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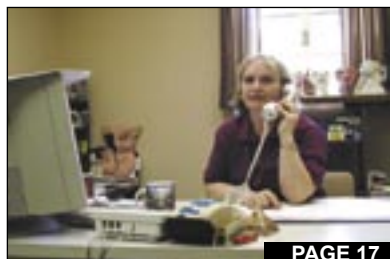
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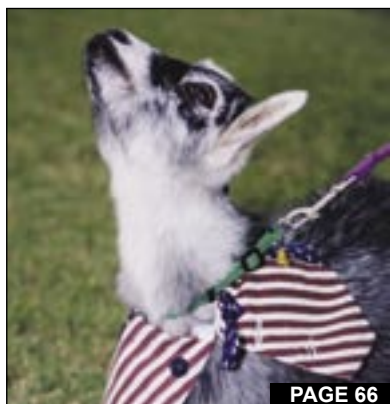
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On The Cover

Main photo courtesy of Canadian Home Rotors, Inc. For more, see page 30. Inset photo courtesy of Stampede Steel. For more, see page 41.

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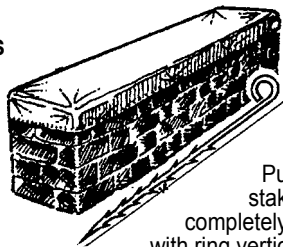
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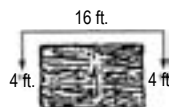
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FARM POND WATER QUALITY MAINTENANCE

By Jim A. Keeton, Fisheries Biologist

A major challenge on the farmstead is maintaining a pond for not only aesthetic appearance, but also a balanced fishery and good water quality. Many ponds are plagued with poor water quality that can result in major algae blooms, fish kills and poor water transparency. Poor water quality is the root of all evil concerning ornamental ponds, resulting in low oxygen; excessive algae and weed growth and not so nice looking water.

Many of us wonder what are the causes of such conditions and how we can correct them. Most biologists know that excessive nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are the culprits of poor water quality. Even small amounts of these nutrients in water can make a major difference between a clean pond and an unsightly pond.

NUTRIENTS

Sources of nutrient entering a pond come from a variety of sources that we call non-point source pollution because it is hard to identify all sources in particular pond watershed. In agricultural areas, run-off from fields, corrals, barns etc. can contribute large amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen if your pond is down stream. Even wells can be a major contributor to algae growth if they are loaded with nutrients. Many people assume if the water from a well is clear and cold, then it must be good when in fact, testing many times reveals high levels of phosphorus and even nitrogen.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The key to a successful farm pond management and a beautiful pond are maintaining water quality through a variety of options.



Before Microbes

The best management approach is solutions that are biological and mechanical, without the use of chemicals. In many cases we cannot control sources of nutrient entering a pond, so in-pond

methods can be used to reduce nutrients and maintain good water quality and clarity.

These methods include:

Subsurface aeration, consisting of fine bubble diffusers to increase oxygen, freshening water, reducing nutrients and creating a better aquatic habitat for beneficial organisms to return to the pond. Subsurface aeration is the best as these aerators can circulate large volumes of water from the bottom up with low power consumption when compared to fountains. There are even solar powered aerators for lake and ponds that are as good

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Beneficial microbial additions, a new technology that is very effective and a very promising aquatic management tool. Microbes can effectively reduce nutrients to low levels, digest bottom sludge and reduce all forms of nitrogen. Various beneficial microbes are now available for different functions, depending upon pond conditions.

Artificial substrates can be added for ponds that are very eutrophic (heavy nutrient levels), to grow beneficial organisms and absorb nutrients maintaining clear water.

To summarize call a professional biologist that can assess your ponds state of health and make recommendations based upon sound science. In the next article we will expand on aeration, biological management procedures and fishery management.



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Recently, Ioka Farms has become a distributor for New Zealand company, Pyne Gould Guinness. This seed company specializes in development and production of unique and specialized seeds for forage and pasture, as well as for wildlife uses. They are working in conjunction with a Pyne Gould Guinness agronomist to create high quality, high performance, custom blends for pasture, vine-

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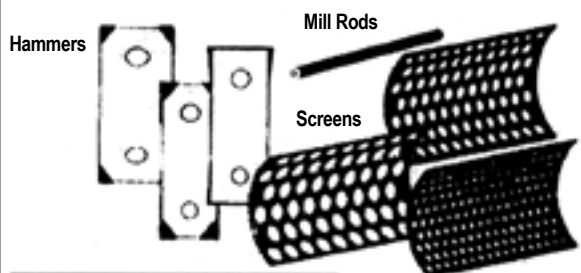
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continued on page 18

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Features: 10 gauge steel structure, stainless steel drawers (will not rust); will hold up to 100 lbs. and more. Rubber-lined drawers & bench top

Options: electric vises, parts washers, any color available.

Excellent for new or existing shops.

For more information and to order please contact

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AG-CO • Polyanna Cupolas

Create a landmark by placing a Polyanna Cupola on any size building - from residential homes, garages, and backyard sheds to large warehouses and post frame barns. Just updating the look of an existing building or topping off a new one has never been easier.

Polyanna Cupolas are designed of weather-resistant, high-density polyethylene that is lightweight, impact resistant and will never rust or decay. Polyanna Cupolas are maintenance-free and retain the quality of their original appearance for a lifetime. They combine the rigidity of polyethylene with the convenience of lightweight construction for easy shipping and quick installation on any shingled or metal roof.

Good ventilation is critical for the structural integrity of roofs of all types. Polyanna Cupola Models 220, 320 and 420 are designed with vented and screened louvers on all four sides to provide excellent ventilation (model 120 is not vented).

With any combination of nine complementary colors, the two-piece construction (model 120 is one piece) allows you to coordinate a cupola design that best accents your building. Four models are available with sizes ranging from a 12" to 42" square base. Polyanna Cupolas are available with a choice of three weathervane options: horse, country doctor or rooster (full-bodied and gold-bronze weathervane ornaments also available). Unique to the Polyanna Cupola is an optional photo-sensor light kit that automatically illuminates the cupola with a soft glow at night.



For more information, contact AG-CO, Inc. at 800-522-2426 or www.ag-co.com to add a unique touch of distinct style with a new Polyanna Cupola.

Grain Tank For Haybuster 2650 Processor



- 22-Bu. Capacity
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The Next Step in Precision Farming

The Zeltex ZX-50 Portable Whole-Grain Analyzer

Since the early 1970s, grain elevators and terminals have been using near-infrared analyzers to grade the protein, moisture and oil in grains to achieve the highest quality and most profit. This ability to analyze grain quickly, easily and accurately for the constituent content has been reserved for the large companies who could afford \$20,000, \$30,000 or even \$50,000-dollar NIR analyzers to analyze for protein until now.

Protein analysis is now available at farm level with the ZX-50 Portable Whole-Grain Analyzer. The ZX-50 allows you to test your crop prior to sending it to an elevator to determine which portion of the crop to store for later sale, and which portion of your crop to sell now to maximize your profit. In addition, the ZX-50 is available with a GPS locator, which allows precision farming to move to the next level. Not only do you know the quality of your harvest, but you can now test your crop in the

field, recording the GPS location for mapping later.

Combining the quality data with the current quantity (yield) data, you will now have the ability to determine where your field delivers you the most profit, as well as the most efficient use of fertilizer.

The ZX-50 is designed to be used in the rugged environment of the farmer's field. The ZX-50's totally solid-state optical system with no moving parts, no light bulbs and no spinning motors, is the most reliable and rugged optical system made. The Zeltex patented infrared-emitting diodes (IREs) and narrow band pass filter design allows for great stability over time and temperature. Zeltex' patented temperature compensation allows measurements to be made anytime of day or night, regardless of the temperature of the analyzer or the sample.

The ZX-50's lightweight design (net weight less than four pounds) and alu-



minum carrying case allows you to move from one field to another, without re-setting the analyzer, making the ZX-50 the perfect tool in your precision farming arsenal.

Selling for less than half of the cost of other grain analyzers, the ZX-50 is the choice for today's precision farm and small elevators. For more information, please go to our web site at www.zeltex.com, or call 1-800-732-1950.



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Airway Machine Co., Inc. Heston Easy To Use Tree Spade

Airway Machines, Co., Inc. located in Idaho Falls, Idaho, has been in business for 22 years. Their successful product, the Heston Tree Spade, was first manufactured in 1992.

The Heston Tree Spade is designed to make the job of moving trees and shrubs so much easier. Whether you are planning to transplant trees or simply remove them, the Heston Tree Spade is the answer! Up until now, the chances of survival of transplanting these trees were slim to none.

The design of the Heston Tree Spade and its simple application allows you to move that choice tree with a minimum of shock and injury to the tree. You only extract the proper amount of soil with the roots and tree. There is minimum disturbance of the ground as the Heston Tree Spade makes clean and exact cuts every time. The unique wheel attachment then allows you to move and place the tree in the desired location.

The Heston Tree Spade comes complete with 10" pneumatic tires, dolly, adjustable straps, and a driver. This spade is made entirely of steel and is powder coated, which makes it very durable and long lasting. The tree spade is capable of moving an 18" or larger root ball on many trees and shrubs.

For more information or to order, call 1-800-238-1025 or Fax: 208-523-7206. Visa, MasterCard and American Express Accepted. E-mail: airway@eznettools.net
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Maze Innovations

Get Rid Of Nuisance Pests For Good

The GOPHINATOR is a sixty gallon Anhydrous ammonia tank designed to control rodents like gophers, pocket gophers, rats, ground hogs, moles, and prairie dogs. It poses no threat to livestock and pets, just effective control in hay/pasture land, till/no-till land, wooded areas and yards and buildings.

Units come complete with the tank, 50 feet of hose, a specially built wand, frame, mole probe, gloves and goggles. The wand is equipped with a spring-loaded valve that for safety reasons has to be held open when in use. On the end of the wand is a hose to be placed in the hole, or a probe can be installed if you are after pocket gophers.

The purpose of this unit is to eradicate rodents for good. This is done by placing the end of the wand into the burrow of the rodent and injecting the NH3 down the hole. It only takes about five seconds per hole, and one tank can last up to 500 holes.

The unit is designed to be loaded in the back of a pick-up truck, on a trailer, or whatever the operator chooses by either a forklift or a front-end loader.

The price is \$3,100.00 (U.S.) plus applicable taxes. Price is quoted FOB Unity, Saskatchewan. A wheel unit is also available for this unit. It allows to be towed behind a four-wheeler or any ATV. The price for this option is \$550.00 (U.S.) Price subject to change without notice.

To place an order, phone Maze Innovations at (306) 398-2637 or Fax: (306) 398-2638. Website: www.gophinator.com

Get Rid Of Nuisance Pests For Good

The Gophinator uses anhydrous ammonia to control rodents like gophers, pocket gophers, rats, groundhogs, moles & prairie dogs. Poses no risk to livestock or pets - just effective control in hay/pasture land, till/no till land, wooded areas and yards and buildings. Units come complete with 60 gallon tank, 50 ft. hose, wand, frame, mole probe, gloves and goggles.



ATV trailer models are also available

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DEALERS WANTED!

Farmers Option & Hedging Service Inc.

A record breaking, wet spring in 1991 caused a career change for farm wife Beth Collins. Beth and her husband, Roger, operated a grain and livestock operation in Livermore, Iowa. When it became obvious the saturated soil conditions and seemingly unending rainfall was destroying any opportunity for profit that year, Beth began to consider going back to work off the farm. Beth had long been involved with fieldwork and chores and took an active part in making marketing decisions for the Collins family farm using knowledge she gained attending seminars, reading books, and using options.

Knowing her interest in the markets, her husband suggested that she get licensed to work as a commodities broker. After Beth visited with Roger Sarchet, owner of the brokerage office Farmers Options & Hedging Services, he expressed an interest in hiring her. In January 1992, Beth passed the Series 3 Commodity Futures Exam and started her new career. Beth currently has a branch office of Farmers Options & Hedging Services located in Humboldt, Iowa.

Beth enjoys the normal brokerage activities of buying and selling futures and options for her customers. However, she has expanded by teaching producers about marketing to help them gain confidence in managing risks for their farm operations. She has presented seminars for area banks, extension offices, and through an area community college. Topics included are fundamental, seasonal, and technical information, how to use basis history, commitment of traders reports, and understanding and using options. She outlines how to develop and implement a marketing plan for an individual's farm. Of special interest was offering instructional seminars just for women who are involved in agriculture.

The teaching and working with clients led to developing marketing club meetings. These meetings help members focus on the current news and learning how to use current information to make marketing decisions. The women also have their own marketing club meetings. Beth offers a service to her clients that develop a personalized marketing plan for their operation.

Beth also gives market price reports on two local radio stations each day and writes cattle comments for a weekly fax sent to Iowa banks. Beth and her husband Roger currently feed cattle, have a cow/calf herd, and raise corn and soybeans. They have three grown children and two grandchildren who all live in the area.



Attention Farmers

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Information or grain and livestock marketing strategies

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NWAS

continued from page 12

which are an additional cost). **2)** The area to be tested generally needs to be a minimum of 40 to 50 feet away from any type of electrical power source (primarily underground power and some buildings). **3)** We need to have enough **unobstructed** surface sediment (topsoil) to drive (install) four 3 foot 3 inch long 3/4 inch diameter electrodes into the ground. The electrodes are placed in a straight line and require an area that is approximately 16 feet long and 2 feet wide to complete each sounding. The NWAS definition of unobstructed surface sediments is surface sediments that contain approximately 30% or less large gravel or cobbles. If the surface sediments contain more than 30% large gravel or cobbles then more soundings may be required to collect a sufficient amount of definitive information.

THE SURVEY LOCATION

In most cases, the property owner

tells us the general area that they would like to have their well, which is where we complete the survey. If you are unsure of approximately where you would like your well drilled or there are a number of dry or poor performing wells in the area then you have a few options to narrow the search for the right place to complete the survey. One option is to have fracture tracing (used primarily in areas with bedrock near the surface) completed on your property. Another option is to have a study of the existing wells in the area, which may help find a pattern common to the good wells. A final option is to have NorthWest Aquifer Surveying complete and extended sounding profile survey (soundings completed in a line but separated by approximately 300 feet) completed across your property which will help us located some good areas to focus on with a more detailed close sounding profile survey.

SOUNDINGS NEEDED per PROPERTY

Every property varies and some properties need many more soundings than

others but as a general rule we recommend a survey consisting of a minimum of four soundings (completed in a profile or grid pattern separated by 85 to 150 feet) for a single house domestic well and a survey consisting of a minimum of eight soundings for agricultural or multi-home wells. We also recommend that the soundings be completed in a profile or an organized pattern of some kind.

