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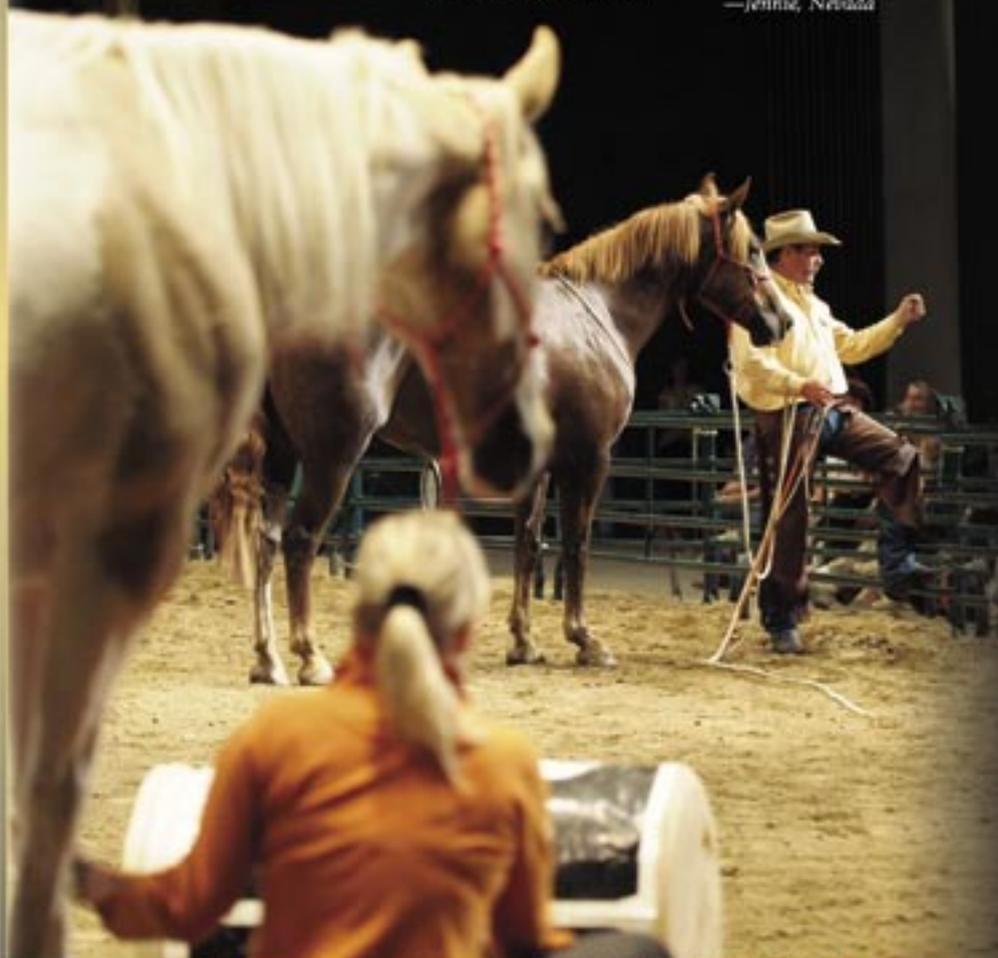
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—Jennie, Nevada



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ON THE COVER

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Heartland • summer-fall edition 2007

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Children aren't concerned about **osteoporosis.**



But their parents should be.

As an informed parent, you know that if your kids eat three daily servings of dairy, it can help reduce their risk of osteoporosis years from now. That's because dairy foods supply key nutrients necessary for better bone health.

The U.S. Surgeon General's report on Bone

Health and Osteoporosis recognizes the role that nutrients in

dairy foods – including calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, protein, and vitamin D – play in helping to build and protect bones. In fact, a report from the American Academy of Pediatrics states that eating calcium-rich food such as milk, cheese and yogurt during childhood and adolescence will



help build strong bones, which may reduce the risk of fractures and osteoporosis later in life.

Be sure to give your kids three servings of low fat or fat-free milk, cheese or yogurt everyday, as recommended by the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

And parents, it's never too late to take care of your own bone health too. By getting three daily servings of dairy and participating in weight-bearing exercise, you can help protect your bones while setting a good example for your children.

June is Dairy Month.



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President / CEO

Michael Ritz
mikeritz@ritzfamilypublishing.com

Executive V.P. Operations/Editor

Robert Davis
rdavis@ritzfamilypublishing.com

General Sales Manager

Pat Drury
pat@ritzfamilypublishing.com

Sales Manager

Steve Mendoza
steve@ritzfamilypublishing.com

Office Manager

Angie Hawkins
angie@ritzfamilypublishing.com

Secretary

Nikki McNeill
nikki@ritzfamilypublishing.com

Ritz Family
Publishing, Inc.

Corporate Office

Ritz Family Publishing, Inc.
714 N Main Street
Meridian, ID 83642

Sales

For all sales inquiries,
call toll free 1(800) 330-3482 or
1(208) 955-0124
sales@ritzfamilypublishing.com

Subscriptions

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address, call toll free 1(800) 330-3482 or
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Rim Guard™ Meets Renewed Need for Tire Ballast

When tractors transitioned from steel wheels to rubber tires, there were significant benefits: A much smoother ride, less road damage from steel lugs, and traction was at least as good or better because of the increased number of lugs on rubber tires.

