

Faulring earns agricultural honor

Frank Faulring and Renaldo Sales & Service, Inc. of North Collins are the recipients of one of agriculture's most prestigious national awards, the 1992 Agricultural Engineering 50 Award presented by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

The awards receive an editorial salute complete with photos in the September issue of "Agricultural Engineering" magazine.

Faulring and the Renaldo organization were selected by a peer group of designers, developers, managers, and others actively involved in the field of agricultural engineering.

Entries are solicited from companies involved in the development of products and systems intended for use in agricultural projects and entrants include such agricultural giants as divisions of John Deere, J. I. Case, Weyerhaeuser, and Ford New Holland.

Their award was based on a transplanting system for plastic mulch-covered fields, a system which took six years to reach the marketing stage. While this transplanter is not limited to plastic mulch-covered fields, Faulring said, "Virtually all other planters are designed for in-row, bare ground planting only."

This patented ground engagement system, marketed under the name Posi-Flow, is a landmark patent (a totally new concept rather than a refinement or development of a previous system). The development of Posi-Flow for transplanting was a six-year project.

Faulring commended the Renaldo organization for their perseverance and financial support of the development of the transplanting system as well as W. D. Henry and Agle & Sons in Eden for their cooperation in field trials of the equipment.

Where accepted, this transplanter can measurably impact the cost of raising vegetables by commercial growers with the potential of lowering grocery store prices through labor reduction. In Florida, one grower using one transplanter has used the machine to replace an 80-man crew with a 90 percent labor cost-saving.

Plastic mulch, rapidly becoming an industry standard for high-yield crops, addresses consumer concerns about the environment since with this mulch measurably less fertilizer is needed with resultant less leaching, water use is limited through moisture control for growing, fewer pesticides are needed than with bare ground, and the quantity and quality of fruit is better than on bare ground.

Faulring, design engineer at Renaldo's, is receiving this award for the second time. He was honored in 1988 for his development of a seed planter for use in plastic mulch-covered fields which has been marketed mainly in Florida, Georgia, and Texas where seed can be started in the field because of the longer, warmer growing season whereas the transplanter can be marketed worldwide without this restriction.

The eight-year development of the seed planter resulted in the production of a system able to perform many func-

tions using a mechanism with only seven moving parts which can be altered by the use of accessories.

In November, Faulring will be presenting a paper on the Posi-Flow Transplanting System at the National Symposium for Stand Establishment in Horticultural Crops in Fort Meyers, Florida.

His first presentation for the Society of Agricultural Engineers was in June 1991 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

He has been published in four trade magazines in the past 10 months — the January 1992 "Grower," the February 1992 "American Vegetable Grower," the September 1992 "Agricultural Engineering," and the October 1992 "Productores de Hortalizas" (a Mexican publication).

"The current manual transplanter is just the first phase. We're working on a second, fully-automated model now. We expect there to be five models when the project is complete," Faulring said.

Riding center gets grant

The Buffalo Foundation has awarded a \$3,000 grant to North Haven Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc. towards the purchase of equipment and a scholarship fund for the therapeutic horseback riding program.

The grant will go towards the purchase of ASTM/SEI safety helmets which are a requirement for competition in the Special Olympics, saddles, a television/VCR monitor and a copy machine. North Haven Therapeutic Riding Center is located on Gowanda Zoar Road, outside the Village of Gowanda, and has provided horseback riding to over 227 individuals and 15 different disabilities since its incorporation in 1989.

Lake Shore Hospital gets new equipment

Lake Shore Hospital's surgical department has purchased endoscopic equipment which will make diagnosis and treatment of problems in the digestive system easier for both patients and doctors.

The \$65,000 Olympus Endoscopic Video Information System combines computer technology and television. Using a tube containing a glass optical fiber, doctors are able to look inside a patient's upper or lower digestive tract. Images picked up by the lens are enhanced by the computer and transmitted to a television monitor.

The Lake Shore Health Care Center Auxiliary contributed \$20,000 toward the purchase. The Lake Shore Hospital Foundation donated \$12,500 and the Buffalo Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant.

Railroad reunion

Tom Blake, local chairman of U.T.U. No. 1393, has announced the third an-