Until now, there were very few accurate and affordable options to locate wells. The two most common options are either picking a spot or well witching. Most well drillers will not suggest where to drill a well because of the potential liability involved. NWAS will survey your property and provide a printed report containing approximate water depth, water quality, and approximate flow rate.

Find out more about this amazing technology, client testimonials, successes and NWAS company franchises that provides this service by logging on to: www.findwellwater.com click on any State to locate franchises Near you!

MODEL 803/804 (8")
MODEL 1003/1004 (10")
MODEL 1204 (12")

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MODEL 803/1003 uses a Hydraulic motor on the swing hopper.

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HOPPER may be used or transported on either side. A few minor changes allow opposite side hook-ups.

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The exclusive manufacturer of the Jacobs® wind energy systems since 1986. The wind plants range in size from 10kW to 20kW, with rotor sizes ranging from 23 ft. (7m) to 29 ft. (8.8m). These Systems can provide power for a broad range of applications, which include Grid Intertie (utility bill reduction) or Hybrid battery charging (remote battery charging). The Jacobs® wind energy systems have over 70 years of history providing clean, quality, reliable and efficient power in the USA and around the world.

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Hydretain Root Zone Moisture Manager is a unique "solution" for proper soil and plant moisture. Hydretain is a revolutionary new chemistry designed to reduce the watering requirements of plants and turf. Its patented blend of liquid humectant and hygroscopic compounds attract free water molecules from the air within the soil matrix and efficiently transfers them into the roots of plants. This simple mechanism results in healthy, vigorous, drought resistant, turf, trees, shrubs, ornamental plants and agriculture.

Double or even triple the days between required watering and enjoy the benefits of proper moisture management. The benefits are many such as minimizing drought stress; controls or eliminates dry spots; enhances nutrient efficiency; optimizes pesticide efficiency; improves seed germination; increases transplant survival; reduces watering expenses and maximizes your crop yields.

Hydretain is a totally unique concept in soil moisture management. Attached to the root system, Hydretain acts like tiny water magnets, making available to plant roots microscopic moisture that would otherwise be lost to evaporation. It is not simply another wetting agent, surfactant or super absorbent polymer crystal.

Check out our website at www.ecologel.com and review some of the independent research that validates the Hydretain effect on the health of your greenery. The scientific community continues to affirm the effects of Hydretain in root zone moisture management. Put the science to work in

your home garden, lawn and shrubbery and see for yourself what the studies have already proven. **HYDRETAIN**, the choice of the professionals, now available for home use!

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Product Profile:

VARMITGETTER™ The Newest, Safest Burrowing Pest Control Device, Featuring A Wired Remote Control !!

Underground blasters are not a new technology since they have been around for some time and have evolved over the last ten years or so, becoming better designed and now safer.

Handheld devices have safety issues. Our product has freed the operator from those safety issues.

The concerns over the safety of the other underground blasters has led Shaffer Enterprises, Inc. to design a device that has these advantages:

Operator DOES NOT hold onto the applicator, when producing the blast and can be up to 25 ft. away from the blast site.

The other hand held units cause some operators to flinch, resulting in an ineffective application plus some operator becomes fatigued by the constant concussion from the blasts.

It is smaller and better balanced making it more portable to move from burrow to burrow and easier to use on gophers, voles, mole, etc. and able to do larger holes such as prairie dogs, ground squirrels, etc.

A calibrated mixture of 98 percent oxygen and 2 percent propane, the gas is dispersed into the tunnel system. It is remote detonated to insure the operator does not get fragmented. The Tunnel system and anything in tunnel system is gone for pennies.

You are also able to cover the firing

cone with loose dirt, which helps keep gas from escaping and to help snuff out fire.

Plus the single dispersion hose provides better gas mix, giving more efficient, effective and consistent blasts.

With an improved design to protect sensitive parts, but yet readily accessible for in the field repairs.

Extra safety measures are built in so in the event that the device has been damaged or misused, you are protected by check valves, flashback arrestors and pressure relief plugs.

It comes with a One Year Warranty and is also registered with the EPA and is Patent Pending.

The VARMITgetter™ operates the same as the other devices with a propane & oxygen mix injected into the burrow and upon ignition, causes an underground explosion which destroys the targeted pest and tunnel system.

The VARMITgetter™ comes with Applicator; 25 ft. of single Hose/Ignition Cord; Control Box; 12 ft. of twin Gas Hoses;



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-Rick Kettley

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Egbers Flighting & Supply Co.

Egbers Still At It

When you hear Auger flighting, most of you think of Egbers. "We're very proud that we're so well known by our customers," Says Doug Egbers, owner of Egbers Flighting & Supply. The Egbers family has been involved in the Auger and Agricultural Repair business since 1974. Doug and Laura Egbers are the newest members to take on the family business. In January, 2003 Egbers Farms Inc. was purchased and Egbers Flighting & Supply was set in place.

Egbers still offers a wide variety of auger flighting and recently they opened up their other stock items for resale. "In the past, we did not heavily advertise our stock of tube, shaft and auger accessories. There are so many companies that require minimum orders, we opened our stock items to better accommodate our customers," says Laura Egbers. Egbers has no minimum order requirements.

Also new with Egbers is their 20 ft. balancing machine. They have found a better-finished product when unloading augers are balanced. "We can take most of the vibration out these unloading augers, Doug Egbers says. The faster the auger runs the greater the need for the auger to be balanced. We have customers drive from all over just to balance their grain cart augers."

Along with their many stock items, Egbers accommodates their customers by shipping complete augers. "We have a lot

of talent in our company, and we like the variety of projects that we do," says Doug Egbers. "We've worked on augers as small as 2" in diameter for corn burners and 24" in diameter for a rock quarry."

Walking into their inventory shed, you see rows and rows of auger flighting. Around 1200 sizes are on hand at all times. 90% of these sizes are the 'Super Edge' Auger Flighting. Egbers possesses a talent for size and application. Just call on their sales staff and they can fit about any application you have for your combine, grain cart, transport auger and more.

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Muleshoe Economic Development

Dairymen Big Welcome awaits you in Muleshoe. In the last 5 years, five new dairy operations have moved their herds to Muleshoe, Texas. Lets find out why!

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Muleshoe Economic Development has offered cash incentives to make the move...Cash from \$50,000 to \$100,000 or more in forgivable loans.

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Muleshoe has great weather, low humidity and moderate temperatures to assure you of peak production from your herd.

Best of all, according to one recent dairyman who made the move, "They sure made us feel like they want us here and the entire town is glad to have us."

So add it up, incentives, increased production, great weather and folks who are glad to have us.

Call Janet Claborn, Director of Economic Development at (806) 272-7455. She will be happy to help you plus answer all your questions. You sure will be glad you made the call.

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Badger earth augers are built rugged as well as user friendly

- All Badger series are direct drive units which have no expensive gear boxes or high maintenance drive chains.
- Bucket mounting unit allows for greater visibility, thus it is more comfortable to operate and reduces fatigue. This mount also allows down force to be applied in tough conditions.
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- Badger units can be easily mounted and used by one person, no one is needed at the auger to apply down force.

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Valley Engineering

Valley Engineering, Inc. has been producing hydraulic Driven Hole diggers since 1988. The unit is all enclosed in a sturdy steel case w/ oversize bearings. Direct drive units w/ Quick-Tach bucket brackets or skid steer mounts. Augers are heavy duty full thickness to edge sectional flighting ranging in size from 6" to 24". rock bits are available for fracturable materials ranging from 6" to 12". Telescoping extensions for 6" to 24" Augers. Call 1-800-400-0124 for applications and pricing. Ask about the badger* digger.

Steffes Corporation

Steffes Corporation began manufacturing and selling Hopper Bins in 1983 on a local basis of a 100-mile radius. Currently their customer base is mainly in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. However, their territory is quickly expanding. Steffes Overhead Drive Through Bins have been delivered to Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Kentucky, Illinois, Nebraska and even parts of Canada. Steffes currently manufactures two sizes of their square overhead bins. The smaller model holds 30 ton of cake, or 1152 bushels, and the larger model holds 40 ton of cake or 1575 bushels. Drive through clearances range from 7' up to 14' to allow for unloading into trucks, feeders or semis. Split compartments are also available in both standard sizes. This allows you to store two different products on one bin.

Engineering, design and manufacturing capabilities of Steffes Corporation allows them to design and build custom bin systems. Systems with multiple compartments and larger capacity are available as well as superstructures to allow higher drive through clearances.

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USDA ANNOUNCES \$106 MILLION BROADBAND LOAN TO GREENCASTLE, INDIANA

Loan To Provide Competitive Broadband Services To Nearly 76,600 Rural Indiana Homes and Businesses

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture James R. Moseley announced the approval of a Rural Development broadband loan of \$106.7 million to Cinergy, Ind. The funds will allow for the expansion of broadband access to high-speed Internet to residents and businesses in 11 rural Indiana communities as part of the Bush Administration's effort to expand universal access to broadband technology by the year 2007.

"Providing access to broadband technology and services will greatly enhance the economic competitiveness of rural Indiana," said Moseley during a ceremony here with area mayors. "By bringing broadband to rural communities, we are helping rural communities compete with new levels of technology."

The proposed broadband system will include advanced voice, video and high-speed data services. The services are expected to provide access to 71,039 homes and 5,532 businesses. Cinergy will use a fiber backbone to connect all the communities to the service nodes and fiber-to-the-premises technology, to connect each home and business. Communities impacted include Bedford, North Manchester, Connersville, North Vernon, Greencastle, Seymour, Huntington, Vincennes, Madison, Wabash and New Castle.


Funding will be contingent upon meeting the conditions of the loan agreement. USDA provides a number of other important tools to advance broadband service in rural America, including the Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant program which provides advance technologies for educational and health care needs.

Since the beginning of the Bush Administration, over \$2 billion in telecommunication funding has provided over one million rural homes and businesses with access to high speed broadband connections. To learn more about available funding through USDA's broadband program, visit <http://www.usda.gov/> or contact USDA Rural Development broadband staff at (202)


720-9554.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance

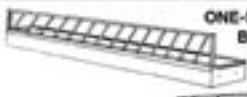
and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.



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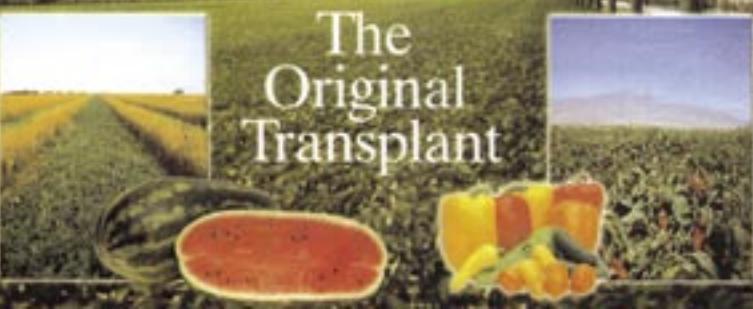
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U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc. is an association of professional custom harvesters serving the needs of the American Farmer. The organization was established and chartered in 1983 in the State of Texas and serves as a link between the harvesters and the many groups of people they work with such as farmers, businesses, and the State and Federal Government. U.S. Custom Harvesters is a dues funded, membership organization with the Harvest News magazine as their primary means of communicating with members.

This organization also works to educate its membership concerning safety, quality of workmanship and information on equipment updates.

The input from their membership is channeled through designated committees that report to the elected board

meeting annually the first weekend of March. The membership has benefited at these annual gatherings in such areas as exchanging ideas, helping one another in the placement of work, and establishing a scholarship fund that helps educate future leaders. Much of the information is updated in the Harvest News monthly magazine.

It has been a goal of USCHI to provide funding for scholarships through various activities such as quilt sales and raffles, silent auctions, memorial donations, honorary and auction donations. To qualify for a scholarship, all applicants must have some direct family ties to a current USCHI regular member, or have been employed by a current regular member within the last year, or be making some direct contribution to the USCHI organization. In addition, applications are

considered if the applicant is directly related to a deceased member (son or daughter) that was a regular member within the last two years of their death. The strength of this organization is in its membership, which consists of not only custom harvesters, but also related businesses such as implement dealers, insurance companies and farmers. It is their goal to continue to enhance and promote custom harvesting so that it is a viable industry available to future generations of producers.

U.S. Harvesters will continue to support and be a vital part of American agriculture, which is the strongest and most effective producer of crops that feed the world.

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California Crop Center to Open at 2005 World Ag Expo

Tulare, California ... The first-ever California Crop Center will open at the 2005 World Ag Expo according to Rob Fletcher, the 2005 Show Chairman. This new pavilion is another important expansion of service to agricultural growers according to Fletcher featuring both national and international outreach from this world-renowned event. The California Crop Center will more fully respond to the worldwide interest in California's tremendous ability to produce an almost unlimited variety of high quality, commercially viable food and fiber crops.

With the new California Crop Center, crop trade associations and commercial companies will now have additional outreach opportunities to provide the latest cropping information to California and Western growers. Also important, many international attendees come to World Ag Expo to learn more about the fertilizers, crop chemicals, irrigation specifics and machinery involved in producing a specific crop or crops. All visitors can get the desired information by visiting with individual commercial exhibitors or by registering for information at the California Crop Center.

Fletcher stated, "While the California Crop Center will be new in 2005, the concept for it has been discussed for several years. Only with the 2003 acquisition of more than 400 additional acres has sufficient space become available to put more of such expansion plans into action."

"The 2003 expansion of the Dairy Center and relocation of many exhibit spaces farther east was the first beneficiary of the acreage addition. While more space is available on the east side of the grounds, we recognize the need to locate the California Crop Center in close proximity to the cropping machinery, seed and chemical exhibits for the convenience of growers."

Fletcher added, "Co-chairpersons of the new California Crop Center will be Ron Goble and Stan Bird, representatives of Multi Ag Media LLC. Multi Ag Media currently publishes the widely circulated Official World Ag Expo

Magazine and this fall will publish the newly announced VIP Preview on our behalf. They have been very active in developing the California Crop Center concept and presenting us with a procedure for its successful introduction at the 2005 event."

While all functions that may become a part of the California Crop Center have not been finalized according to Goble and Bird, informational cropping seminars and selected industry speakers will

be a significant part of the first year's activities.

One specific opportunity under consideration would allow crop trade associations special opportunities to offer free samples of the various fruits, nuts and other edibles that their members produce. Commercial companies are also expected to request opportunities to present up-to-date information about new products and services of value to California and international growers.