Then horsepower increased and there was a greater need to maintain traction. This triggered the development of both iron wheel weights and liquid tire ballast. Iron wheel weights were expensive, and calcium chloride brine was used as liquid ballast because it was heavy, didn't freeze and was relatively cheap. Rubber tires all had tubes anyway, so the corrosive effects of calcium chloride was somewhat controlled.

Then technology improved again. Tires went tubeless. Iron weights were made in slabs by the manufacturers to provide

a universal fit for all models of tractors and to mount on the nose of tractors to prevent front-end lift as pulling power increased. At the same time tractor owners became disenchanted with calcium chloride because of rim damage. Without a better alternative, they were forced to go to "suitcase" iron weights at \$1 to \$2/pound.

In the late 90's the market began to change. There was a large growth in compact and utility tractors under 100 h.p. with front-end loaders installed. This altered the weight distribution of the tractor drastically. Weight was again needed in the rear, not the front, to counter balance the weight and lift capability of the loader. As the loader was raised, tractors became highly unstable and top heavy. The center of gravity had to be lowered to improve safety. This spawned a demand for a new and

improved liquid tire ballast – one which was environmentally friendly and non-corrosive.

In 1998 Rim Guard™ was developed to meet the need. Rim Guard™ is heavy – 10.7 to 11 pounds/gallon; it doesn't freeze, and best of all, it is non-corrosive and non-toxic. A good match with tubeless tires. And Rim Guard™ is relatively inexpensive considering its benefits – no corrosion, no tubes, non-toxic and easy leak repair. (Tires can be plugged rather than broken down and patched.)

Rim Guard™ is sold through ag tire dealers and ag implement dealers. Contact your local dealer. If he doesn't carry Rim Guard™, have him call 866-792-3700 to get dealership information. For more information about Rim Guard™ visit our website at <http://www.rim-guard.biz>. Dealer inquiries invited. 📞

VARMITGETTER™

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

The new VARMITgetter does not use torch handles and mixing tips (they are fine if you are cutting metal). VARMITgetter has designed a consistent mixing technique for the gas to be injected in the tunnel that is three to four times faster than other hand-held devices on the market.

Advantages

- 1 Our wand is meant to be back filled to keep the concussion in the tunnel/burrow and keep the noise level down.
- 2 If you hear a bang you are losing 50 to 70% of your concussion that should be in the tunnel/burrow.
- 3 Saves on your oxygen.
- 4 Hand held devices are DANGEROUS.
- 5 VARMITgetter gets the gas in the tunnel/burrow 3 to 4 times faster than the handheld devices.
- 6 Our device does not have to be cocked and valves to be turned each time you fire it like the handheld that are out there.

7 VARMITgetter can be fired repeatedly over and over again, simply by applying the gas and hit the button without being near the blast.

8 In VARMITgetter's owners manual it tells you how long to apply the gas depending on what varmint you are dealing with.

9 VARMITgetter is priced hundreds of dollars less than the handheld devices on the market and doesn't break down.

10 Wired remote control -- up to 25' away from the blast site.

11 Operator DOES NOT hold onto applicator, which produces the blast.

12 Operator is not fatigued by the constant concussion of the blast.

13 The other hand-held units cause some operators to flinch, causing not enough gas to be used for proper application.

14 You are able to see the blast from a safe distance at the control box and know how effective it is, versus just hearing it.

15 Able to cover firing cone with loose

dirt to help keep gas from escaping and to snuff out possible fire.

16 More portable, easier to move from burrow to burrow, it is smaller and better balanced.

17 Well built to protect sensitive parts, yet readily accessible for easy repair.

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

19 The firing cone is made smaller, therefore, easier to use on small rodents, such as the gopher and mole, etc.

20 Some repairs can be done while in the field, such as the check valve and wiring.

21 The single dispersion hose provides better gas mix, giving more effective and consistent blasts.

If you have any questions, would like more information or to purchase call our toll free number 1- 877-XVARMIT or go to www.varmitgetter.com 📞

got pivots?

Then you already know the challenge of keeping your irrigation on schedule for maximum profit. More than ever, high-energy costs make pivot management a critical task. In the early 90's Jerry Abts was selling a sophisticated and expensive remote monitoring and control system for center pivots; but most irrigators declined and simply asked, "what'a'ya got that will just tell me if my pivots are on?" The answer came in 1995 when Abts founded Pivotrak.com and patented a method of using simple text pagers to keep irrigators informed on the status of whole groups of pivots, one to a hundred or more.

Today Pivotrak combines text messaging and Internet connectivity with special radio telemetry that works everywhere to deliver on-the-go status of multiple pivots to anyone, anywhere. Pagers are still used, but most subscribers receive the text messages on their digital cell phones. In addition, the system provides remote start and stop options from any telephone or the Internet.

