



Behlen to acquire Sweet Manufacturing

COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, US — Behlen Mfg. Co. has signed an agreement to acquire Sweet Manufacturing Co., based in Springfield, Ohio, US, with closing expected by the end of February.

Sweet Manufacturing, specializing in agricultural and industrial bulk material handling equipment, has been a family-owned business for more than 69 years. Behlen has been in business since 1936 and has been family-owned for more than 40 years.

“As I prepare for a transition toward retirement, I cannot think of a better partner than Behlen to carry on the legacy of Sweet Manufacturing,” said Alicia Sweet Hupp, president, chief executive officer and principal owner of Sweet. “Together, Sweet and Behlen are well positioned to offer a broader range of solutions for the grain, feed and industrial storage and handling industry.”

Tony Raimondo Jr, chairman of Behlen’s board, said the relationship forged between Behlen and Sweet over the past

several years shows the foundational beliefs, culture and commitment to meeting the needs of customers aligns perfectly.

“We are excited to welcome Sweet into the Behlen family of businesses and look forward to a bright future together as we work on solutions and serve our customers around the world,” he said.

Behlen Mfg. Co., based in Columbus, Nebraska, US, is a manufacturer with diverse business units, including Behlen Country (farm and ranch equipment), Behlen Building Systems (metal building systems), Behlen Grain Systems (grain storage solutions), Behlen Custom Fab, Behlen Joiners (strip joining presses), and Hilton International Industries Co. (precision winding machines).

Its in-house trucking system, BMC Transportation, delivers Behlen products throughout the United States and Canada using a fleet of owner-operators.

Sweet Manufacturing is the 14th acquisition for Behlen since its return to local ownership in 1984.

■ Swiss Institute of Feed Technology program graduates 16

UZWIL, SWITZERLAND — After 10 months of training, 16 participants received a diploma from the Swiss Institute of Feed Technology (SFT).

Participants from six continents and 14 countries participated in the 39th edition of the diploma course in compound feed technology in Uzwil, Switzerland.

“You have now everything in your hands to make precise and efficient progress in your company with the right technology,” said Reto Mösch, vice president, SFT, to the graduates. “Today’s challenges such as the availability of raw materials, variations in their quality, changing eating and purchasing habits of consumers, the use of byproducts from the food industry and the demand for sustainable and efficient technologies require the development and dissemination of technological and innovative know-how. At the same time, increasing regulatory requirements for feed safety, animal health and animal welfare pose additional challenges to feed manufacturers.”

Lothar Driller, managing director of the SFT, added, “Training in feed milling at the Swiss Institute of Feed Technology provides graduates with the necessary knowledge to successfully meet these demands.”

The diploma course covers a wide range of fundamentals from process engineering, animal nutrition, automation and feed mill management to the latest sensor technologies. These skills will enable graduates to take on management roles and successfully develop the industry.

A special highlight of the graduation ceremony was the honoring of Mark Werthmann, who graduated top of class with an overall grade of 96%.

Werthmann works as a process engineer for Bühler AG in Switzerland. In addition, he was a lecturer for the subjects of



Liquid and Steam Addition as well as Sensor Technology.

At the graduation ceremony, he was awarded the traditional Swiss tin plate for his outstanding achievements.

The training to become a feed production engineer takes place on a part-time basis. The attendance period is eight weeks, divided into two blocks. Between the two blocks, participants undertake independent studies in 21 subjects.

During the two intensive courses, participants complete a total of 13 written examinations. The two oral examinations on the core thematic areas, in front of a panel of experts, form the highlight and final phase of each learning block.

The SFT provides professionals from the feed milling industry and related sectors with practical expertise in the production of animal feed. Upon successful completion of the diploma course, graduates will be able to understand and apply all modern process technologies and machines in a compound feed manufacturing plant.

The Swiss multinational plant equipment manufacturer Bühler AG is a partner of the SFT.

Photo courtesy of Swiss Institute of Feed Technology