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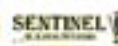
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"Instead of taking an off the shelf tank and attaching features, we needed to get all the input we could from customers and ATV manufacturers", said product manager Dusty Miller. "With a good vision of what features and options were required, it became obvious that a completely new tank design was needed".

The EZ ATV Sprayer was designed with the operator in mind for ease of operation and functional ability and safety. With the sleek design brings the weight forward and more to a center of gravity for better machine balance. Allowing the legs of the tank to wrap around the fenders of the ATV gives the sprayer dual sumps to give maximum drainage and the ability to



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run on side hills without losing its prime. The pump, strainer, and main shut-off are mounted underneath the tank in a protected cavity, which also serves as a dual slosh baffle. The

top of the tank is designed with a fill catch area to prevent chemical from getting on the operator. The EZ is fitted with a 4 gpm Shurflo Pump and a quality Tee-Jet trigger style handgun in the convenient control panel at your side. All brackets and boomless nozzle or boom accessories are attached to the tank for quick and easy mounting. The EZ ATV Sprayer has several different options and accessories to meet your requirements and needs.

C&R Supply, Inc. is a distributor and manufacturer of agricultural and roadside spray equipment located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. For over 25 years, C&R Supply, Inc. has been a leader in the distribution and servicing of many quality products from Raven Industries, Spraying Systems, Banjo, and more. They also lead the way in designing and manufacturing new and advanced products such as their C&R Foam Marker, Spot Sprayer, and the EZ ATV Sprayer featured in this ad. C&R is a provider for precision ag products such as GPS guidance systems, variable rate controllers, mapping, steering assist systems, and chemical injection units. C&R prides themselves on the knowledge and experience that is required to keep up with today's technology.



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Today, Meyer Industries markets the only known chemical and poison-free system of its kind that is registered

with the EPA providing efficient and effective burrowing rodent control. Farmers, ranchers, pest control companies, nurseries, golf courses, and water districts experiencing rodent destruction can eliminate the problem. City parks and recreation departments, schools, and public works, all of whom have a responsibility to monitor public safety, are using this system to eliminate rodent infestations in the U.S. and around the World.

The Rodenator Pro™ is a new aggressive approach to burrowing rodent control. It is an elimination system as well

as a control system. Marketed exclusively in the U.S. in the past, the Rodenator Pro™ System has proven so effective that it is now marketed worldwide. Waiting for animals to come to baits or traps is no longer necessary. The Rodenator Pest Elimination System is fast and efficient, allowing a user to go directly after a targeted pest.

The Rodenator Pro™ System comes complete, excluding propane and oxygen tanks, and uses the latest in solid-state electronic controls, circuitry, and check valves. The system is environmentally safe, completely non-toxic, and the cost of operation is only pennies per application. This device operates by squeezing a lever that ejects a calibrated mixture of



Tomorrow's rodent-control device is here today.

propane and oxygen down through the rodent's tunnel system. A self-contained ignition system then allows the user to ignite the gas, creating an underground shockwave, instantly and humanely eliminating the animal without using poisons.

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- Jack Bailey, Reclamation District Manager says, "Our rodent control went from 5 to 6 weeks, to 5 to 8 days on the 54.4 miles of levees that we maintain in California, the Rodenator Pro works"!!!

- Monte Daniels, D&D Cattle Co. Wolfforth, TX "The Rodenator Pro™ is the only economical and environmentally friendly device I have found for both control and eradication of prairie dogs in cropland and rangeland."

- Gino Favagrossa, Farm Manager at Fresno State University says, "The new Rodenator Pro™ has been very effective in the control of our squirrel infestation at Fresno State. The improvements of the new Rodenator Pro™ have increased the efficiency of our eradication efforts. We continue to use the Rodenator Pro™ throughout the campus farm for control of squirrels and gophers".

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The base is olive oil and bees' wax, which are natural and healthy. Infused together we have a salve which is good for a variety of skin disorders such as eczema, psoriasis, fungal infections, rashes, sore throat, cuts, burns, poison ivy, colds, diaper rash, etc.

TESTIMONIALS

"Hi there: I wanted to keep you apprised of my progress since I received your salve four days ago. I have been to many dermatologists and have had many cortisone injections and still had

dry scaly skin in patches on 10% of my body. It looked awful and was very noticeable. I have used very expensive medicines and have not had the results that your salve has given me in an almost immediate time frame. While I am not a doctor, I am an experienced patient who has suffered and can say to you that no other skin preparations have given me the immediate results that your Chickweed Healing Salve has. To say it simply, it's WONDERFUL...the scales and crusts and blemishes are going, going, GONE!" Saul Kaplan, West Palm Beach.

"I had a sore throat. After applying Chickweed Healing Salve to the outside of my throat it went away. It is great!"

– Bob Schwagmeir

"Our baby had a painful diaper rash. Within minutes of applying the Chickweed Healing Salve he quit crying. By morning the rash was nearly all gone."

– KC

"I had these dark spots on my leg of 15 years. I'm not sure what it was but it was growing! After two months of using the

Chickweed Healing Salve the spots are almost gone. I also use it for dry skin on my heels and toes. Its amazing stuff!"

– Kirk Baron

"My Poodle has very bad allergies on her skin. She gets scales, sores and dry flaking skin. After using the Chickweed Healing Salve for one week, the condition was completely gone." – Dorothy Stale

"I burned myself real bad across the chest, arms and hands. I started using Chickweed Healing Salve on my third day in the burn unit at University of Louisville Hospital and had immediate results. The nurses were impressed at the results. Eight days later I was released." – Charles Mulligan, Athens TN
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TESTIMONIALS:

- HOME -

- I had skin cancer removed 2 times from my face. The third time it came back, I decided to use Chickweed Healing Salve. Within 2 weeks it was gone. I also used it on my leg and ankle that was swollen. It went down and the soreness left also. Thank you for your help. - Raymond Davis, New Washington, IN 812-293-3555
- That stuff's like dynamite, one said now we'll never be without that salve. We use it for everything and suggest it to everybody. Then an older lady said as we left, "Just don't ever quit making the Chickweed Healing Salve." - Three ladies talking to us as we were eating our lunch in the hills of Ohio. Place called Thelma Jeans Pizza, 740-493-2711

- BARN -

- My wife washed our milker claws in a heavy dose of washer acid which burned and blistered the cow teats. I put this salve on one cow, it almost completely healed up in 48 hrs. So tonight I put it on every blistered cow in my stable. - Daniel Stoltzfus, Loganton, PA
- I used this salve on sheep foot rot and they healed up nicely, where vet medicine didn't work. - Beth Johnson, Owasso, OK
- "I have had a contact dermatitis on both hands for over 1 year ever since I worked with some Walnut lumber "hobby". I thought it was dry skin, etc. Well, it got infected and has been a real problem so much so I had to take a leave from work. The dermatologist prescribed very expensive ointment and I used them. There was improvement but not complete healing and some breakouts. One of my co-workers went to Amish Country in Shipsewana, Indiana and saw Chickweed Healing Salve and thought of me. They purchased it and brought it to me. I had nothing to lose so I tried it. Within 4 days, and I mean 4 days-my hands had healed! I couldn't believe it. Every day I would show my co-workers the improvement. And as it progressed, their amazement grew. Of course they wanted to know what I was using-where they could get it. We all here at work have dry skin and this really helps. None of us here are herbal people. But this was the first demo of a natural/herbal product working so well. Oh-did I mention I am a critical care RN working in ICU and my co-workers are hospital staff? Well, this 10-container order is a combined order for several people at the hospital. Chickweed healing salve sure has helped me so far, and we'll see what time brings." Butch Witlock

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Mr. Emigh sold the rights and manufacturing jigs in 1970 to a new company, International Helicopters of Mayville, New York. They continued the evolution of the design naming it the Commuter

II A & B. It was basically the same sturdy airframe and drive components but with a beautiful new streamlined cabin. Quite a few of these were also produced and it was in 1979 that CHR got its start, when company president, Murray Sweet, bought his first kit and the Canadian rights to market the design. After completion of his Commuter IIB and successful flight tests, Murray began making modifications in an effort to save weight, lessen maintenance, increase safety and dependability, while at the same time, making the helicopter useful in allowing it to pay its own way.

This was the start of the long process of designing, engineering, and developing the details of manufacturing the components. New partners, investors, and employees joined in the project along the way, with



CHR incorporating in 1986.

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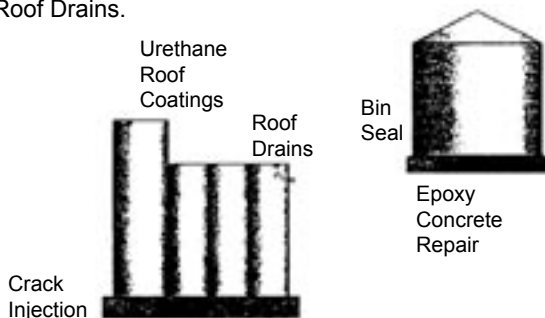
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Pneumateck Ind., Inc.

PneumaSeal Tire Sealant

PneumaSeal Features and Benefits

PneumaSeal stands alone in the market as a patented, homogeneous substance, with unlimited shelf life when stored in its sealed container. PneumaSeal is a preventative maintenance product which provides protection for the life of the tire.

PneumaSeal:

Prevents flat tires by quickly and permanently sealing tread area punctures from objects up to 1/4" in diameter while a vehicle is in operation.

Prevents underinflation due to slow leaks caused by porosity, rim and bead leaks that can lead to air loss.

Reduces fuel costs by maintaining the recommended tire pressure which increases fuel efficiency and reduces premature tread wear. Underinflation of tires can decrease gas mileage by 3% to 5%. This could represent as much as \$300.00 in savings over the life of a set of tires.

Remains effective for the life of the tire.

Continuously coats casing interior to fill cracks.

Reduces internal dry rot and deterioration by keeping tire casing moist and pliable.

Reduces the risk of tire blowouts. Most tire blowouts are caused by air loss due to a puncture. A puncture leaves a tire dangerously under-inflated. At high speeds the sidewall cannot withstand the flexing and over heating caused by underinflation.

How Does PneumaSeal Work?

PneumaSeal is a completely homogeneous, patented formula of fibers, particulates, adhesives, bonding and anti-corrosive agents that have been sized, weighed and blended in an ethylene glycol base that keeps the product in permanent suspension within the tire, for the life of the tire.

When installed inside a tire, PneumaSeal will virtually eliminate flat tires. PneumaSeal is designed to seal tread punctures, bead leaks, rim leaks, porosity leaks, or any tube, tire or wheel related leaks. PneumaSeal seals the tire to maintain proper inflation and will seal up to 1/4 inch tread area punctures for the legal life of the tire. The adhesion properties in PneumaSeal provides continuous protection for the tire.

PneumaSeal is thixotropic. It thins when the tire is put in motion but it thickens rapidly when the motion ceases, thereby maintaining an even layer of PneumaSeal on all interior surfaces.

PneumaSeal is installed quickly and easily through the valve stem (average installation time is just minutes per tire). When a puncture occurs the centrifugal force of the rotating tire and the tire's internal air pressure force PneumaSeal into the puncture. This forms a temporary seal. As the tire continues to turn, more PneumaSeal is forced into the puncture. A permanent seal is created as the puncture is packed with particulates and fibers. A small amount of PneumaSeal will go through the puncture to the outside of the tire, where it quickly dries. PneumaSeal is compatible with and will not react or otherwise harm, the tire composition, the rims on which the tire is mounted or the valves in the tires. PneumaSeal is water dispersible, so clean up is simple, just rinse with water.

PneumaSeal's unique thixotropic chemical composition is extremely important. PneumaSeal will not separate, freeze or ball up. Its coating action maintains proper air pressure within the treated tires, protecting tires from underinflation, the number one tire killer. By maintaining proper air pressure, PneumaSeal reduces the level of heat generated by the tire's excessive flexing and friction, allowing the tire to run cooler and to last longer.

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In addition to its line of quality wood burners, Aqua-Therm also offers its own line of radiant heat products. Radiant floor heat is an extremely efficient means of heating a building. It is cost competitive with other forms of heat, and results in even, comfortable warmth. Aqua-Therm's PEX-AL-PEX tubing is laid out and installed before concrete is poured. Radiant floor heat is ideal for farm shops and barns since the entire slab is warmed which allows the inside temperature to recover quickly when the doors are opened. As part of Aqua-Therm's service, in-house radiant design engineers will design and provide drawings for tubing layout and system components to ensure the ultimate in quality, comfort heat.

Aqua-Therm also offers two additional product lines to provide even more choices for comfort heating. Their Nordic® cast iron boilers, available for all fuel types (natural or propane gas, or fuel oil), provide high efficiency comfort for hydronic heating systems. The units are rated up to 85.3% average efficiency, and provide a range from 47,500 Btuh to 245,000 Btuh input. The compact-designed units are delivered factory-packaged, ready



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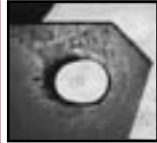
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After Repair

The **"Econo Box"** includes 13 six inch carbonizes rods sizes from 1/8" to 1-1/2" diameter and three carbonized plates measuring 3-1/2" x 6-1/2" x 1/2" thick on a sectioned plastic container for \$79.

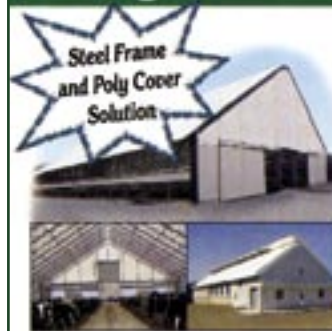
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If you are interested in becoming a Professional Farrier, Shur Shod Horseshoeing School will prepare you to have a successful career as a Farrier. The Shur Shod philosophy is not how many Farriers they can turn out, but it's how good are the Farriers they turn out!

Shur Shod Horseshoeing School is committed to turning out the best possible Farriers that they can. Not a student or diploma mill, they don't push a student to get a specific amount of horses done each day. Each student works at his or her skill level.

At Shur Shod, they create the best possible learning environment that allows a student to learn the things they will need to know when they are out in the field under a horse. This is done through hands-on training, not endless lectures or videos.

Nowhere in the United States will you find a more qualified instructor than

Max Williams. Besides his 38 plus years of actual experience shoeing horses and teaching, he has certificates in several states and has taught school at the high school, junior college, university level, and private school. Max is a Certified Journeyman Farrier with the American Farrier's Association, so not only can he teach, but he is a craftsman as well.