There are many reasons for on-site vis-



its to fields with growing crops being irrigated by center pivots. The difference with Pivotrak is you and your hands know immediately when a pivot shuts down (and you know when it starts back up). Priorities change with new information. Now pivot status information delivered to everyone needing it can help adjust priorities to avoid costly downtime that can result in crop stress and yield loss. Why wait until the last of the day to find out a pivot is stuck? With

Pivotrak the problem is immediately known before all the help goes home and you get "stuck" with the problem.

The service is simple, reliable and at just \$295 per year, very affordable. Subscribers can view their pivots on a secure website from anywhere, and the website includes summary and detailed records of all pivot activity (www.pivotrak.com). For a dealer in your area, contact Jerry Abts by phone at 888-872-2360 or e-mail: jerry@pivotrak.com. 📧

Career Opportunities are Strong for Ag College Graduates

Agriculture, natural resources, and other related areas remain viable areas of study for university students says Don Marshall, Associate Dean of Academic Programs in the College of Agriculture & Biological Sciences at South Dakota State University. Farming and ranching are becoming more high-tech and dependent on a sound business plan, making

a college education increasingly valuable, but most of today's graduates will be seeking employment in supporting areas rather than ag production.

Marshall indicated that while the number of agricultural producers has declined as average farm size increased, career opportunities in supporting areas of agriculture have increased. Food processing, bio-

technology, livestock and pet feed, pharmaceuticals, bio-fuels, financial services, and high-tech seed development are examples. A recent USDA publication indicated that through the year 2010 there will be about 51,000 job openings in the U.S. annually for graduates majoring in agriculture and life sciences, compared to about 49,000 graduates. 📧

Egbers on Super Edge

“There just isn’t enough we can say about the Super Edge Auger Flighting” Agrees Doug and Laura Egbers, owners of Egbers Flighting & Supply L.L.C. The Super Edge is created in the rolling process. This is a cold rolling process so the steel is not heat treated. “This lets the steel retain its strength.” States Doug. Because of how the flighting is made, the outside edge is thicker than your common market flighting or plain flighting as they call it. Super Edge Auger Flighting has approximately 50 thicker outside edge. It gives longer wear and longer life of the auger.

And Egbers knows their augers. Their repair and fabrication division has years of experience in re-flighting and balancing auger sections. “It just makes good sense to replace the auger flighting instead of buying a new auger section.” Confirms Doug- “New auger sections can be pricey and the Super Edge Auger Flighting is priced to sell.” Along with their repair’s Egbers offers a wide assortments of replacement parts and tubing. They have you basic inside tubing, pipe, rolled tube for grain cart unloading augers all the way up to 40 ft. lengths for transport augers, “We’ve always thought freight and shipping to our customers was a problem, we can ship pretty much all the replacement parts a customer needs from here.” States Laura “That way all your parts come from one location instead of several,”

New service for Egbers is their ability to balance combine rotors. “We’re always looking for new products and services for our customers. These rotors can be balanced at a fraction of what a new one costs,” Says Laura.

All in all Egbers supports a great team for sales and repairs. They’re your One-Stop-Shop for your replacement needs. Call them at 800-462-2588 or check them out on the web - www.eflighting.com.

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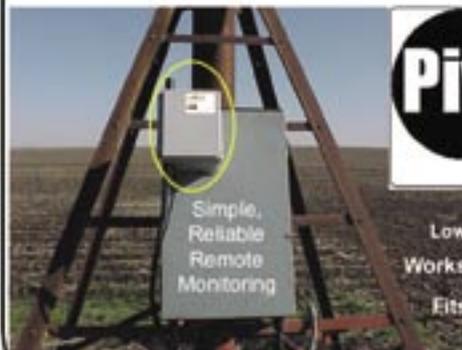
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DOYLE'S THORNLESS BLACKBERRIES BACK HOME AGAIN IN INDIANA

When Kern and Mary Severson decided to retire from their farm and quit selling Doyle's Thornless Blackberry® plants, it didn't take long for the berries to find a new home. The six children of Thomas E. Doyle, Sr., who developed the berry, were delighted to have the opportunity to return the operation to the original home in Washington, Indiana.

Thomas E. Doyle, Sr. was born June 26, 1900, in Daviess County, Indiana, and was



an avid gardener until his death in 2001. He and his wife, Rose, were the parents of six children.

"Dad was in the garden every free moment", says daughter, Mariam. "He raised everything he could think of. He even tried raising tobacco once but found it killed his tomatoes, so he stopped that. Mom spent all summer canning or freezing one thing or another. We kids weren't too much help. But we did manage to show up when the food was ready to eat".

TOM DOYLE, SR. SHOWS HIS PROLIFIC BLACKBERRIES

Tom became well known nationally as the "plastic man" and "blackberry man" after 1959 when he developed a method of using black plastic to cover a garden and planted through small holes. Because the plastic was used for up to 30 years, he called it "Gardening without Cultivation" and marketed his special formulated plastic sheets under that name. He also wrote a gardening book that has been printed in



13 editions.

