

Going with the grain

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CFC Farm & Home Center received an elite designation recently.

The Culpeper Farmers' Coop received the Safe Feed/Safe Food certification, becoming just one of two mills in the state to qualify.

Becoming Safe Feed/Safe Food-certified means CFC Farm & Home Center demonstrates and ensures continuous improvements in delivering safe, wholesome livestock feed for the growth and care of animals. Safe Feed/Safe Food is a one-of-a-kind, voluntary program that has resulted in the certification of about 330 feed-related facilities. Certified facilities go above and beyond federal requirements to ensure that the highest standards in manufacturing and processing are followed each and every day.

"It gives you peace of mind," CFC Farm & Home Center General Manager David Durr said. "It expands on federal standards and it's just going to be another facet of what we do. As a farmer-owned Cooperative, animal feeds are an important part of our business and the safety of the animals we feed is paramount."

The AFIA's Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification signifies that CFC Farm & Home Center has embraced the feed industry's role in creating feed-based safety programs; that they are doing their part to reduce food safety risks; that they are participating in an approved risk-management program; and that they are aggressively practicing risk reduction. The feed industry makes a major contribution to food safety, nutrition and the environment and it plays a critical role in the production of healthy, wholesome meat, milk, fish and eggs.

"We are pleased to add the Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification to the Virginia's Finest and Virginia Grown designations on our feeds," said Ed Dunphy, Director of Retail Marketing. "The products produced here in Culpeper at our Culpeper Farmers' Cooperative feed mill add value to the crops raised by our farmers, and contribute to the overall economic health of the region we serve."

According to Feed Technical Services manager Sam Strahan, CFC makes 25,000 tons of feed on a yearly basis.

"We're going above and beyond with this program," Strahan said.

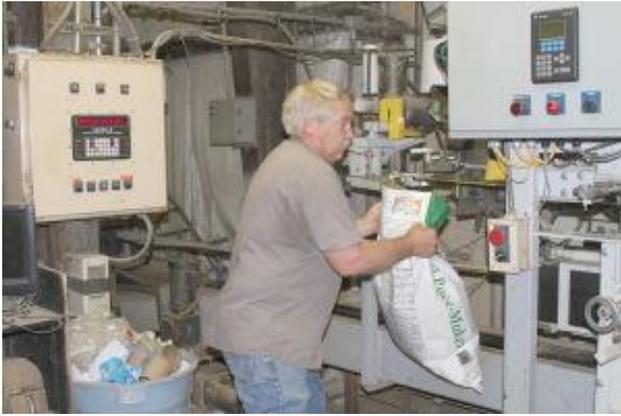
The Safe Feed/Safe Food program means that the CFC has control of the ingredients from the start of the process. Last year the farmer's coop received the Virginia's Finest certification and all of the feed created at the facility is made from locally harvested grains. The coop purchased 500,000 bushels of grain last year from regional farmers.

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CULPEPER NEWS



Harry Carpenter, mill operator at CFC Farm & Home Center in Culpeper bags horse pellets at the mill Wednesday. The center recently became just the second mill in Virginia to receive the Safe Feed/Safe Food certification.

The loading and unloading of grains at the coop is completely computerized and has been since 1992. The ingredients for feed comes into the facility and is sampled to be tested before being loaded into bins in the mill.

The coop is in the middle of a more than \$700,000 upgrade that is scheduled to be finished in three weeks. According to Durr, storage will be increased by 100,000 bushels and two new receiving areas and a new conveyor.