In your search for a school, you may have noticed that almost all of the schools including Shur Shod, use "The Principles of Horseshoeing 11" by Dr. Doug Butler. It's a book that Farriers around the world have come to recognize as one of the most informative and valuable books they can have in their library. You will also notice that Max Williams has a Masters Degree in Horse Science with an emphasis on Horseshoeing. Max earned that Master Degree while studying with Dr. Butler as his principle advisor at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas.

Shur Shod Horseshoeing School offers you an affordable four-week course designed to fit your needs and skills, small classes, modern, comfortable accommodations, a supportive learning environment, with a highly qualified and widely experienced instructor who will assist you in learning. The advantages of learning to be a Professional Farrier at Shur Shod are there are only eight students per session, competitive fees, newer facilities and a qualified and experienced instructor.

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Nebraska Firm Recalls Ground Beef Products For Possible E. coli O157:H7

CLASS I RECALL

Carneco Foods, LLC, a Columbus, Neb., firm, is voluntarily recalling approximately 497,000 pounds of frozen ground beef and beef patties that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7.

The recall was prompted by epidemiological evidence related to illnesses linked to consumption of a product produced by this establishment on June 21. FSIS continues to work with state and federal partners on this investigation.

Product subject to recall include:

- Six pound bags of "NORTHERN PLAINS BEEF SIRLOIN AND BEEF PATTIES, 85/15" with a packaging code

17304. The products subject to recall are also marked with "Best by 12/18/04."

- Ten pound boxes of "NORTHERN PLAINS GOURMET BEEF PATTIES" with a packaging code 17304. The products subject to recall are also marked with "Best by 12/18/04."

- Eight and ten pound boxes and chubs of "FINE GROUND BEEF 91/09" marked with "Sell/Freeze By 07/10/04" or "SELL BY FREEZE BY 04 JUL 10."

- Seven pound boxes of "SEASONED BEEF PATTIES (MISFORMED)" with a packaging code 17304. The products subject to recall are also marked with "Best by 12/18/04."

American Royal show schedule

The American Royal 2004 Livestock Show is set for Oct. 20-25 with the Junior Premium Livestock Auction scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 24.

"Last year the 2003 Livestock show brought in 1636 head of cattle, 293 hogs and 424 lambs and competitors from 29 states to Kansas City to compete," said George Guastello, American Royal's president and CEO. "It was the largest show with the most head of cattle ever on the American Royal Grounds at one time."

For entry forms and premium books exhibitors should contact: Paulette Orth, American Royal Livestock Show, 1701 American Royal Court, Kansas City, MO 64102 or call (816) 221-9800 ext. 119.

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"Calf Claim" helps new cattle mothers and their calves get off to a compatible relationship. "Calf Claim", a granular product, encourages even the most apathetic cows to respond appropriately to their newborns. It is smeared or sprinkled on the calf during the tough bovine debut when there's extra stress usually involving a young, first-time mother who can't get the calving job done on her own. In livestock, sometimes you have a problem with the mother claiming the young, and some will even attack them. Heifers are the worst. It's a mess if a heifer doesn't claim her calf. If the calf doesn't nurse, it can't absorb the antibodies it would get from the colostrum.

When the "Calf Claim" is sprinkled on the back of the newborn livestock, it makes even the most reticent mothers receptive to their young. The mother smells the licorice-laced product and dries off the baby as she licks it. This contact stimulates the baby's respiration and heartbeat. The calf stands up and the cow lets it nurse.

"Calf Claim" has been used on foals and lambs, but is most successful with beef and dairy calves born under stress to first time mothers. When used routinely on calves that need pulled, it helps the cow or heifer to start licking. The product works best if the dam and baby are penned in a small area, about 10x15 feet, and one or two ounces of "Calf Claim" are rubbed into its hair. It also helps to dampen the calf's back to make it stick. "Calf

Claim" is bottled in five-ounce plastic containers and distributed for sale by veterinarians and veterinary suppliers across the United States and Canada. It sells for around \$12 a bottle and is good for up to 12 calf situations. Demand is heaviest in the spring, although it has found favor with Western-fall calving herds.

This spring, there's even more of an incentive than usual to do everything possible to save newborns. Each fresh, young bovine face emerging on the scene represents a pretty valuable addition. The market for young calves is hot, and perhaps has never been hotter. It's a good time to take precaution and care. So having something that prevents calf abandonment is essential. "Calf Claim" is an answer to an old problem. Order "Calf Claim" today from your veterinary distributor. You may phone (641) 464-2202 or Fax: (641) 464-2254 for more information.

History.

Through the years, we at the Mt. Ayr Veterinary Clinic have manufactured and distributed a flavored powdered product "Calf Claim"™. "Calf Claim" is a bonding agent that is sprinkled on and rubbed into the hair of a newborn calf. The aromatic scent from the product attracts and entices the cow to lick and clean the calf stimulating bonding. It is highly successful in cattle and horses and somewhat successful in sheep and swine.

We are very proud of the article written about "Calf Claim" and the many letters received from people telling of their use of the product. However, nobody has ever asked about its history. "Calf Claim" is a formulation of a product worked up by Joe Graham, D.V.M. of Milo, Iowa. Dr. Graham has been practicing veterinary medicine since the 1940's and compounded his product one dose at a time, as there was a need for it.

After a tour of duty with the U.S. Army, I joined my classmate, Dr. Max Mekus in a general veterinary practice in Mt. Ayr, Iowa. Shortly after starting practice, Dr. Mekus introduced me to the mixture that his Uncle Dr. Graham had compounded and I was impressed with all the success that local cattlemen were having using the product. Many were repeat customers stopping by the clinic asking for one or more doses of our calf claimer, as they called it.

Out of necessity, we formulated a new process of compounding to batch produce the calf claimer to meet the demand. At this time, it became a permanent part of our O.B. grips. After a successful delivery of a newborn the question of "What are you doing Doc?" soon changed to "Did you put Calf Claimer on Doc?"

In 1978, we trademarked the name "Calf Claim" and started to market our product thru some of the smaller veterinary product distributors that called upon us. The rest is history, and we now have distribution in the United States and Canada. About the only advertising of the product has been its success. "Calf Claim" has actually sold itself. In, 2003, our formulation was changed a little. We have removed the animal by products as the carrier and changed to a vegetable carrier. This change was prompted because of the fear of mad cow disease. John L. Peters, D.V.M.

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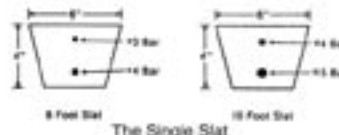
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Highcroft's Energy Free Drinkers "The Original" uses the patented lift up lid design in combination with the internal baffles to operate without electrical or gas heat. This arrangement has been used successfully across the country for more than 20 years.

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Highcroft also manufactures a Mineral Feeder Model MF-2. The two compartment mineral feeder has lift up lids like the Drinkers. Each compartment holds approximately 100 lbs. of material which is protected from the weather by the lifting flap.

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Had to work your cattle alone?

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Had a bull or cow that did not fit in your Squeeze?

Wished you could nurse a calf in your squeeze chute?

Implanted or ear tagged and wished you had a way to restrain the animal's head?

Had cattle turn backwards on you in the tub and get wedged in the "V"? Which meant you had to open the tub door, so the animal would turn towards the alley.

When feeding your cattle, have you looked at all the hay around the feeder and thought "What a waste of money"??

If you have answered YES to any of these questions, then you need to talk to us at Stampede Steel! Our equipment is designed to work with the natural instincts of cattle as well as efficiency for the cattle handler!

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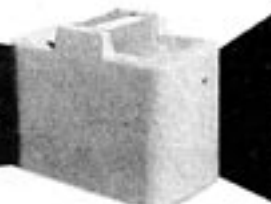
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THE BACTRIAN CAMEL

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The camel has been described as a “horse designed by a committee”. In fact the camel is unlike any other large mammal and the unique anatomic and physiologic characteristics that make it endlessly fascinating to observe and to raise are the products of evolution in some of the most inhospitable environments on earth.

Camels were domesticated about 2500 B.C. Their milk, meat, wool, hides and draft power (equals to two oxen) were and are the only sources of survival in the very arid areas of Asia and the Middle East. Other important camel products in some societies are dung for fuel, blood for food, urine as a disinfectant, and bones for jewelry. In addition camels have been a major vehicle for transport of people and materials. Bactrian camels were the original pack animals on the Silk Road often in caravans of 10,000 animals and were also used as cavalry mounts in several ancient and more recent wars. Dromedary camels have been raced for hundreds of years. Currently in the Arabian Peninsula, racing camels sell for up to 1.5 million dollars and total prizes may reach 4-5 million dollars for a five day event.

Worldwide there are about 15.5 million Dromedary camels, and about 2 million Bactrian camels. Bactrian camels today exist predominantly in Mongolia, Northern China, and Eastern Russia. In addition there are still about one thousand wild camels in the Gobi desert. There are only about 300 Bactrian camels in North America. Other than in the number of humps the Bactrian and Dromedary camels differ only in size, hair distribution, cold tolerance, and personality. They are embryologically identical and will interbreed.

The Bactrian camel weighs from 1,000 to 2,000 lbs. and is 6 to 8 feet in height. Predominant colors are various shades of brown. White or near white animals are extremely rare at present there are only about thirty in this hemisphere. Bactrian camels are intelligent, affectionate, expressive and vocal. Animal trainers report that they are more easily trained than horses.

Reproduction in camels differs markedly from most other large mammals. Ovulation is induced by a protein in the seminal plasma (unlike rabbits and cats where ovulation is triggered by mechanical stimulation during coitus). Breeding in this country is limited to the first five months of the year because the male camel like the deer is only fertile while in rut. Gestation is 402 + 11.5 days. Bactrian camels produce only one young every two years. Twins have never been reported.

As pack animals Bactrian camels can carry pack up to a ton. They produce a high quality wool, which they shed in early summer. Although Bactrian camels kick if provoked they are best known for “spitting” – cud that happens to be in the mouth is ejected when the animal makes a loud bark like vocal complaint. Tame animals will just bark.

Camels have evolved multiple unique adaptations to conditions of scant even, salt water, meage, poor quality forage and severe temperature extremes. They do not store water in the hump(s) but rather use multiple mechanisms for conservation and recycling of water. Overall the water requirement of camels is only about 10 percent that of cattle. Camels can survive for 15 days without water (cattle deprived of water die in 4 days). They also have unique mechanisms for thermoregulation that reduce water loss and permit survival at high temperatures including the ability to vary body temperature as much as 6 degrees. This allows core temperature to rise during the day and fall at night thus decreasing the temperature gradient and reducing the need for cooling down during the day and warming at night. The bulk of the body fat in camels is concentrated in the hump(s) rather than being distributed subcutaneously, as in all other animals, to facilitate heat dissipation and to provide an energy reserve.

Camels have a three compartmented stomach with foregut fermentation and they regurgitate and rechew ingested forage as do other ruminants. However they are more efficient than ruminants in extracting protein and energy from poor quality forages.

Bactrian camel feet have soft pads rather than hoofs to increase traction on snow and sand. A third eyelid and slit-like nostrils that can be fully closed at will protect against blowing sand and snow. Camels have thick keratinized pads over their joints to permit kneeling on abrasive sand surfaces and a similar large pad over the breastbone that allows air circulation under the animal when it lies on the ground in an upright position (sternal recumbancy or couching).

The camels upper lip is split and almost prehensile and extends slightly over the lower lip permitting the animal to grasp the small more nutritious leaves of plants and to pick up small particles of food from the ground. A thickened lining in the mouth and on the lips allows camels to browse thorny shrubs and trees. In the Southeastern part of this country wild roses are a favorite food.

The penis of camels points backward between their hind legs and is pulled forward during mating possibly protecting it from sand and snow. At birth the fetus is covered with a transparent slippery membrane that facilitates the passage through the birth



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canal of young that can weigh up to 150 lbs at birth.

Bactrian camels are easy to raise. They prefer browsing on shrubs and trees but do well on average quality hay and pasture. Overfeeding of grain supplements leads to obesity. Worming with Doramectin orally, by drench or by injection and Fenbendazole orally, alternated every 4 months and tailored to conditions is sufficient. Good quality fences, ideally electric, are required. Camels tend to push down woven wire fences using their necks and to walk right through barbed wire fences but will avoid even one strand of electric fence. Barn shelter is ideal but not required.

Currently domestic markets are limited to zoos, petting zoos, private owners, resorts, tourist adventure trekking and safaris, and circuses. Potential uses are milk and wool production. Bactrian camels yield 10 to 36 pounds of high quality wool annually. Milk production of up to 5,000 pounds per 305 days has been reliably documented. The milk is relatively low in fat (about 4%) and high in vitamin C. A forty camel automated milking paller has been established in Saudi Arabia.

A slow reproduction rate currently prevents full exploitation of the Camels full potential. Poor reproductive performance is essentially due to the suppression of estrus during the lactation period in the female coupled with the five month seasonal fertility in the male. In practice, if weaning is performed at six months postpartum, the male is no longer fertile when the female returns to estrus. The end result is that a female camel only produces one young every two years.

Embryo transfer and in vitro fertilization can be used to expedite selection of desired traits. Artificial insemination, embryo transfer, and in vitro fertilization are being used successfully to improve racing animals in the United Arab Emirates.

The Dromedary camel and the llama have been successfully crossbred through artificial insemination. The two hybrids that have been produced thus far do not have humps and more closely resemble the llama mother than the camel father. The possibility of obtaining miniature, two humped, multicolored camel hybrids by crossing the Bactrian camel with other lamoids (llama, alpaca) needs to be explored.

Currently we have 29 Bactrian camels at Lost World Ranch. Seven are the extremely rare white color. Efforts over the past 6 years have been directed at building a breeding herd. Although females will not be for sale for sometime, male camels of several ages are currently available.

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Starting Your Alpaca Business

Note: The following is the third installment of a four-part series featuring alpacas. If you missed the previous two, below is a brief re-cap.

Thousands of farms and ranches across America now raise alpacas as the alternative livestock business.

Alpacas are beautiful, intelligent, and docile animals. Cousin to the llama, adult alpacas are smaller and stand about 36 inches at the withers. They weigh between 150 and 200 pounds. Alpacas produce a luxurious fiber that is as soft as cashmere and is stronger, warmer, and lighter than wool.

Originally from South America, alpacas were first commercially imported into the United States in 1984. The Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association, (AOBA) consists of over 3,800 members. Today, more than 55,000 registered alpacas are raised in North America.

Getting Started

Alpaca breeders, Erin McCarthy of Charlotte, North Carolina and Deb Hill of Flagstaff, Arizona offer valuable advice to first-time alpaca breeders. McCarthy is the former vice-president of Information Management at Bank of America and is an AOBA board member. Hill is a small business owner and serves on AOBA's education committee and is co-chair of the Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF).