IMAGINE THESE FRESH BERRIES IN YOUR FAVORITE PIE OR COBBLER

In the early 1970's he discovered a thornless blackberry that can produce up to 20 gallons of extra large and extra sweet blackberries and in 1975 was granted a patent on the plant as "Doyle's Thornless Blackberry®." This was the first thornless blackberry patented since 1940. His blackberry is a featured attraction at the Agricultural Hall of Fame west of Kansas City, Kansas, and for 30 years visitors have adjusted their travel plans after seeing the plants and came to Washington, IN, to meet the originator.

Nearly all popular varieties yield far less than the Doyle. The average is about 1 to 2 quarts per plant. Some may produce a gallon, which is not even close to the Doyle's production. This amazing plant yields 10 to 20 gallons per plant, that's 1 to 2 bushels! Many dwarf fruit trees don't produce this much volume.

Curious about how many berries he was getting from each plant, Tom planted one blackberry plant in a corner of his property, away from all the other berries. No one was allowed to pick berries from this plant except Tom. That way he thought he could get an exact measurement. So every day during growing season he would take his measuring bucket, pick the ripe berries,

World Famous Doyle's Thornless Blackberry
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and write the amount in a book. But he made one mistake. He had planted the berries close to a road that was heavily traveled by walkers. One day he noticed kids walking by eating some of the blackberries. "Well, at least they're sweet enough that I don't have to give them sugar to go with them", he said. "And I have no idea how many were eaten before I could count them!" At the end of the season he had logged over 20 gallons of berries from the one plant.

TOM DOYLE WITH FIRST PLANT VERIFIED TO YIELD OVER 20 GALLONS OF BLACKBERRIES

There are many different types of blackberries. All of them have a two-year cane or vining process. The first year the vine-like stem of the berry plant just grows and develops, and the next year it will bloom and produce blackberries. After a cane finishes bearing it dies, so we recommend to all of our Doyle customers that the cane be cut 90 days after bearing or in spring, so that nitrogen will be recovered and stored in the roots for the next spring.

There are two categories of blackberries. Varieties with thorns are called "erect" because they have a stiffer cane that grows

upright but still needs support for best results. The thornless types are called "trailing" and have a more vine-like habit that needs support on a post, fence or trellis. Most blackberry plants yield more when the canes are tipped or trimmed but NOT the Doyle's Thornless Blackberry. Ordinary berry plants will produce an optimum of about 50 to 75 linear feet of laterals or branches during a good season. These canes then produce small groups of one to five berries all along the vine.

TYPICAL BUNCHES OF DOYLE'S THORNLESS BLACKBERRIES®

The Doyle, by contrast, will produce 250 to 300 linear feet of laterals, with large bunches of berries every two to eight inches for the entire length. Looking very much like grapes, several bunches should have nearly 100 berries. This large amount of fruit is not the product of one long vine, but many shorter laterals or canes. Typically there are four to seven main canes on each mature Doyle plant, which can grow up to 40 feet long.

About ten years ago Dad signed an agreement with Severtson Farms allowing them to grow and sell the Doyle Thornless Blackberry®. After much success, how-

ever, Severtsons have decided it's time for them to retire from the farm. And the timing couldn't have been more perfect.

"It seems we've lived with these blackberries all our lives" said one of Tom's sons. "So I guess it's time for us to keep Dad's plants going. Dad loved his blackberries and would talk for hours about them to anyone who would listen. It was his dream that every state would be growing his blackberries and he accomplished that a few years ago. He also has plants growing in Canada and Bermuda.

"It's come full circle", said the Doyle's. "We are now the only legal company selling the Doyle Thornless Blackberry®. We began shipping in the late spring of 2003 and are now in full production. We are also working on a new cookbook with recipes for everything blackberry. It's outrageously tasty to just go out in the morning and pick fresh blackberries for your favorite recipes, or just to put on your cereal.

For more information about Thomas E. Doyle, Sr. and his amazing blackberries, log on to www.fruitsandberries.com, write to: Doyle's Thornless Blackberries, Inc, 1600 Bedford Road, Washington, IN 47501 or call 812-254-2654. 🐾

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New Web site designed to aid those transitioning to organic production

The Organic Trade Association (OTA) has launched HowToGoOrganic.com, a new web site for conventional producers and processors transitioning to organic. The web site is designed as a clearing-house of North American resources for farmers and businesses interested in becoming organic or creating new organic enterprises.

The URL for the web site is <http://www.HowToGoOrganic.com>.

In North America, consumer demand for organic products exceeds the rate of organic production. The new web site will help encourage further domestic production by assembling in a single online resource the full range of available information for farmers

and producers transitioning to organic. Transitioning land to organic certification usually takes three years, and there is much research that each farmer has to undertake.

The site features two "Pathways for Organic", one for farmers and one for processors, as well as a regional directory for the United States, and a searchable North American organic directory. The "Pathways" provide basic information on the process of going organic with links to key resources throughout North America. This unique resource is primarily designed for conventional farmers and processors who want to get started or are navigating the transition to organic production, but also provides valuable

information for established organic farmers, producers, and processors.

The web site's regional directories showcase transition resources unique to specific regions and states. Resource listings in the North American directory can be searched by topic and subtopic, by type of resource, or by state. The site also features profiles of farmers and businesses that have successfully become certified organic or that are working through the process.

