

FEEDS DIVISION INVESTMENTS IN PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION BLENDS PLANTS ESTABLISHED IN AYR, PENRITH AND EXETER

NWF Agriculture Ltd, the Feeds Division of NWF Group plc, has taken several steps to improve the manufacture and distribution of its cattle feeds.

Compound feeds (finely ground, cooked and pelleted) are made in the company's two mills at Wardle, Cheshire, and Wixland, Devon. Wardle has a capacity of some 300,000 tonnes per annum and is the country's largest cattle feed mill while Wixland, expanded since its acquisition in December 2004, can produce around 100,000 tonnes per year.

In addition, there is increasing demand from dairy, beef and sheep farmers for blends which are simple mixtures of raw materials without the processing applied to compound feeds. Both Wardle and Wixland can produce blends in addition to compound feeds but in order to bring the product closer to all potential customers, blends plants are also being established at Ayr in Scotland, Penrith in Cumbria and Exeter in Devon. These plants can also be used for transshipping bulk compound feeds from Wardle and Wixland into smaller vehicles for local delivery.

David Warrington, Managing Director of NWF Agriculture commented: "This combination of two major feed mills with three satellites up and down the M74/M6/M5 corridor gives excellent service to the ever-growing number of NWF livestock farmer customers located on the western side of Britain. Only ten years ago, the Wardle mill was producing less than 100,000 tonnes per year since when NWF's market share has grown considerably. In addition, having only entered the growing blends market in 1999, we produced around 70,000 tonnes last financial year and now will have further capacity in the current 2005/06 year"

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