All successful businesses start with solid business plans. The alpaca industry is no different. To develop a good business plan, you should learn as much about the alpaca industry as possible.

Resources for Education

The secret to a lucrative alpaca career is constant education, and there are a

number of resources. The best way to learn about the alpaca business is to visit alpaca farms in your area. The breeders will gladly answer all your questions and share helpful information about their experiences of starting-up. To find an alpaca farm near you, visit alpacaainfo.com and go to the "request information" link and you'll receive a free Farm and Ranch Guide listing alpaca breeders across the country. Or, call the AOBA office at (800) 213-9522 to receive your complimentary guide.

Another great way to learn is to attend alpaca local, regional, and national AOBA certified shows and events. To find a complete list go to alpacaainfo.com and click on Calendar of Events.

You can also join AOBA as an associate member, which will give you a subscription to Alpacas Magazine and the OneVoice newsletter, plus access to the AOBA lending library.

Business Plan

To develop your business plan, here are some of the questions that need to be answered...

And don't forget to include a marketing budget. "As your sales grow, your marketing dollars should grow proportionately", McCarthy says.

Do I want to generate income from exclusively from breeding or do I want to include fiber and alpaca end-products?

How much start-up money do I need?

The start-up money you need depends on how much income you hope to generate from your alpaca business. Consult your accountant for advice. "I saw one person start up with \$300,000 and another with \$8,000. It really runs a gamut based on what your resources are and how dedicated you are to mak-

ing this a full-time venture. It's such a wide range", McCarthy says.

How much land do I need?

Alpacas can be successfully raised on small acreage. In fact, five to ten alpacas can be pastured on one acre. According to Hill, about 90-percent of alpaca farms in the United States are considered small, meaning they have 20 or less animals. Some large alpaca farms have over 1,000 animals. When you're just getting started, there are a number of alpaca farms that will board, or agist, your animals.

What kind of alpacas should I buy?

When purchasing your alpacas, consider gender, age, and pedigree. "Buy the best you can afford without taking food off your table, and don't spend the money you will need to live on. When you purchase your foundation stock, consider that it is from these animals that your future herd will come. This is not the place to cut corners-buy the best you can afford," Hill urges.

What do I need as far as equipment, shelter, and training?

Alpacas need basic equipment and fencing is one of them. Pasture layout should be logical, allowing the animals to flow from pasture to pasture. Other helpful items are: halters made especially for alpacas and a few lead ropes.

Space is another issue. At the very least, alpacas should be separated by sex. Separate quarters are also recommended for: crias (or baby alpacas) and moms, weaned crias, females waiting to be bred, and new arrivals. "It's imperative for small farms to be flexible with available space. Corral panels work well to create new spaces," Hill suggests.

Alpacas also need shelter, but the kind needed varies by region and reflects climate. In the north, the extreme cold, snow, and ice make an enclosed barn essential. In the south, the hot and humid heat make fans a necessity. Access to plenty of fresh, clean water is essential no matter the location.

According to the 2004 AOBA member survey, only 40-percent of alpaca owners have had prior livestock experience. Although alpacas are easier to handle than other livestock, basic training for their health, breeding, and birthing is highly recommended. "The message is [that] you really need to understand how

alpacas are cared for in your particular region. Ask the advice of, and help from, farms in your region," McCarthy advises.

Can I manage the farm myself?

Working the farm yourself or hiring staff depends on farm services, layout, and maintenance. A good rule of thumb is that for every 30 alpacas, there is a full-time staff member. Farms with 50 or more alpacas should seriously consider hiring additional staff and a farm manager.

I'm ready, where can I buy alpacas?

You can buy an alpaca various ways, but for your initial purchase, it's recommended that you purchase from a farm. "Buying alpacas within six to eight hours from your farm allows more face-to-face contact and hands-on support. When the breeder's nearby, they can communicate issues pertaining to your particular region," McCarthy says. To find farms near you, visit www.alpacainfo.com and request a Farm and Ranch Guide. Or, you can call the AOBA office at (800) 213-9522.

A second option is an alpaca auction. At an auction, you will see the animals



up-close. You'll see which animals fit your price range and your preferences for gender, age, color, etc.

A third option is to purchase animals via the web. According to McCarthy,

because the alpaca industry is highly internet based, you're sure to find a wide-range of animals to suit your fancy. But this option is better left until you are more experienced in selection.

Have You Herd?



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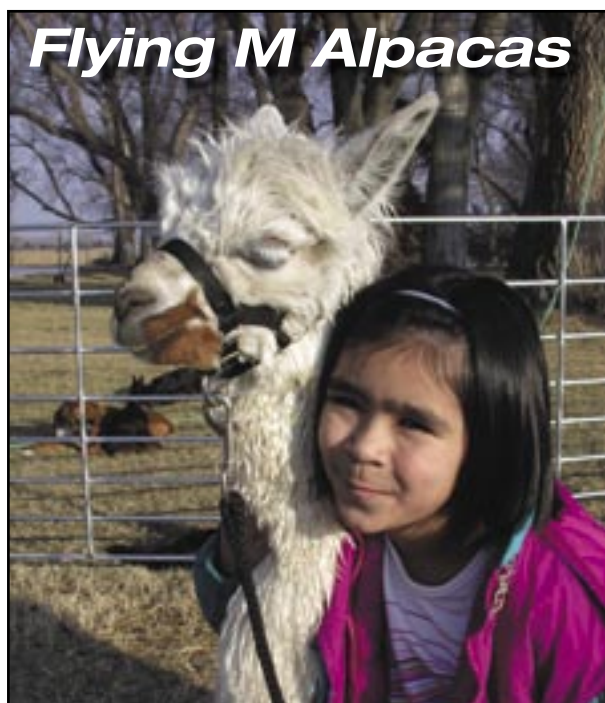
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The Flying M Ranch is a small acreage located in south-central Kansas, owned and operated by Michael and Janis Murphy. Purchased in 1999, we had been looking for something we could do with the property which would offer tax advantages and could be built into a business by the time Michael reached the mandatory retirement age of 60 for airline pilots. It was also important that care and related daily farm chores be something easy for Janis or Michael's father...Alpacas fit every one of those criteria.

After visiting some farms we made a decision to buy our first animals in December 2001. Starting with two 3-in-1 packages (bred females with their last cria at side) and one maiden; our herd has grown from that initial 5 to 35 after this spring crop of crias. We grew much faster than the original plan due to a nerve

injury which forced a medical retirement from the airline as the FAA would not allow Michael to fly with the medication and neuro-stimulator required to control his pain.

We made the decision to raise suris, partly because we preferred their appearance and also because they are much more rare and felt the market would last longer. We spent time with other farms learning as much as possible in a effort to be as self-sufficient as we could. We do our own shearing, routine vaccinations and worming as well as all work and improvements on the ranch. Five to ten can easily be cared for along with a regular job...35 are about a full-time job.

Our buying and breeding philosophy has been to stay as diverse as possible (buying from breeders around the country) and breed dams to sires who will improve any shortcomings. We now have a good selection of herdsires on the property enabling us to do all our breeding on site and take in outside breeding as one of our services. We have all colors and a selection of quality from entry level whites to high-end maroons and blacks. Our herd is mostly of Bolivian descent, but also have Peruvian and Chilean. We learned a tremendous amount from breeders we bought from (alpaca owners are anxious to teach and share) and are happy to likewise help our customers. There are also events and clinics around the country to help prospective, new and established breeders.

One of the really great things about this business; you don't have to be a millionaire to get into alpacas or have a fancy estate to house them. Alpaca owners range from doctors, lawyers and corporate executives to teachers, factory workers and farmers. People are often looking to "get out of the rat race" and this is the perfect avenue...in many cases you're selling a lifestyle rather than an animal! Most alpacas are owned by small breeders with an average of 7 animals on just a few acres. We started using old serviceable buildings already on the property. While a nice barn would be nice it was not necessary and we elected to put our money into our herd to become established rather than facilities. We are going to build a barn this fall; waiting helped us decide just what type of facility best suited us, the animals and our operation.

We hope you'll contact us to learn more about these fantastic creatures and let us help you change your life(style)!

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www.alpacanation.com/flyingm.asp

Buying Your Foundation Herd of Alpacas

At Fine Alpacas we consider the purchase of your foundation herd to be the most important decision you will make in your new venture.

We take a great deal of time to sit down with potential clients and identify the direction they intend to go with the Alpaca business. One of the best ways to figure out how to get started is to decide where you want to be with your Alpaca farm in 5 years.

As a full time, full service farm we can offer support regardless of the direction you might choose to go in the Alpaca business.

Fine Alpacas has a large selection of high quality Alpacas with diverse genetics for sale at all times.

The services we offer are:

- Service and Support before, during and after the sale- We are always will-

ing to help our clients with any aspect of the Alpaca business.

- Adjustment- This enables you to start enjoying the benefits of Alpaca ownership even though you may not be ready to bring them to your farm immediately.

- Stud service- We have traveled all over the country to purchase breeding males of the highest quality to offer to our clients.

- Financing- Financing is available on most animals

- Marketing- We can offer a number of options to our clients when it comes time to sell their animals to help insure a good return on their investment.

- Transportation- We offer free delivery within the continental United States with the purchase of any breed quality Alpaca. We also transport to most major shows as well as most any location east of the Mississippi.

- Showing- We offer help with show training for both you and your alpaca. It is also possible for us to show your animals for you if you can not attend a given show.



We are full time breeders. It is our goal to continue to breed for healthy Alpacas that are reproductively efficient and of the highest quality. We are passionate about these animals and committed to the longevity of the industry. It is for these reasons we are determined to educate and assist, in anyway, anyone who purchases an animal from us. We feel it is our customers who must ultimately succeed in this business if we are to be considered successful.

We love to talk about Alpacas give us a call or shoot us an email. The farm is always open and visitors are always welcome. If you don't see an animal you like on our sales list, we are in close contact with many of the farms in Northern Ohio. Let us know what type of animal you are looking for and we will put you in touch with the farm in our area that has an animal that meets your needs.



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Promised Land Farm

At Promised Land Farm we believe that the key to our success lies in helping others succeed. As veterinarians for 35 years and alpaca breeders for 9, we have a lot of knowledge to share with new breeders. Here are a few of our favorite tips for alpaca buyers:

- The selection of your original breeding stock is the most important decision you will make in your alpaca venture. It really pays to do your homework before you buy.
- Learn as much as you can from books, magazines and talking to experienced alpaca breeders. Go to a show or two, a workshop or a seminar. Try to find a mentor, an experienced breeder who can help you learn the ropes and avoid costly mistakes.
- Visit as many alpaca farms as you reasonably can before you make

your first purchase. Take your mentor with you if possible. This will help you develop an eye for a good alpaca. And don't just stand there and look at them through the fence. Get in there and get your hands on as many animals as possible. Learn to recognize a high quality fleece both by sight and by touch.

- Watch them move. An alpaca that moves with fluid grace almost always has good conformation.
- When you find an animal that has the qualities you are looking for, try to examine as many close relatives as you can find. If the close relatives are all have very similar traits to the animal you have selected it is likely that those traits will continue to be passed along to future generations.
- Ask about her reproductive history and that of all her female relatives. Ease of conception, easy

birthing, good milk production and good mothering skills are all highly heritable. We have helped launch many outstanding new farms and in the process have developed many wonderful friendships and a terrific informal network of successful alpaca breeders whose positive "word of mouth" drives our continued growth. (Of course the fact that we consistently produce award-winning black and grey alpacas helps a lot, too.) About once a month we host a Hands-On Alpaca Workshop where a limited number of people spend a day learning about alpacas by actually doing toenail trimming, body scoring, fleece evaluation, business and breeding plans. To learn more about us or about the workshops, call us at 440-285-9255 or visit us at www.blackalpaca.com. Ed and Ruthanne McCaslin, DVMs

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Simply Alpacas

Buying Your First Alpaca

First you see them; then you fall in love with them. And finally there comes the time when you make the momentous decision – you have to have them.

The decision making process is just beginning. Suris or huacayas? Or possibly both! You may be thinking, “What do I do first?” “Where should I go and who should I see?” “How will I know what to choose?”

Making your first alpaca purchase needn’t be a daunting experience. Taking a logical step-by-step approach can ensure a smooth process, resulting in the purchase of animals that are right for you. If you haven’t visited as many alpaca farms as you possibly can, now’s the time to start. Raising and breeding alpacas is a costly undertaking. Seeing other farms, talking with breeders and taking a look at your own financial resources will help you decide the scope of your future operation. Do you want a handful of animals for your own source of fiber or are you interested in breeding for resale? Are you looking to supplement your retirement income or do you envision the alpaca business as providing a living for you and your family? Most of us fall somewhere in-between. We’re looking to supplement our current incomes as we build our businesses and look forward to becoming self sufficient.

Wherever your level of interest lies, read all you can about alpaca conformation and fiber. Perhaps you’ve requested information from a regional or national alpaca organization. If so, you may already be receiving flyers and brochures from farms throughout the country, as well as a myriad of online auction sites. Study the photos in the literature you receive to find the look that appeals to you. Decide whether to concentrate on suris or huacayas (or both). Visit (or revisit) the breeders that you find interesting and helpful. Ask the breeders to critique their animals. Have them show you examples of correct conformation, as well as examples of the terms associated with fiber – luster, handle, density, etc. I advise first time buyers to bypass the auction sites. It’s easy to be swayed by a pretty face, unique color pattern or a much-advertised bloodline. Purchase from a breeder you feel comfortable with, one who has taken as much time as you require and has answered your questions to your satisfaction. All animals should come with a reproductive guarantee and all breeders should stand behind their animals and offer good customer service before, during and after the purchase. Buy the best you can afford, then relax and enjoy the adventure!






Only several hours old, a new arrival enjoys the sun with mom and pasture mate.

Faces of the Future

Simply Alpacas

- Suri & Huacaya
- Sales
- Stud Service
- Fiber
- Terms

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Alpacas of Prairie Station

Buying an alpaca can be so very easy. The animals are sweet, beguiling and individual. Falling in love comes naturally. Everyone is eager to help a new paca person become an owner. Many breeders offer generous financing, assist with equipment, farm set-up, feeding requirements, a whole starter kit, including instruction manuals, medical kits and a hotline.

So how does one decide on just the right alpaca to purchase? At ALPACAS OF PRAIRIE STATION LLC, we visited farms of

different sizes, meeting, frankly, more people than alpacas face to face. After several months we found a breeder who offered us a suri package within our budget. We wanted bred animals with experience with birthing, since our only delivery background was having our own baby in the car. Furthermore, we'd read stories about the "only cria" syndrome. The birth schedule had to allow close timing so each cria would have a companion from the beginning.