The Organic Trade Association launched HowToGoOrganic.com at its All Things Organic Conference and Trade Show in Chicago May 5-8.

The Organic Trade Association (OTA), with headquarters in Greenfield, Massachusetts, is the business association representing the organic agriculture industry in North America. Its nearly 1,600 members include growers, shippers, processors, certifiers, farmers' associations, distributors, importers, exporters, consultants, retailers and others. OTA encourages global sustainability through promoting and protecting the growth of diverse organic trade. Its main web site is www.ota.com. It also has a consumer web site, The O'Mama Report, located at www.theorganicreport.org.



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Agriventure/IAEA

Written by Erika Scharfen

I definitely didn't grow up thinking I'd want to spend my life working with goats. I didn't really care for them one way or the other come to think of it, having only been exposed to the occasional pygmy goats and sway-backed hubians one often finds in petting zoos. Yet I certainly want to spend the rest of my life working with goats now, and have been hard at it for the past five years... so what changed?

The first step came through a stroke of luck when as a freshman in Animal Science at the University of California, Davis, I began working at the Goat Teaching and Research Facility. The animals themselves quickly won me over, for it was here that I first made the acquaintance of the angular and stylish dairy goat. In addition to working as a student milker and getting myself in up to my elbows (literally) during kidding season, I found myself among the group



of students who comprised the UC Davis Goat Show team, tagging along on visits to local breeders, and volunteering during industry training sessions in animal evaluation and judging. Thus developed my appreciation for both the animals and the industry, and I found myself envisioning means of working raising dairy goats into a career. I decided that cheese making was the solution, and therefore with that as my goal, the logical destination was France, the country of cheese. I contacted the international work exchange program Agriventure, which found me a host site with a farmstead goat cheese maker and helped me through the process of applying for a work visa.

I spent one year living in the rural village of La Peyratte in the western part of France. The farm's primary source of income is its' goat cheese; winner of multiple medals, including gold, in national competition. Behind the success of this cheese are the skill and craftsmanship of Maryline Guilloteau and the rich milk other herd of Poitevine goats. I found myself integrated into farm life and the community surprisingly fast, and the daily routine of twice a day milking and cheese making was labor intensive but' fulfilling. I was even given the opportunity to visit several neighboring goat dairies where I witnessed every extreme in goat dairying from animals kept on pasture with hand-milking to vast barns filled with goats with automated rotating parlors. The farm in La Peyratte fell in the middle, with animals pastured during

the day but housed inside overnight. Surprisingly I found myself using the same milking system I'd been trained on at Davis which made me feel almost immediately at home. As my comfort with the language and culture increased, I found myself exploring even farther, talking to cheese makers wherever I traveled and always tasting new and more complex cheeses, searching for inspiration. I even had the opportunity to attend the International Cheese and Dairy Products Exposition held in Paris where I was introduced to some of the top producers and sellers in the nation.

Ten months into my stay I took the reigns of the entire cheese making operation for three weeks while Maryline left the country to visit trainees from previous years in Quebec. The responsibility was daunting, especially after having spent the last ten months learning how complex and delicate cheese making can be. After three weeks without customers being able to detect that the head cheese maker was out, I felt the relief and satisfaction of knowing that I had truly found my calling.

The hardest part of my training program was finally leaving it behind. I had spent a year living and working with the family Guilloteau, joined the local theater group in its annual production, traveled to nearly every corner of France in a way that no tourist ever could, and had become so fluent in my use of everyday French that strangers couldn't place my origins. It has been by far the most rewarding experience of my life to date.

For more information on Agriventure call toll free 1-800-263-1827 or visit www.agriventure.com

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For over 60 years John J. Misico of Uibly Bean Knife Mfg., Inc. of Uibly, Michigan has been helping bean growers reduce bean losses when harvesting with the bean puller/cutter and is still doing just that.

In 1946, John started hammering dull bean knives and rebuilding worn-out blades. The quality and durability was such that growers came from over 300 miles away and from Canada to have their bean knives serviced; thus eliminating the blacksmiths' obsolete methods of sharpening knives.

John patented his new design of bean knife that harvests many more acres and always stays sharp until the welded-on thin 1/8" x 1-1/2" wide heat-treated and hard faced cutting edge is worn out. The patented bean knives always cut the bean stalk near top ground level, maintaining a uniform depth even through various ground conditions. Eliminating roots, stones and dirt from the uniform fluffier wind-rows results in faster puller speeds, more hours pulling per day

with less shelling and less tractor power needed. Combining is more efficient enabling slower cylinder speeds, wider concave spacing, more uniform elevating, less bean seed splits, dents, cracks, discoloration and fewer bean losses.

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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

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,



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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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Because of Headsight's experience in automatic header height they have become recognized as the go-to company for advice and knowledge on auto height control, adapting unmatched combines and headers, as well as helping producers in specific markets with specific needs.

