

## New Watch



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All hybrids containing Herculex® also contain the LibertyLink® gene, most also are available with the Roundup Ready® Corn 2 gene.



HTF Ethanol Hybrids



**MARKET CHOICES:** Grain harvested from products that bear this mark is fully approved for food and feed use in the United States and Japan, but is not approved in the European Union. You must find a market for this crop that will not ship this grain or its processed products to Europe. Appropriate markets for this grain include: domestic feed use or grain handlers that specifically agree to accept this grain and handle it appropriately. For more information on your grain market options, go to the American Seed Trade Association's website at [www.amseed.org](http://www.amseed.org) or call your seed supplier. MARKET CHOICES is a certification mark used under license from ASTA. Know Before You Grow™, an information service provided by National Corn Growers Association at [www.ncga.com](http://www.ncga.com).



To protect the usefulness and availability of these technologies for the future, growers must implement an Insect Resistance Management (IRM) program as specified in product use guides for the following traits available in Pioneer corn hybrids: Herculex® I, Herculex RW, Herculex XTRA and YieldGard® Corn Borer.

For detailed IRM requirements for hybrids with in-plant insect resistance, refer to the appropriate product use guide, available from your Pioneer sales professional or on the web at: [www.pioneer.com/IRM](http://www.pioneer.com/IRM).



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PHOTO BY SUE HODGSON

**SANTA IN THE SADDLE:** Santa Larry waves a Christmas greeting aboard Thunder, his 9-year-old mustang.

## Farmers help Santa spread holiday cheer

By GARY HODGSON

**E**VERYONE knows where Santa calls home in the off-season. But have you ever wondered where all his bearded helpers go after the malls take down their holiday decorations after Christmas? Some return to a farm or ranch to await the next Yuletide season.

Thanks to a company in Colorado Springs, Colo., a select handful of long-haired, naturally bearded Santa look-alikes, who are also farmers and ranchers, have found a unique supplement to their ag incomes.

Billy Gooch, president of Naturally Santa Inc., admits to farm ties long before forming the company in 1992. Gooch and wife "Mama Gooch" employ more than 80 Santa impersonators. Among them are several ag producers who moonlight as ambassadors from the North Pole. (Company policy prohibits divulging their full names or hometowns.)

Santa Dale, raises wheat, hay and

quarter horses. He originally grew his beard to be a model for an artist wishing to paint a bearded mountain man. After friends pointed out his Saint Nick similarities, Dale joined Naturally Santa in 1997. Each November, he climbs down from his combine, combs out the beard and heads to a location arranged for him by the company.

Asked if his beard gets in the way of his farmwork, Dale replies, "I have to be pretty careful closing wire gates."

Producers Gary and Larry also moonlight as Santa's helpers. Gary in the off-season trucks his produce to farmers markets. He grows green beans, tomatoes, onions, asparagus and blackberries. Gary has had a beard for nearly 40 years before joining the company two years ago.

As for Larry, his two passions are spreading holiday cheer and riding Thunder, a 9-year-old Mustang captured in the wild.

*Hodgson writes from Brush, Colo.*

Farm Progress and the Ford Motor Company Salute the 2008 Ford Truck Scholarship Winners



To view this year's winners visit  
[www.WesternFarmerStockman.com](http://www.WesternFarmerStockman.com)  
 and click on the  
 Ford Truck Scholarship Salute button.

CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING THIS YEAR'S CREAM OF THE CROP

## Calendar

### December

**2-4:** Strategy vs. System: Grazing for Desired Outcomes symposium, Fort Collins, Colo. Information and registration Web site: [www.cssrm.org](http://www.cssrm.org).

**3-5:** Hermiston Farm Fair & Trade Show, Hermiston, Ore. Phone: 541-567-6151.

**10:** Workshop on high-residue farming under irrigation, ATEC Center, Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake, Wash. Phone: 509-754-2011, ext. 413. Web site: [grant-adams.wsu.edu](http://grant-adams.wsu.edu).

**8-10:** Far West Agribusiness Winter Conference, Kennewick, Wash. Web site: [www.fvaa.org](http://www.fvaa.org).

**10:** Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District annual meeting, 6 p.m., Spray Grange Hall, Spray, Ore. Contact: Debra Bunch. Phone: 541-468-2990. E-mail: [debrabunch@gmail.com](mailto:debrabunch@gmail.com).

**11-13:** Montana Stockgrowers Association's annual meeting and trade show, Holiday Inn Grand Mountain, Billings, Mont. Contact: Rose. Phone: 406-442-3420. Web site: [www.mtbeef.org](http://www.mtbeef.org).

### January

**5-8:** University of Wyoming Big Horn Basin Growers tour of Phoenix Farms. Contact: Sandra Frost. Phone: 307-754-8836.

**6-7:** Pasco Ag Show, Pasco, Wash. Web site: [www.pascoagshow.com](http://www.pascoagshow.com).

**14-17:** Young Farm and Ranch Couples Conference, Best Western Great Northern Hotel, Helena, Mont. Contact: Walt Anseth. Phone: 406-444-2402. E-mail: [agr@mt.gov](mailto:agr@mt.gov).

**21-22:** Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association's Direct Seed Cropping Systems Conference, Three Rivers Conference Center, Kennewick, Wash. Phone: 208-301-0810. E-mail: [pnds@directseed.org](mailto:pnds@directseed.org).

**25-27:** Harvesting Clean Energy conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Billings, Mont. Web sites: [www.capps.wsu.edu/cleanenergy](http://www.capps.wsu.edu/cleanenergy) and [www.harvestcleanenergy.org](http://www.harvestcleanenergy.org).

**27:** Oregon Horticultural Society annual meeting, Portland Expo Center, Portland, Ore. Phone: 503-371-7457. Web site: [www.oregonhorticulturalsociety.org](http://www.oregonhorticulturalsociety.org).

**27-29:** Northwest Agricultural Show, Portland Expo Center, Portland, Ore. Phone: 503-736-5200.

**28:** Noxious Weed Conference, Wallenstien Performing Arts Center, Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake, Wash. Phone: 509-754-2011, ext. 375.