Our starter herd worked for us, though we undoubtedly should have spent far more time putting our hands on animals, watching the judging at shows more closely, learning just what qualities are most important in breeding. Had we done so, we might have begun with fewer, but higher quality animals and still stayed within our budget.

Buying At An Alpaca Auction

By Barbe Kackley

Buying at an alpaca auction can be a daunting prospect, not for the faint of heart. The first alpaca auction I attended I did just about right. I sat on my hands next to the breeder who got me started. After we examined the animals she was interested in, she shared her comments and estimates of the selling prices. I went home with my pocketbook intact.

My next experience was a bit different. I selected three or four lots from the advance catalog; and with the same advisor, we checked them out in their stalls. She suggested a replacement for one of my choices. We poked and prodded the poor creature until he was probably relieved to be allowed on the stage. A couple of my choices flew past my budget before I

could think to raise my card. I let them pass. On the replacement choice, my competing bidders miscued and both stopped bidding. Spitfire was mine! That was my last auction purchase.

Since then, my husband and I have grown more methodical. We tour the display pens, checking out only the suris. We set up our own relative rating scale, 50 tops. Then we estimate the selling price, which we find consistent with the relative selling prices, though our range may differ from that of the auction as a whole. Though we haven't bid on any more animals, we are gaining confidence in our ability to judge alpaca flesh. As with any new skill, it takes practice, practice, practice.



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Come See Your Future

Alpacas: Where do we begin?

Okay, since you have decided to read this article, you must be somewhat interested in alpaca farming and already know about the advantages of alpaca fiber in the textile industry. And you also know how they can enrich your family's lives and bring in additional family income. So. The biggy question is: Where do we begin? Lets talk primarily about the acquisition of your herd.

After visiting at least 10 alpaca farms, you should have a pretty good idea of our industry's diversity of alpaca farming approaches with hundreds of different market niches. Before you begin your selection of your foundation herd, it is wise to determine your farm's market niche. Do you want to have an all white Peruvian huacaya herd, or perhaps a fancy suri herd or an all black and grey huacaya herd? These are just a few of the different market niches out there that current breeders are focusing on.

Once you have narrowed the field, you can begin to focus on the type of individual alpaca characteristics that fits YOUR herd's specialty. Determining which market niche you should focus on will take some research. This is where experienced small farms, specialize in assisting you in developing your alpaca herd strategy. The new breeder often overlooks the relative importance of the relationship established with a breeder. Your success will be determined, in large part, by the ability of the experienced breeder to teach and work with you closely. Beware, there are breeders that do not like to deal with the hours and commitment involved with teaching the new breeders, they would rather focus on selling to other experienced breeders. Stay clear of these types of breeders until you are more experienced. Another thing for first time buyers to stay clear from, are the auctions. Revisit the auction idea when you are more experienced. Your foundation herd is not the place to shop for "bargains". There will be plenty of time for bargain shopping later. Buy the best breeding stock you can afford for your foundation herd with the help of your trusted small breeder's assistance.



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Pine Forty Farms

Raising better alpacas one generation at a time

Nearly 15 years ago, Julie Ann Jarvinen and Bill Hedberg recognized alpacas as alternative livestock with great potential. The opportunity to apply skills and experience acquired from raising dairy cattle and horses also attracted them to the fledgling alpaca industry. Now Bill's 26-acre Iowa farm, formerly used for raising hogs, is home to approximately 140 prize-winning registered suri and huacaya alpacas plus 14 llamas. After choosing foundation stock with sound conformation, they have employed a selective breeding program designed to achieve early maturity and to improve fiber quality and quantity without compromising conformational excellence.

Today the alpacas of Pine Forty Farms provide supplemental income for these busy veterinary professionals through sales of breeding stock across the US. Fiber from their alpacas is harvested every spring and pooled with fiber contributed by other members of The Alpaca Fiber Cooperative of North America (www.americasalpaca.com) for transformation into sumptuous yarns and garments. Just as demand for pork products drives the hog industry, creation of strong worldwide demand for alpaca fiber products is essential to sustained growth of the alpaca industry. To



help develop this demand, Bill and Julie have further diversified their alpaca operation by becoming the exclusive US distributors of 100% alpaca knitwear wonderfully handcrafted in Bolivia by Waliki (www.Waliki.com).

As progressive breeders, Bill and Julie realize that continuing success of the alpaca industry will also require ongoing genetic improvement of the alpaca as well as increased production efficiency. Both goals can be achieved through application of many manage-

ment practices and principles already established in traditional livestock industries. They encourage other experienced livestock producers to enter the alpaca industry where they can capitalize on their personal expertise and help take alpaca production to the next level. For more information on Pine Forty Farms alpacas or Waliki products, please contact Bill at 641-456-2779 or Julie at 515-292-3829 or visit our web site at www.alpacanation.com/pinefortyfarms.asp.

Pine Forty Farms

QUALITY SURI AND HUACAYA ALPACAS

RAISING BETTER ALPACAS – ONE GENERATION AT A TIME

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Lana Bella Alpaca Farm

Owned and operated by Frank and Jody Hezoucky, Lana Bella Alpaca Farm, formally located on five acres in Hudson, Ohio has recently moved to Carrollton, Ohio. Both Frank and Jody grew up owning and raising farm animals, including cows, goats and chickens for Frank, and horses for Jody, so it was only a question of what type of livestock to invest in. They chose to purchase alpacas with the goal of selling quality offspring as a small family business that they could enjoy while working full time and still have time to enjoy other activities with their two young boys. The family set out in search of such an animal during the summer of 1997, county fair season. Through these fairs, the Hezouckys learned about alpacas and decided they still needed to know more about the animal. Trips to local breeders, the Internet and AOBA provided them with as much alpaca information as they needed.

Like most people first exposed to the idea of raising alpacas, sticker shock soon set in. With a new house payment, car payments and two kids in day care, many people would have given up on the idea of investing in anything, let alone an alpaca farm. But Frank and Jody did not give up. Because of the tax advantages owning alpacas offers, it was simple for them to take out a second mortgage interest only loan on their house to invest in two bred female alpacas. Getting started as alpaca breeders was easier then they ever imagined. With the type of loan that they obtained, it was just like buying a new car, except they could depreciate the alpacas and deduct the interest they paid on the loan along

with all the other expenses associated with the farm at tax time each year.

After only 18 months, the Hezouckys sold one offspring of one of the two original females and still retained three for breeding. The family needed to sell only one more offspring to recoup their initial investment.

According to Jody, improving the quality in the offspring of the investment happens one generation at a time. Part of the fun of raising alpacas is the breeding choices you make that will improve the next generation's cria. You have your investment right outside your window where you can watch and see it grow, she says.

In the fall of 1999, Peruvian LB Remington, at nine months old, was added to their herd as the future herd sire. At the 2000 AOBA National Conference and Show, Remington was awarded Grand Champion for Age and Color. The Hezouckys realized Peruvian Remington was growing into an outstanding herd sire and turned out to be just what the family was looking for in its goal of breeding top quality alpacas. This was the first big alpaca show the Hezouckys attended as a family.

After attending the AOBA National conference in 2000, Frank and Jody really began to realize that they were in the right direction in their breeding program and that you didn't need a lot of land or a big herd of alpacas to be successful.

Frank and Jody enjoy attending the area alpaca shows and events. Not only is it a fun family activity, but it is also an economical way for them to network with other alpaca breeders and showcase

their offspring to potential investors.

After the long winter, the Hezouckys are looking forward to the spring show season. They only own eight alpacas, four breeding females and four males, including one pet quality companion male. They choose to take three males to the shows: Remington their future herd sire, LB Peruvian Castano Bay and LB Copper Moon, their only 2 cria born on their farm in 2000. These Alpacas have all competed very well against farms that have had several hundred alpacas to choose from. Frank and Jody both agree that competing in such shows and events has been a beneficial learning experience for their farm. You learn what other breeders have to offer while promoting your own farm and you know you are part of a growing industry that has so much potential and many people are working together to help it grow.

As a visitor to Lana Bella Alpaca Farm, you will find a normal hard working family of four that have chosen to raise and sell alpacas. You will see only quality alpacas for sell including females bred to one of the top future herd sires in the country, Cperuvian LB Remington, who in his one year show campaign has eight blue ribbons and five Championships at shows such a AOBA, MAPACA, PAOBA, and Triple Crown. Lana Bella Alpaca Farm has a sound-breeding program, with quality and uniqueness in every cria that is born.

Alpacas make the perfect small farm investment animal and Lana Bella Alpaca Farm is a prime example of how with only a few quality alpacas, breeders can turn that small farm into big opportunities and rewards.

	<h1>Lana Bella Alpaca Farm</h1> <p>Frank and Jody Hezoucky 7256 Kensington Rd. Carrollton, Ohio 44615</p> <p>Phone 330-627-6000 • Toll Free 330-232-LANA Web Site www.4alpaca.com • e-mail info@4alpaca.com</p>	
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About Alpacas

Alpacas were a cherished treasure of the ancient Incan civilization and played a central role in the Incan culture that was located on the high Andean Plateau and mountains of South America. Alpacas were first imported to the United States in 1984. Alpacas are now being successfully raised and enjoyed throughout North America and abroad. There are two types of alpacas - the Huacaya and the Suri. The lifespan of the alpaca is about 20 years and gestation is 11.5 months. Alpacas eat grasses and chew a cud. Adult alpacas are about 36" tall at the withers and generally weigh between 100 and 200 pounds. They are gentle and easy to handle. Alpacas

don't have incisors, horns, hooves or claws. Clean-up is easy since alpacas deposit droppings in only a few places in the paddock. They require minimal fencing and can be pastured at 5 to 10 per acre.

Alpacas produce one of the world's finest and most luxurious natural fibers. It is clipped from the animal without causing it injury. Soft as cashmere and warmer, lighter and stronger than wool, it comes in more colors than any other fiber producing animal (approximately 22 basic colors with many variations and blends). This cashmere-like fleece, once reserved for Incan royalty, is now enjoyed by spinners and weavers around the world.

Alpaca owners enjoy a strong and active national organization. The Alpaca Owners

and Breeders Association (AOBA) with a growing number of Regional Affiliates and AOBA sanctioned national committees addressing every aspect of the industry.

The Alpaca Fiber Cooperative of North America (AFCNA) accepts fleece from its members, and turns the precious textile into quality alpaca garments and products. Members benefit from a ready outlet for their fiber, while the cooperative works to increase awareness of and demand for this every day luxury.

The Alpaca Registry has been established to help ensure accurate records and has a state-of-the-art system to document bloodlines. Alpacas must be blood typed in order to be registered. Virtually every alpaca in the U.S. is registered.

Purchasing Your First Alpaca

After looking at ads and seeing the alpacas on TV, you decide you want to become an alpaca owner. The first thing you need to decide is whether you want pet animals, fiber animals or breeding stock. After the decision to purchase, there are basically four ways to purchase alpacas. 1). by private treaty 2). at alpaca shows 3). at an alpaca auction or 4). online.

My first and best way to purchase an alpaca would be by private treaty. Contact AOBA about animals for sale in your area or region. Then place a few telephone calls about arranging a farm visit. After looking at their alpacas, visit with them about their barn, fencing, breeding program, breeding fees, vet care, ect. When visiting with alpaca farmers, look into their

boarding fees and live birth guarantees. (Most people have between 2-7 days of live birth guarantees.) Also, visit with the owner about getting a health check from their veterinarian. It will put your mind at ease and you will need it to purchase insurance on your alpacas. Check on delivery of animals to your farm. Will the owner deliver your purchase? One last item to inquire about is if the seller has a finance program available for your alpaca purchase. These financing programs will vary from farm to farm. Discuss with the seller how much support they will give you if you have questions about the alpaca once you have them on your farm. It usually amounts to nothing. Do not be afraid to put miles on your car to see other people's animals, how they use

existing building and what they use for fencing. **IT IS MONEY WELL SPENT!**

My second choice would be to spend some time at the regional shows watching the judges and visiting with other alpaca owners. But remember the judge is strictly one person's option. Usually there are animals for sale at the show.

My third way to purchase an alpaca would be to buy at an alpaca auction. Look the animals over. Visit with the owners. Set a price you will pay and stick with it. Don't get caught up in the hype.

My last way to purchase an alpaca would be via the internet. But before spending your money, I would strongly recommend to purchase your first alpaca by private treaty. This allows you to see and feel the alpaca.

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During testing, no lights are used, no buttons are pushed, thus attention is not diverted from the animal. A short intermittent tone indicates good contact, while a loud continuous tone indicates

pregnancy. Since the PREG-TONE uses only loud easy to hear tones to indicate both pregnancy and non pregnancy, it can be clipped on the belt or kept in a pocket. The PREG-TONE does not need to be seen or held during testing.

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All-metal construction guarantees against interference by radio waves in the atmosphere, a major accuracy problem with some ultrasound instruments. Constructed of heavy gauge aluminum for ruggedness and ease of cleaning, the RENCO PREG-TONE is still lightweight and small enough to slip in your pocket. Contact us today!



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Stage Stop Llamas: Diversify and Enhance Your Livestock Operation

By Sally Rucker

I was asked to write an article on llamas as an alternative livestock choice for ranchers wishing to diversify their operations. Llamas are my primary livestock. I used to raise angora rabbits, miniature horses, angora goats, cashmere goats and Cormo sheep. As a single mother, I soon realized my llamas hurt me less, were less labor intensive, brought me more enjoyment and made me more money than all of my other livestock. I now pursue my fiber interests as a hobby and concentrate solely on producing and selling llamas. I remarried eleven years ago, and we own and manage 300 llamas by ourselves.

In South America, llamas (the oldest domesticated livestock) are the mainstay of life on the altiplano and they are revered. Their fiber is used for clothing and the best is mixed with alpaca for export to the world's fashion industry. The coarser fiber is used for outer garments, rope, etc. Implements are made from the bones, sandals from the hides, and fuel from packed dung which is virtually odorless and smokeless. Llamas serve as beasts of burden until they can no longer feed themselves or carry their loads; then they are eaten. Consumption of the hard, sparse grasses from the rocky soil leads to tooth prob-

lems, so it is rare to find llamas over eight. Llamas in the United States live productive lives of 15-20 years due to better care and nutrition.