Building upon that experience, Headsight became aware of the increasing demand of draper headers and developed sensors specifically for use on draper headers that are harvesting soybeans. Soybean harvest (and lodged wheat) requires the header to shave the ground and often the skids need to be contacting the ground. This makes height sensors alone insufficient. The Feathersight™ system combines off the ground sensors with pressure sensing, allowing effective height sensing throughout the operating range.

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If you have an interest in learning more about this product please contact us at 574-546-5022 or e-mail, info@headsight.com

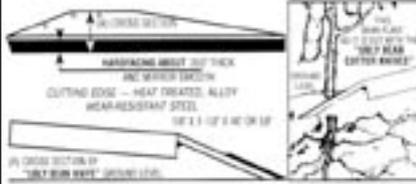
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OTECO MFG. sold its first track filler in March of 2000, in mid-January of 2006 they just delivered their #350th trackfiller to Arizona. OTECO is a family owned business, which came into existence because of a problem, and the grace of God.

Jim Stevenson was trying all sorts of things to try and keep from making bad ruts from his irrigation pivots. It seemed everything he tried damaged his crops in one degree or another. The different nozzles left dry spots in the fields, and he knew that tall tires just left deeper ruts and more strain on gearboxes and wide tires left wider ruts. In his mind the solution would be to put a road based material in the rut, the only question was how to do it.

He designed a small box with a funnel on the bottom, and began filling his ruts. The neighbors began to take notice and asked him to build them one. Jim goes to his fourth of five sons's Otie, he catches him in his hay field, broke down.

Jim tells Otie, "I've got a job for you." Otie says, he remembers thinking, just what I need, another job. Looking from hind

site now, Otie says, "I wish I'd thrown my tools down on the spot and went to the shop."

However, Otie didn't start designing the current trackfiller until fall. The trackfiller which sold in March of 2000 was much bigger, had a ten yard capacity, with an adjustable screed below the funnel to help knock in the sides and regulate the height of the mound.



It has a two-foot by four-foot opening to facilitate the gravity flow of material, with a hydraulic gate at the bottom to close during transport. The machine was patented and have since sold all over the mid and western United States. That year, when the first one sold to Australia, Jim and his wife, Dorothy dubbed the company, OTECO.

OTECO just got its second patent on a product they call the JIMMY-JACK, which they hope to begin marketing soon. It is a spring-loaded jack, which installs right inside of a metal gate. When pushed to the ground, it takes the weight off the hinges of the gate and holds the gate in place.

"We're just praising the Lord," says owners, Jim and Dorothy, Otie and Tonya Stevenson. ☛

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Have you ever seen a wind turbine in motion? Watching the blades as they whisk through the air. The sound of a quiet whisper as the Jacobs' machine produces alternative energy for your home or business. The knowledge it must have taken to develop such a fascinating machine.

When did the wind systems come about? Well, back in 1982, because of manpower requirements and capital requirements to enter into wind farm applications, controlling interest was acquired by Control Data Inc.; Renewable Energy Ventures Inc. was established in 1983 for the acquisition of land, permits, and planning of wind farms. With the pending acquisition of Winco, an alternator and portable generator manufacturing company located in Le Center, MN, the corporate name of the company was established as Earth Energy systems Inc. (EESI) to better

reflect the nature of the corporation. Jacobs' products included all wind related components and Winco was the manufacturing facility and supplier of all generators and lighting standards. Both divisions marketed existing products under existing trade names and logo's as divisions of EESI.

From 1980 to 1986 EESI sold approximately 1500 wind energy plants in the United States and 8 in other countries. It also set up five wind farms, three (3) in California and two (2) in Hawaii. Several factors contributed to the large number of sales in the United States. As mentioned previously, electric costs rose dramatically due to the oil crisis of the 1970's and the resulting increase in oil and gas prices. Also, homeowners, farmers and businessmen received Federal Income Tax credits and sometimes state income tax incentives for purchasing wind energy systems. Also the 1978 Federal Law (PURPA) regulation in the National Energy Act mandated that local electric companies were required to purchase excess electricity generated by wind turbines privately owned. In addition, many people realized the long-term benefits of installing an energy system which did not have an adverse impact upon the environment and which used as its energy source a renewable resource.

In late 1985 and early 1986 Control Data decided to divest itself of its wind energy division. It is believed this decision was based upon several factors - falling oil prices, repeal of Federal Income Tax credits for wind energy systems and the internal financial position of Control Data.

Wind Turbine Industries Corporation ("WTIC" or "Company") was incorporated on May 28, 1986 as a Minnesota corporation. Beginning in 1986 Wind Turbine Industries Corporation, owned and controlled by Archie Pavek, purchased all exclusive rights, title and interest in trademarks, patentable rights, trade secrets, technology, tooling, engineering and manufacturing drawings and all other documentation on the 10 thru 20kw wind generators, which include the Grid Intertie System and the Hybrid System.

Currently due the increase in energy costs the sales in wind energy has increased dramatically. Also the awareness of global warming, and the effect our current energy source has on our environment has greatly influenced the public's views on this type of alternative energy.

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Agro Trend Mfg.

Agro Trend Mfg. has been serving customers in Ontario for the past 16 years. Like their product, their service is solid and built to last. Strong ties have been forged with customers based on integrity and a pledge to deliver a quality product on time and at a fair price.



