

Local Dairyman Honored

On the evening of March 18, 2010 at a banquet on the University of Minnesota - St. Paul campus, Watkins dairyman Steve Tuman was inducted into the Minnesota Livestock Hall of Fame and a portrait of Steve was unveiled. Each year, the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association honors those who have made a significant contribution to our state's livestock industry and who have served the whole agricultural community.

For the past 19 years, Steve and his wife, Nancy, have operated a farm near Watkins where they breed and raise Brown Swiss dairy cattle. They moved to Watkins from the Glencoe area where they began their dairy operation in the early 1970s.

Steve had always enjoyed showing cattle in 4-H, and his dream was to develop a good herd of show cattle. After assembling a small herd with good pedigrees and sound type, Steve purchased a cow from an Ohio breeder with an outstanding herd of Brown Swiss. The following year (1974) L-J Star Jeavarissa Jean went on to take Grand Champion honors at the Minnesota State Fair, the National Dairy Congress in Waterloo, IA, and the World Dairy Expo at Madison, WI.

Steve sold offspring out of Jean to grow his herd into what it is today. He has shown cattle at the Minnesota State Fair and the World Dairy Expo every year since.

"My passion has been to breed good, functional cows," says Steve, who admits he gets a little carried away with breeding for type. "I like cows that look good as well as milk good." Cows with good feet and legs and udders tend to have more longevity and produce more milk overall, he explains.

Steve's other passion is judging. With his show success has come many offers to judge over the years. He has judged 13 state fairs, the Southeastern National Show in Louisville, KY twice, the Eastern National in Harrisburg, PA twice, the Central National twice, and the Southern National in Dallas, TX. He has also judged internationally in Bogota, Columbia besides

judging 4-H and FFA shows across Minnesota. On many occasions, Steve has hosted 4-H, FFA, and U of M collegiate judging teams at his dairy for practice sessions.

Instead of hobnobbing with the winners, Steve enjoys walking out into the barns after judging an event to visit with the other participants and field their questions on how they could improve in the show ring.

Steve has purchased both concentrates and complete feeds from Munson Lakes Nutrition since 2002. "Our herd average has climbed over the years we've worked with Munsons," he states. "We've always been happy with their service," Steve adds. "If we have a problem, I call Doug (Sawatzke) and he calls me right back." According to Steve, Doug keeps him updated on new products and technologies and gives him the information he needs to make common-sense decisions on herd nutrition. "[Munson Lakes] is the best value I've found, and when I call for feed, it's always here on time," states the new inductee to the Minnesota Livestock Hall of Fame.

Eventually, Steve would like to turn the dairy over to his daughter Holly and son-in-law Casey, who are currently working with him and have started their own herd. ●

Steve Tuman, Willow Wells Farm, Watkins.



He Kept the Mill Running

“What I’m most proud of in my 34 years at the Howard Lake mill is the lack of downtime and breakdowns,” says Gary Foede, our maintenance man at Munson Lakes Nutrition. Gary will retire June 2—the exact day he came to work for the Munson Feed Company in 1976. (June 2 is also the birthday of Gary’s wife, Bonnie.)

Gary credits his ability to keep the mill running to his senses. “It’s just a matter of paying attention to sounds and smells and picking up on things that could happen before they do happen,” he explains.

Gary grew up in the Montrose-Waverly area and received his education in the Buffalo School District. He worked construction the first year out of school, then for three years set tombstones in Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota, Iowa, and Missouri. “Not a lot of people can say they put tombstones in a cemetery,” he smiles, adding, “I could drive the state of Nebraska without a roadmap because I spent so much time there.”

Returning to Minnesota he went into the welding trade and for eight years worked at a little shop near Delano, managing it for the last five years. He then worked in a welding shop in St. Louis Park, before coming to work for Munson Feeds in 1976.

Gary says he’ll miss the routine of going to work every day. “You get used to doing certain things, and when you have to stop, I imagine that’s hard,” he states. What he won’t miss is climbing to the top of the legs in -20° temperatures to fix a bearing. “I did a lot of nasty stuff in the cold,” he states.

Gary says he wasn’t fond of heights when he began working at the Howard Lake Mill, but adds that he grew into it. “We should all be a little respectful of heights,” he states. “One big thing about climbing,” he advises, “is to always have one



Gary Foede points to legs he climbed at -20° to replace a bearing. He says his dad, George, taught him to treat other people’s property the way he treats his own.

foot and one hand on the ladder.” At one point in his job, Gary would check all the bearings and climb 400 feet once a month to grease everything. Before 1998, he was also responsible for maintaining all vehicles in MLN’s delivery fleet.

In retirement, Gary is looking forward to spending time working on his big lawn and garden in Cokato. He’ll also spend more time fishing and hunting.