Our llamas are utilized in a more limited way. The US industry is in its infancy compared with other livestock industries. To some extent the rise of the llama industry can be tied to flight from urban and suburban areas by people with discretionary funds who wanted to invest in a rural lifestyle. They sought a "commodity animal investment" which would provide quick, high returns, would graze their land, and would provide them with an agricultural tax assessment and a depreciable tax shelter. Many llama owners had no previous livestock experience and were searching for animals which could be sold as companion animals rather than as meat animals. Horses fit the bill, but were intimidating and dangerous for people with no large animal experience. Llamas proved to be a perfect match. They were unique, exotic, gentle, hearty, adaptable, and did not require a high level of scientific knowledge or skill (artificial insemination, castration, complicated nutrition, etc.) Scarcity caused prices to stay remarkably high (\$15,000 to over \$100,000) throughout the eighties and early nine-

ties. Llamas' value was much like that of fine art; they were rare, exotic and beautiful.

Recently, most llama breeders have had to readjust to more realistic prices influenced by increases in the number of llamas and llama breeders and more widespread acceptance of llamas as a common and easily available livestock choice. The top show animals still command high prices, as they do in other livestock industries, but 80% are now sold for prices based on their end uses (\$250-\$3500). The industry is beginning to diversify and have niche markets such as: miniatures, suris, classics, appaloosas, and specific use categories. This specialization is generating renewed enthusiasm among some breeders.

Our industry is just beginning to market based on a product or end use. The wool market is still primarily a cottage industry with producers making woven or knitted goods or sending their clips to mills to be returned as yarn or finished goods for a fee. There are a few co-ops that will buy very clean fleeces outright, but a national fiber co-op where our clips can be sold and marketed to the international fashion industry still needs to be developed. We do have some forward looking individuals



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investigating those possibilities.

The meat market has not been developed, because the sensibilities of our current owners with urban, yuppie or pet backgrounds cannot conceive of this use. Some llama producers with livestock backgrounds are doing the science and, upon analysis, have discovered llama to be the leanest domestic meat with excellent flavor. As our industry expands and matures, and as it becomes an alternative livestock choice for sheep, cattle, goat, and exotic ranchers, the meat market will probably be organized and developed.

There are many uses for llamas. After years of selective breeding, we sell most of our animals as breeding stock. The rest are sold for show animals, wool production, pack animals, 4H projects, pets, and livestock guardian animals. I have also sold llamas to train cutting horses, to control weeds in pastures and ditches, to carry building supplies to remote areas, to use in animal assisted therapy, as golf caddies, as quiet, sensible companions for hunters, and as cart trained animals that do

birthday parties, weddings, etc.

Some major advantages of llamas are: they can be raised at any elevation, they do not overeat or bloat, they are easy to fence, transport and train, and they do not damage equipment, barns or trailers. Llamas do not contract or spread bovine viruses or brucellosis and are minimally susceptible to TB and FMD. They are strictly herbivores and do not contract Mad Cow Disease. They are quiet and are suitable for small acreages, because they consume less grass and hay per pound than other livestock. They are browsers and will clean up the weeds in pastures that have been overgrazed by cows and horses. They completely digest their food and this destroys weed and grass



seeds, producing slow-release nitrogen rich manure. It is a highly marketable commodity. Their exceptional guarding ability also makes them an animal that would enhance cattle, sheep and goat operations.

This is the first article in an on-going series, by noted llama authorities.

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GOAT... ITS WHAT'S FOR DINNER?!?

Believe it or not, in any one day, all around the world, more goat meat is consumed than beef and pork combined! Demand is growing here in America, mainly due to rising ethnic populations. Right now, demand is twice the rate of production. Population estimates indicate that the US will grow by 44 million between 1995-2025, due to an increase in foreign immigrants. Asian, Muslim, Jewish, and Hispanic cultures serve the most goat meat, primarily at holiday feasts, and are willing to spend more of their flexible income on food. Strongest demand is focused along the Eastern Seaboard Coast, southern California, Florida, and Detroit.

GOAT MEAT NUTRITION COMPARATIVE CHART
Per 3 oz. Cooked

TRAIT	GOAT	CHICKEN	BEEF	PORK	LAMB
Calories	122	162	179	180	175
Fat (g)	2.6	6.3	7.9	8.2	8.1
Sat Fat (g)	0.79	1.7	3	2.9	2.9
Protein (g)	23	25	25	25	24
Cholesterol (mg)	63.8	76	73.1	73.1	78.2

Data from: USDA Nutrient Database for Standard Reference

Why Raise Llamas?

If you are a rancher or farmer with children or grandchildren and want to have an animal for them that is fun, easy, and that they can work with, you should try llamas. Llamas, having been domesticated for almost 7,000 years in South America, are very intelligent and are a joy to have around. They can be used for 4-H and FFA projects, as well as breeding and wool production. Llamas can be trusted around almost any age and type of child. They can be worked with by children of all ages – four years to ninety-four. They are also exceptional with children who have special needs; we've had children in walkers and autistic children at our ranch who have been able to walk our llamas and give them long hugs without any problems.

If you have problems with coyotes or individual dogs killing your livestock, a llama belongs on your ranch. Llamas are excellent herd guards for sheep, goats, cows, and even horses. One sheep rancher told me that with an adult llama guarding his sheep, losses went from 40% to zero.

Llama wool can be coarse, which is wonderful for making rugs, or very fine, which is great for clothing. While not as dense as alpaca wool, you can still get several pounds of wool off a llama, and when it is cleaned and ready to spin, there may be little difference. Ask anyone who has worked with llama wool – it is a true pleasure to handle!

Llamas open up a whole new family for you as a livestock person, too. Most llama owners do not have much previous livestock experience, and they are interested in learning whatever they need to know. This means that llama owners share information, and want to enjoy getting to know others as they learn more about their llamas.



These are only a smattering of possible reasons to have llamas. If you would like to know more – or get more details on these reasons – please visit our web site [<http://www.edrlamas.com>], contact us as edrlamama@yahoo.com, or call 309-822-0041.



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White Rail Ranch

White Rail Ranch is located in Porterville, California it is owned and operated by Chuck and Judy Kaye. We raise show quality percentage, Fullblood Boer goats and project wethers. We have raised meat goats since 1997 and have had registered show goats since 2000. Since 2001 our goats have won at every major show in California, Arizona, Nevada and Oregon. Our bloodlines include several National Champions - Oscar, Yabu, Bingo, RRD Goldstrike, plus many Ennobled bucks and does. Our wether goats have been the top CJLA (California Junior Livestock Association) circuit winners for the last three years. We also bred the reserve grand at the 2001 California State Fair and Reserve Grand at 2003 Cow Palace. We also have bred many county fair winners. Our buck line-up is really strong including WRR "MO" Better sired by Eggsonerate and out of JLS Maya. His dam is Sumo X Oscar. "MO" and Maya have been overall Grand Buck and Doe three different times. Pretty good for a mother and son team. Other bucks include TLB Voodoo sired by Yabu and out of a Lucas Berger doe - he was Grand Champion at California State Fair, L.A. County fair and several others. ROK Maverick is sired by RRD Gold Strike



(National Champion) and out of LRB Havana by Eggsonerate, her twin brother is LRB Hobenero Ennobled deceased. WRR Hoss sired by L.H. Bengal out of SEE 335 a triple bred Kaptain Doe. FDO Tucker by Eggsonerate and out of a Big "O" daughter. We have all our bucks collected and semen is available. We kid year round and always have show wethers and breeding stock available.

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International Goat Days

Start Plannin'

It's the middle of June; it's hot, humid and generally yucky, but my buddies and I are already planning a road trip for the fall. We're gonna hunt for the mighty and elusive Kentucky White Tail.

The important part of that is that we're looking forward to a few care-free days of seeing some pretty country and having some fun just being outside - doing what we enjoy.

I've noticed that more and more folks are doing the same thing each year just as soon as the kids or grandchillen are back in school. You just can't help but have a little of wanderlust as the shadows begin to get longer and the days begin to cool just a bit.

Here's an idea for a road trip that you probably won't forget anytime soon. Hook up that big ol' motor home

or pack your tent and spend the second weekend in September at the 2004 Goat Days International Family Festival in historic Millington, Tennessee.

"What in the world is Goat Days?" you might ask. Goat Days is one of the world's unique festivals; thought up by W. S. "Babe" Howard and built by the community of Millington with the help of folks as far away as Ireland, Texas, Pennsylvania, and Oregon. Goat Days is one of two festivals in the entire world dedicated to goats of every make and model. It's also dedicated to keeping things simple, rustic and family-oriented. We have

all the trappings of most other festivals - crafts, food, games, and contests. That's where similarities end.

It wouldn't be Goat Days without the goats, and there will be goat events for every goat-lover. There will be a "Pen Sale" on Friday after the parade, with many breeds offered for sale. On Saturday, September 10th, the day will start with an ABGA-sanctioned Boer Goat Show judged by The Honorable Anton Ward. This will be Anton Ward's second time to judge Goat Days: he is originally from South Africa (now residing in North Carolina) and makes every class interesting and educational. The Tennessee Dairy Goat Association will host a Sunday Junior and Senior Doe Show to be sanctioned by the American Dairy Goat Association.

Joyce Miller, club secretary, is expecting to see well over 150 entries featuring breeds like Alpine, LaMancha, Nubian, Oberhasli, Saanen, Toggenburg and a recorded class.

Three youth showmanship classes will kick off the event at noon. Contact Joyce at (901) 872-6573 or by e-mail wind-song@homerelay.net.

We're "low tech." Everything at Goat Days is geared to earlier, more relaxed times. People are not just riding things and looking at stuff. They're actually involved in cooking in Dutch Ovens, making homemade ice cream, trying to catch the biggest fish, or watching 100 pound anvils being shot high into the sky. There's plenty just to look at like the great mill, lint cleaners, antique machines and vehicles, or just sittin' in the shade, listening to live old-time music.

Speaking of "old times," we older folks really don't have to worry about gettin' around cause there's a trolley that makes its rounds about every 10-15 minutes. There's also a stage coach for a leisurely ride around the lake. About the only



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other rides are in "Kiddy Land". They are simple, old timey rides like you probably rode as a child.

More than one memory of your childhood will come rushing back if you're down around our gin or the rodeo area. You'll see old Charlie Grooms and Milton Cleek of Union City makin' a batch of honest to goodness, hog cracklins; I can smell 'em now! You'll also get to watch Juanita Jones of Jones Orchard fame make goodies like apple butter or fried pies. She may even be canning fresh peaches. If you grew up anywhere near the country, that area will really awaken those sweet memories of your tender youth.

Youth is abundant at Goat Days. We're overrun with mostly well-behaved youngsters who are totally agog at the sights and sounds from the past. A lot of these kids have never seen most of the goodies on display or done things they have heard Grandpa talk about. It's a wonderful, living history lesson. I really don't think I've ever seen an unhappy face at Goat Days.

There are just too many things to try to talk about here, so you'll just have to load up the bus and come on down. We'll be tickled to save you a camping space. Give us a call and we'll send a complete information pack with motels, plans, rules, and brochure, plus a list of events.

You have just enough time to practice your fish cookin' or ice cream makin' before September 10th, 11th, and 12th. Call us at (901) 872-4559, or look us up on the net at www.internationalgoatdays.com or e-mail us at goatdays@bigriver.net. For information on shows, contact Bill or Robin Gotten at (901) 837-7827 or sawtree@bigriver.net.



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BZI Farms is located in the North Georgia Mountains. We raise registered Boer Goats and AKC Great Pyrenees guardian dogs. We concentrate on colored Boer Goats with correct conformation. Our herd is clean and closed and CL, Brucellosis, and TB have never been found in any of our animals. We've been in the goat business for about 6 years and enjoy working with goats.

The "Gentle Giants" of livestock guardian dogs guard our farm from predators. They are a very trustworthy breed with a tremendous sense of loyalty. We have not lost any of our animals to predators since their introduction to our farm. We have puppies for sale intermittently throughout the year.

We also build web sites for farmers and associations and support a livestock breeder's list at www.ifi-us.com.



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It has been a whirlwind of activity at our farm in north Ohio, since 2002. We purchased Pistolero (the highest selling buck in the U.S. to date) and brought him home from Texas to a very chilly Ohio, December. To have an animal with that kind of pedigree in Ohio is great, but it only got better. We purchased our first full blooded does, some recipient does and set up our first embryo flush for May 2003. We flushed 22 does in May and then set up our second flush for September 2003. Being a glutton for punishment, we purchased a few more does and started our second flush which consist of 16 does. On the last day of the second flush my husband decided to set up our third flush for December 2003. Ignoring my pleas for mercy and threats of divorce if he followed through with it, the third flush happened. We flushed 6 does and harvested 160 embryos, all grade 1 and 2. It was amazing and all the thanks goes to the good Lord for making it happen, if it wasn't for him none of this would have been possible.

Looking back at 2003 and having 3 em-



Photo Courtesy Albright Boer Goats

bryo flushes in one year, it's just, wow! Nothing concreted the "wow" until February 5, 2004 when our first Pistolero kids starting hitting the ground. Now we are up to our elbows in kids and loving it! I don't like the sleep deprivation, but what fun to see that many kids running around with those types of pedigrees. And like child birth, you forget the pain of the whole

experience once you see those kids on the ground. I have to chuckle when I think back....starting out in 2001 with 10 average goats because we needed something to help with mowing the grass.....now in 2004 with 300 recipient does, 16 teaser bucks, 20 full blooded S.A. Boer does, 2 weather bucks, 10 livestock guardian dogs, 1 Boarder Collie and best of all, Pistolero!

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International Boer Goat Association, Inc.

Our association is not just a livestock registry which issues certificates of pedigree for full blood and percentage Boer Goats; however, it certainly is a state of the art registry. We are a respected association of capable, talented breeders and producers who have taken the opportunity to help propel the Boer breed and the entire meat goat industry into the mainstream of world wide agriculture. The heart of the association is a member-owned, member-directed, non-profit organization that promotes the Boer goat breed.

The Association has taken the initiative in helping the members in many ways and they include:

- *state of the art registry
- *full color bi-monthly publication "Boer Breeder"
- *producing quality educational mate-

rials about the Boer breed, a narrated video with photos of goats which shows and explains the requirements of our Breed Standards

*cultivating strategic alliances and working relationships within the agriculture community, in academia, and with appropriate government agencies

*enthusiastic Regional & District Coordinators

*identifying and targeting potential newcomers in the Boer industry

*implementing meaningful programs and offering substantive assistance designed to enhance each member's profitable participation in this industry.

*a progressive youth program

*dynamic scholarship program

*exciting show schedule

*fast & economical DNA testing

The Association has stepped up and is providing the leadership necessary to

secure the future of the Boer breed and the meat goat industry in North American and even on to a world wide goal.