The Schildroth family of Listowel has owned Agro Trend Mfg. since 1991.

“The company had a pretty good product line—the product was well-designed,” said managing director Rodger Schildroth.

Agro Trend Mfg. is best known for its blowers which rate amongst the top models in the market. The company’s 14 models from the 3’6” to the 9’ heavy duty have proven track records. The newest model is the heavy duty 102” single auger.

However, the company has expanded its equipment line considerably and improved existing products. In addition to snow blowers the company sells a range of cutters, dump trailers and sprayers.

At Agro Trend Mfg., product changes are precipitated by customer feedback or competition. “Our customers are the expert on the equipment and we listen closely to what they say. As well, if we see a good idea in the market, we improve on it,” Schildroth said.

One of the products the company recently upgraded is a big dump wagon called the Big Mudder. It has been upgraded to an 18-ton capacity with a new undercarriage to handle the increased capacity.

Agro Trend tends to be loyal to their suppliers because that relationship is very important. “If we build a long-term relationship, when a problem arises, it gets solved quickly. Also, we get to know the supplier’s product—we know the limits to which it can be pushed and we don’t have to worry about it. If you look at a piece of shafting in a gear box, you can’t tell the quality of steel by looking at it. The only test is when it is under load,” he said.

Loyalty, however, doesn’t mean Agro Trend is blindfolded. The company is looking carefully at offshore suppliers for opportunities.

Aside from the manufacturing end, the company is also experiencing changes in the sales process. “We run our business a little differently from some. We try to have dealers set up without any other dealers in the area,” Schildroth explained. How-

ever, as the big tractor companies consolidate their dealers, it becomes more difficult to give dealers an area to themselves.

“For instance, we may deal with one company that has five locations, but the other two dealers they bought are right beside our best dealer. This is out of our control,” he said.

Consolidation of dealers is one of Agro Trend’s concerns for the future. With fewer independent dealers, companies like Agro Trend have less choice of where their equipment can be sold because some of the big companies don’t like their dealers to sell short line products. There is some consolation that growing offshore tractors are gaining market share and are willing to include other products in their dealerships. Agro Trend currently has dealers in Ontario, Quebec, The Maritimes and the Northeastern United States.

As with many businesses, the continuing success through all the changes, negotiating and selling comes down to people. “The best part of the last 16 years is the people we deal with. We rely on our employees who produce and sell the best quality equipment. In turn we supply it to our dealers, who we expect are proud to sell our products,” he said. “That’s what makes this business enjoyable.” ❁

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AGRO TREND - A DIVISION OF ROJACK INDUSTRIES

Thinking of Joining a Winning Breed?

by Shelley Dodd, Northwest Lowline Association

Lowline Angus cattle have experienced phenomenal growth since 1996 when the first Lowline was imported to the United States from Australia...and with good reason. Known for their large rib eye area and ability to produce more product per pound along with a high rate of efficiency as grass converters, they certainly pack a lot of benefits in a smaller package.

Lowline cattle closely resemble their ancestors, the Aberdeen Angus and are about 30% smaller than the full sized Angus that you see today. Selectively bred from pure Angus stock, Lowlines

market and champion placings at large livestock shows.

The additional research that ultimately produced the Lowline breed began in 1974 and was conducted for 19 years within a closed herd selected from Trangie's large herd of Champion Angus cattle. The purpose of the study was to determine whether larger or smaller cattle were more efficient converters of grass to beef. The closed herd was split into 3 groups, one called Lowline.

The study concluded that the overall efficiency of the cattle as grass converters was essentially the same between larger

for more efficient cattle genetically designed for the natural and grass raised beef market.

Lowlines are also an excellent choice for the family enterprise. Because of their size and docile temperament, the whole family can participate in the care and handling of the cattle from birth to maturity.

As the numbers of Lowline cattle breeder memberships increase nationally, many area breeders expressed interest in joining together to help promote Lowlines on a local level. In January 2007, the Northwest Lowline Association (NWLA) was formed. Officers as well as committee chair people were voted on and are currently working hard to set the foundation for a successful organization. NWLA hopes to meet the needs of area breeders through educational events, a website, shows, sales, cooperative marketing and networking.

NWLA welcomes Lowline breeders residing in Washington, Oregon and Idaho with the requirement that members must have Lowlines registered with the national organization, the American Lowline Registry. NWLA also offers Junior memberships for youth under 21 years of age. Associate memberships are available for Lowline breeders residing outside of the three states as well as for people who do not have registered Lowline cattle.

Come see us at the Northwest Lowline Classic October 3-7, 2007 at the Central Washington State Fair in Yakima, Washington. You can view animals, talk to breeders and even see wonderful examples of the breed at the Lowline show which is tentatively scheduled for October 5th.

If you would like more information about the Northwest Lowline Association or Lowline cattle, please visit our website at www.nwlowline.com or write to NWLA at P.O. Box 909, Naches, WA 98937. 🐾



are not a dwarf breed. Instead they were intentionally bred down in size as part of a nineteen year study conducted by the Trangie Research Center in Australia.

