear programming analysis. First-time attendees will receive a \$100 discount. On-site registration will begin at 5 p.m., July 20.

■ To register, go to www.conf.purdue.edu/topcrop or call 765-494-7220.

Deere accelerates combine production at East Moline site

DEERE and Co. will invest approximately \$35 million to gain an additional 30% in manufacturing capacity for combine harvesting systems produced at the John Deere Harvester Works in East Moline.

"This initiative will help John Deere meet the growing demand worldwide for large combines," says Markwart Von Pentz, president, Agricultural Division, Europe, Africa, South America and Global Harvesting Equipment Sourcing. "The global acceptance of the innovative STS combine is the key driver in our decision to increase the manufacturing capacity of John Deere Harvester Works."

The investment will include machine tooling and fixtures, improved work processes, and improvements to the existing paint system. The project is expected to be completed in 2009.

Earlier this year, Deere said it was also investing in the Waterloo, Iowa, facilities to expand manufacturing capacity for large, high-horsepower tractors as worldwide demand for agricultural equipment continues to be strong.

Source: Deere and Co.

Ag in the Classroom celebrates \$10,000 from state of Illinois

THE Illinois Department of Agriculture gave a \$10,000 grant to the Illinois Ag in the Classroom program. The funding will help the program continue to provide the necessary tools to train and educate future decision-makers regarding the role of agriculture in today's society.

The goal of Illinois Ag in the Classroom is to ensure pre-K through high school teachers can continue to teach required subjects while making ag-related connections for students.

In 2006-07, the program distributed \$300,000 to 55 counties. The county programs generated an additional \$1,780,810 in matching grants. Nearly 450,000 students in grades pre-K through 12 were reached with the Ag in the Classroom message.

Source: IDOA

■ To learn more about the program, visit www.agintheclassroom.org/060605/aitchome.html.

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