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- Participation in KHIR (KIKO Herd Improvement Registry) testing pro-gram, which gives you recognition for production records earned by your herd. (est. start date is Jan. 2006)
- Opportunity to serve on a IKGA committee dealing with specific areas of problem solving.
- Eligibility to apply for an IKGA Scholarship, (est. start date is June 2005)
- Quarterly edition of the IKGA News & Events to keep you informed of IKGA news and programs. (est. start date is Dec. 2004)
- Miscellaneous Fact Sheets and flyers on various goat-related topics.
- Announcements of our Annual Meeting which features a long schedule of seminars and programs, plus an exciting auction of top quality KIKO goats.
- Eligibility in IKGA Certified Breeder or Farm Program WWW.

Building on the foundation of New Zealand fullblood Kiko bloodlines while progressively improving our breed through the use of scientific independent performance testing.

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N9587 Cox Hill Rd.

Holmen, WI 54636.

Phone: (608) 857-3220

AKStumlin@aol.com

Stumlin Boer Goat Farm



Stumlin Boer Goat Farm was established in 1999 with two does and one buck. Since then we have grown through breeding and additions to a herd of 55 registered breeder does and two herd sires. We strive to produce healthy, quality goats. All our kids are sired naturally from our two herd sires, Jirah, who is out of the enobled blood lines of Oakridge Hudson and ORF1147 and Archie who is out of enobled Del Rio.

Our Breeder does have multiple enoblements in their blood lines and are only bred once a year. All goats and kids are vaccinated yearly for CDT and meticulous care is given to hoofs, coats and all aspects of health care. We love to see those bright eyes and wagging tails jumping around as only kid goats can do.

We are located North of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, about a 45 minute drive from LaCrosse. Call for directions, we would love to meet you and talk goats. Hopefully we are closer than Texas.

Arlen and Kathy Stumlin

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TNT Kikos

Well after moving back to the family farm & purchasing it. "5th generation farm". I needed a way to clear all the brush & weeds without all the constant mowing & spraying from the old hog pastures.

Enter the goat. I'd tried other breeds & was very disappointed, poor feet, poor mothering ability, parasite problems.

So I purchased my first Kiko's, the articles on them almost sounded to good to be true but after the 1st breeding & kidding season I was sold on them.

They are all they are bragged up to be. Very aggressive breeders & browsers, excellent feet & mothering ability & have strong parasite resistance. The does kid unaided in the pasture usually twins or triplets & occasionally quads.

I since increased my numbers to five herd bucks & 150 does, all kiko or kiko sired. With the abundance of grass left I've added 40 herd of Katahdin hair sheep also very hardy low maintenance & very meaty.

Breeding stock are in demand from all the growth in the meat goat industry & the kiko's will play a large role in the future of meat goat production.

So if I can be of any help give me a call at (217) 532-6384.

Lambert Show Goats

My name is Larry Lambert and my son Brice and I have been raising show wethers since 1996. Brice decided after winning the Collin County Junior Livestock Show that he wanted to raise and show his own wethers. Brice took his premium money from his Grand Champion wether and purchased twelve 50% South African Boer does and a 100% South African buck. Two years later, he placed second in class at the Houston Livestock Show and had the Reserve Champion at the Collin County Show. Since that time, our wethers have placed at all the major shows in Texas and have won Grand and Reserve at the Oklahoma State Fair several times.

When selecting a show wether, one needs to look at the group of wethers from a distance and watch them as they move around. You will be able to see both the best and the worst animals in the group. Pick out the animals that have eye appeal, level top and bottom lines, and those animals that track straight as they move. You should also look for a balanced animal that is long-sided from flank to flank and shows signs of muscling as they move. Separate these animals into a smaller area away from the large group. You will continue the selection from the smaller group. Make your second visual inspection of these animals from a distance.

Start your hands-on inspection with the most eye-appealing goat in the group. It should hold its head proud, be up-fronted with a smooth neck-shoulder connection, and a clean wide chest floor. The animal needs to have a wide, thick level top. Place your hand on the neck-shoulder connection with your fingers on the shoulder blades. Start moving your hand down the animal's top. As your fingers leave the shoulders, you should immediately feel muscle in the rack of the animal. Continue on down the back as you reach the animal's loin and you should notice the top is starting to widen. It should continue to widen as your hand passes over the hip-loin juncture into an even wider hip. The hip should be level and flat. A good sign of heavy muscling is a round muscle on the top of the hip bones. Another good sign of heavy muscling is the bulge of muscle of the forearm of the animal. The depth of the muscle in the loin area is also important. Last, you need to look at the depth and the bulge of the twist between the back legs.

The hind saddle (the area from the 12th rib to the pin bones) should make up to 60 to 70 % of the total body length. The hind saddle is where the most expensive cuts of meat are located. The other 30 to 40% is called the fore saddle. As earlier described, the top should be triangular in shape from the shoulder back through the hips.

The muscle on the back legs should carry down low on the hock and be full in the lower 1/3 of the twist. The animal needs to be standing on straight legs with a lot of bone. The legs should also be set on the corners. Again, watch the animal closely as it moves toward you and as it goes away to make sure that the legs are tracking straight and that it has a smooth even gait as it walks.

The last important factor that one needs to consider is when and where do you plan on showing your animal. This will help one determine the size and weight of the wether that you will purchase. The ideal weight for a wether in Texas for most judges is between 90 and 105 pounds. You can expect a weight gain of 1/8th to 1/4th pound per day.

I hope that some of the descriptions that I have given will help you select a winning wether. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (972) 382-2056 or e-mail me at llboers@hotmail.com and I will try to answer them. HAVE A GREAT SHOW SEASON!



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CONNECTING WITH KINDERS!

By: Pat Showalter

Kinder goats and the Kinder Goat Breeders Association were first publicly introduced via a front page article, with photo, in the January, 1989 issue of United Caprine News. The article invited interested breeders to join in the development of the Kinder goat. Now, 15 years later, it is amazing to look back on the course that introduction has taken. When the first three does, later to be called "Kinders", were born in June and July of 1986, little did we know what an impact they would have on our lives. The two breedings that produced them, Pygmy buck to Nubian does, were made out of a necessity to freshen the does, but ended up taking us on an adventure of a lifetime!

We discovered that the invitation to participate in the development of the new breed was an intriguing project to people who had never seriously considered goats before. The idea appealed, as well, to those who had raised goats previously, but liked the idea of a smaller size with which to work. The new Kinder breeders soon began discovering many surprising advantages to this new little goat. They tend to be very intelligent, with laid-back and cooperative personalities. They eat far less

than a standard size goat, yet their milk and meat production is quite impressive for their body size (average weight for mature does, 115-125 pounds, for bucks, 135-145 pounds). They take on the Pygmy Goat trait of a seasonal breeding so that a breeder can have kids being born any time of year without the hassle and expense of special lighting to "fool" them into cycling. That translates into a milk and meat supply that can extend right through those usually lean winter months.

Kinders have become known for having "litters" of kids. In 1997, Virginia State University did a study using eight years of kidding records from Zederkamm Farm in Snohomish, WA, where the first goats to be called "Kinders" were born. The study used 119 doe records for analysis, and found that the average litter size overall was 2.51. The range was from 1.94 with yearling does, to an astonishing 3.47 in four year old does. Triplet and quadruplet births are very common, quintuplet births are not uncommon, and there are four recorded births of sextuplets. The present record-holding doe for the most live births in her career, gave birth to 28 kids in seven unassisted kiddings. There are a number of does that are coming close to challenging that record.

Kinder gestation length in that group of 119 does averaged 147.8. The average weight per kid is about 5.5 pounds, and of course, will vary some with litter size. The first quintuplet set reported so far this year, reported individual kid weights from 3.8 to 5.5 pounds. Weight gain in the first week was nearly doubled. A five pound kid (at birth) can, by age four months, weigh 45-50 pounds.

Milk production is where the Kinders are really stellar performers. In our earliest literature, the KGBA claimed that the Kinder does could average six pounds of milk daily, with a butterfat average of 6%, and a protein average of 4% or better. Not many people believed the claim ("any goat that looks like that could never be a dairy goat!"), but with 14 years of official DHIA testing, with 47 does having earned their production stars to date, the numbers have proven to be true. Kinder does are required to meet the same standards as set by the American Dairy Goat Association for the standard dairy breeds. Because of their high butterfat, Kinders usually earn their stars first on butterfat, and often, on the next lactation, qualify on milk volume as well. It is not unusual for a good Kinder doe to be able to produce a gallon or more of sweet milk daily for a good part of her lactation. By the way, cream can be scooped off the top of chilled Kinder goat milk, saved aside a little at a time in the freezer, then can be whipped for dessert use, or made into delicious butter. If you are wondering if Kinder does have adequate teat size for comfortable milking, the answer is yes, but that depends upon proper selection. Just like in any dairy goat breed, there is quite a variety of teat and orifice sizes. The trick is to learn to select the type you like, and build your milking herd with those does that are easy to milk, if that is important to you.

The milk production record-holders to date are as follows:

Standard/group test on 305 day lactation, milk production: 11*M Zederkamm Floribunda, 2480#

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Because Kinder goat milk is extremely rich, it is exceptional for use in cheesemaking. Cheese yield (drained curd) from five quarts of milk will be from 3 to 4.5 pounds, depending upon the time in their lactation. In Strasburg, Colorado, a growing goat dairy last year added a nucleus herd of registered Kinders to begin upgrading their milk quality. The Lucky 7 Ranch dairy sells their milk to a nearby cheesemaking plant. It is a little early to determine the financial difference the Kinders will make, but the higher the butterfat, the better the price the milk will bring. As a bonus, feedback from plant workers says that the milk flavor has improved notice-

ably with the input of Kinder goat milk.

Kinder goats have spread across the US, with new breeders beginning also in Canada. The largest concentrations of breeders are in the Pacific Northwest, California, and Missouri, but there are more and more developing areas. In 1997 a group of four bred does and an unrelated buck were shipped to Brazil, where they have acclimated very well. Within four months of their arrival, the five Kinders had become 16, and they have continued to increase from there.

Though Kinders are being tested in many different situations, their primary placement so far has been as "homestead" goats, supplying milk and meat for families. Often the children of the family are the

"herdsmen", and the goats provide a wide variety of activities particularly useful for home schooling situations (basic animal husbandry, showing, cheesemaking, soap making, cart pulling among them). Many young people are using Kinders for 4-H projects, and there are reports of small business activities making cheese and goat milk soap products.

If you haven't met a Kinder, you have missed a special experience! If you would like to learn more, the Kinder Goat Breeders Association offers a free informational color brochure. The Association has a web site at: <http://www.kindergoats.com>. The KGBA address is: P.O. Box 1575, Snohomish, WA 98291-1575. The phone number is: (360) 668-4559.



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Funds Available to Help Sheep & Goat Industries

Colorado Springs, CO (Aug. 1, 2004)- In 1999 an agreement was signed between the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (Sheep Center) and the National Livestock Producers Association (NLPA) that enables Sheep Center funds to be used in the sheep and goat industries. The agreement allowed NLPA to establish a revolving fund that is used exclusively for loans with the following goals:

- To make capital available for enhancing business methods and services.
- To improve marketing efficiency and product quality.
- To promote coordination and cooperation within the industry.
- To create opportunities for adding value to sheep and goat products.

According to the terms of the agreement the Sheep and Goat Fund Committee, which consists of members of NLPA and representatives of the sheep and goat industries, is responsible for the oversight of Fund. The Committee regularly reviews applications and is only allowed to consider loans up to \$1 million that are submitted by eligible entities (sole proprietors are not eligible as written into the legislation that established the Sheep Center).

To date, the NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund has extended 38 loans to 30 entities in 19 states and has received 63 applications. More than \$6.9 million has been loaned to the sheep and goat businesses, leaving about \$7 million still available for new applications at a current interest rate of 4.25%.

"We hope to get all of the money

loaned soon so it can help to stabilize and build the industry," Richard Drake, chairman of the NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund Committee, said. "The Fund has already helped the industry by establishing loans that have reasonable risk but may otherwise not be considered by most banks. Currently, loans have been made in many areas, including genetic development, sheep and goat dairies, lamb and goat meat processing, and fiber processing. The Sheep & Goat Fund Committee will consider any worthwhile project that will benefit our industry."

For more information or an application please contact the National Livestock Producers Association at (800) 237-7193. More information and the application are also available at www.nlpa.org.

*Funds are still available!
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What is the normal temperature of the goat?

A. 101.5° to 104° F.

What is the normal pulse of a goat?

A. 70-80 beats per minute.

How often does a female come into heat and how long does it last?

A. Between September and March a doe will come into heat every 21 days. The heat will last 12-36 hours.

What is the gestation period for a goat?

A. 148 - 153 days.

How many kids will a goat have with each pregnancy?

A. Between 1 and 4 kids . . . sometimes 5.

What are some common terms used among goat owners?

A. Kid - baby goat

Doeling - growing female kid

Buckling - growing male kid

Dam - mother goat

Doe - adult female

Buck - adult male

Sire - father goat

Kidding - the birthing process

Lactation - period of time when doe produces milk

Drying Off - end of lactation

Measurement of milk by weight: 1 lb. = 1 pint, 8 lbs. = 1 gallon

Wattles - small hair-covered appendages in the neck area

Stripping - removing the last milk from the udder

Colostrum - First "milk" after kidding, lasts 3-5 days

How can I tell if my doe is coming into heat?

A. An early sign for a milking doe is a sudden increase in milk output. Tail wagging, bleating, frequent urination and swelling of the vulva are also signs. When introduced to a buck, the doe in heat will show great interest. Ovulation usually occurs in the last few hours of heat. Best conception rates are during the period.

Is there a danger that my goats could get too much copper?

A small amount of copper is necessary for normal body function, but an excessive amount of copper will cause toxicity. The amount of copper in goat minerals should be about 1/4 of a pound of copper sulfate per 100 pounds of mineral mix. It would take 10 times that much for a goat to develop copper toxicity. Goats must never be fed swine feed, as it contains damaging levels of copper.

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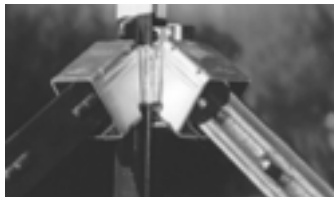
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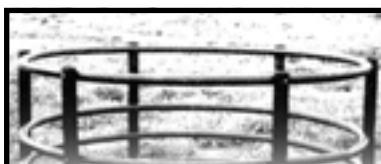
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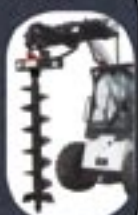
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