“Gary has been a great help for me, personally, as we added new equipment or replaced equipment, because he was there when most of it was installed the first time,” says John Zander, MLN general manager. “I consulted with him on truck purchases and any improvements that were done at the mill. His mechanical knowledge will be missed.”

John adds with a grin, “I wish Gary the best and hope that he still brings in his Christmas goodies.” ●



BIG WHEEL DAY

On April 17, local businesses were asked to bring a vehicle to the parking lot of the HLWW High School to show young children and their families the many types of vehicles that work in our community. Munson Lakes Nutrition trucker Rob Painschab brought a tractor-trailer combo to the event. Rob is pictured above showing Katie and Joey Bickman through the cab.

Serving Farmers and Communities for 75 Years

By John Zander, General Manager



Munson Lakes Nutrition has just been notified of a very special honor. For the fourth consecutive year, Land O'Lakes®/Purina® Feeds has named MLN to the Chow Honor Council. That honor is based solely on growth sales of Purina Feeds. We are thrilled to be recognized again for that accomplishment, and we give credit to our sales team for continuing to grow our business.

This honor is the latest of many awards for quality and growth that MLN has received over its 75-year history. It underscores the fact that we take seriously our responsibility to help our customers achieve the best results on their farms. But our responsibility, as a local agribusiness, does not end there. We play an important role by representing agriculture to the communities that our farmer-customers call home.

For instance, you will read elsewhere in this newsletter that Munson Lakes Nutrition is one of the organizations sponsoring Breakfast on the Farm—an event designed to bring farmers and non-farmers together, and to educate non-farmers about the positive role agriculture plays in their lives. Last year 1,300 people attended Breakfast on the Farm.

We recently sent one of our feed trucks and a driver to participate in Big Wheel Day, a program of the Early Childhood

Program of Howard Lake, Waverly, and Winsted. The purpose of this program is to show young children and their families the many types of vehicles that work within our community. (See a photo on page 2.)

This dual role of serving farmers and representing agriculture in their communities has been going on for three quarters of a century. In August of this year, Munson Lakes Nutrition invites you to a very special celebration—our 75th Anniversary. The celebration will be held in conjunction with our annual Customer Appreciation Pork Chop Feed at Howard Lake Memorial Park, on August 18. We'll give you more details on the event as it gets closer. ●

Our Mission

**Some things never change—
even after 75 years.**

The values that shaped our heritage will remain. Munson Lakes Nutrition will continue to:

- Manufacture a great product at a fair price.
- Give great customer service.
- Base every decision on fairness and decency.

Making Our Calf Feeds Even Better

Munson Lakes Nutrition has chosen to use Steam-Flaked Corn (SFC) in many of its starters, including Special Calf Feed. Here's why. A number of trials have been conducted recently using Whole Corn, Steam-Flaked Corn, and Rolled Corn. These trials considered how including these three forms of grain in the ration would affect intakes, average daily gain (ADG), and rumen development.

The main purpose of a starter program at this young age is to develop the rumen. Rumen development (papillae length) while calves are on milk comes from grain intake. In most of the trials, SFC gave the best papillae growth, Whole Corn was very close to SFC, while Rolled Corn gave the least growth.

Of the three grains tested, SFC cost the least per pound of gain produced, because building a calf starter with SFC resulted in fewer fines than either Whole Corn or Rolled Corn.

Visit with your Munson Lakes sales nutritionist for more on our commitment to provide you with a line of starters that will work for you and your calves. ●

Calf starter containing
Steam-Flaked Corn.



PO Box 549
 Howard Lake, MN 55349

**MUNSON LAKES
 NUTRITION DIRECTORY**

Howard Lake

Office 800-245-7717
 320-543-2561

The Country Store 800-663-9177
 320-543-3517



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, June 19, 2010

Goldview Farms
 (park at HLWW High School; free shuttle to farm)

Breakfast on Farm: pancakes, sausage, juice,
 and milk served 7 a.m. – noon

\$2/person; children 5 and under free

Activities: Tour an operating dairy farm, free
 cheese and ice cream samples, wagon rides,
 photos with a calf, children's barnyard

For more information, become a Facebook fan
 of our Breakfast on the Farm group.

Friday, July 16, 2010

8:00 p.m.

HLWW High School

Sorghum Hill Bluegrass Band
 Featuring Jessie Munson on fiddle

Free admission



Wednesday, August 18, 2010

Howard Lake Memorial Park

Munson Lakes Customer Appreciation Pork
 Chop Feed and 75th Anniversary Celebration
More information soon.

The Industry's Finest Lubricants, Hydraulic Parts and Accessories



Now Available Through The Country Store, Howard Lake, MN
 Call 320-543-3517. Ask for Paul or Wade.