The animals selected for the study were originally derived from the best Angus stock imported to the research center beginning in 1929 for the purpose of developing a high quality commercial export market. By the early 1960's, the Trangie Research Center had accomplished their goal with herds firmly established throughout Australia and nearby regions, a strong Japanese export

and smaller animals...interesting data when one considers the fact that Lowlines are shorter, eat less and require less acreage.

Here in the Pacific Northwest, as with the rest of the country, demand for Lowline cattle exceeds the supply. The breed is appealing both to ranchers and those on smaller acreage "ranchettes." As farm land is dwindling, higher stocking rates and more product per pound are vital goals for the producer. And at the other end of the spectrum, health conscious consumers have created a market

Leah Johnson Named Central Plains Area Representative For Jersey Organizations

Leah N. Johnson, LaCrescent, Minn., has been named an Area Representative for the American Jersey Cattle Association and National All-Jersey Inc., effective June 6, 2007.

Johnson will provide on-farm service in Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota, and also travel nationwide as an evaluator for the AJCA Linear Type Traits Appraisal program.

"Leah is a well-rounded individual with a strong educational background," said Neal Smith, Executive Secretary and CEO of the USJersey organizations. "Her cowside knowledge and marketing experience will be valuable in serving the varied needs of our customers in the central plains region."

Johnson earned a B. S. degree in agricultural education, cum laude, this past May from the University of Wisconsin-

River Falls. She completed internships in marketing services at Accelerated Genetics during the summer of 2006 and with the 4-H program serving 900 youth in Pierce County, Wisconsin (2004-2006).

She also served as president of the UW-River Falls chapters of the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow and National Agri-Marketing Association. She was the recipient of scholarships awarded by National Dairy Shrine, National DHIA, and the National Association of Agricultural Educators.

In 2006, Johnson was a member of the UW-River Falls team that placed fourth in the National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, and was the second high individual in the contest at the All-American Dairy Show, Harrisburg, Penna.

A native of Minnesota, Johnson grew

up on her family's Holstein and Jersey dairy farm in rural LaCrescent. She supervised the calf raising program, assisted with identification and mating decisions, and was also a relief milker.

From 2002 until this past month, she also held staff positions with PossAbilities in Rochester, Minn., an agency serving individuals with developmental disabilities.

The American Jersey Cattle Association, organized in 1868, compiles and maintains animal identification and performance data on Jersey cattle and provides services that support genetic improvement and greater profitability through increasing the value of and demand for Registered Jersey™ cattle and genetics, and Jersey milk and milk products. For more information on USJersey program and services, call 614/863-3636 or visit the web site at www.USJersey.com 🐄

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Biogenetic Services, Inc.

Biogenetic Services, Inc., an animal and plant protein/DNA testing business located in Brookings, South Dakota, recently announced the introduction of a new DNA blood test for determining resistance versus susceptibility to BSE (Mad Cow disease) in cattle. Breeders and producers now have a powerful tool available to help them identify, select and breed resistant animals to thereby improve the

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The immediate benefit to cattle breeders and producers and ultimately to consumers is that selective cattle breeding programs will lead to cattle populations with higher levels of resistance to BSE (Mad Cow disease).

Thus, it is abundantly clear that this DNA blood test is a powerful tool capable of rapid identification of cattle

possessing genotypes associated with phenotypic expression of BSE and that the information obtained with this tool is invaluable to both the domestic cattle industry as well as to consumers and their human health.

To obtain additional information about services and prices visit www.biogenetic-services.com, Email: biogene@brookings.net, call 1-800-423-4163 or fax 605-697-8507. 🐾

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RAU IM2000 Animal Immobilizer user base growing rapidly

The RAU IM2000 Animal Immobilizer has established a widely dispersed and satisfied user base in 25 US states, Canada, Mexico, a number of Central and South American countries and other parts of the world since its introduction to North America by Atlanta Ga based, I & G Distributors USA some 6 years ago.

The ruggedly built RAU IM2000 Animal Immobilizer improves worker safety, reduces risk and lowers handler and animal stress by holding animals still, often without expensive squeeze chutes and head gates. Its users include cattlemen/women, veterinarians, universities, feedlots, breeders, dairy farmers, stockmen and many large and small ranchers who use it for branding, dehorning, medical treatment, AI work, hoof trimming, grooming and many other routine tasks. It is light, comes in a handy carry bag for convenient transportation and its battery can



Jersey Seminar To Focus On Technological Advances For Isolating, Marketing Milk Proteins

A researcher working at the cutting edge of structural and functional roles of components of cheese and fermented milks will headline this year's seminar program at the Annual Meetings of the American Jersey Cattle Association and National All-Jersey Inc., June 27-July 1, 2007 in Sioux Falls, S. D.

In the first of two presentations, Lloyd E. Metzger, director of The Midwest Dairy Foods Research Center, will describe how the protein in milk can be isolated and used to produce dairy based ingredients.

"Fractionation of milk into ingredients targeted for export markets will play a critical role in the future of milk processing and is one of the keys to expanding the utilization of the U.S. milk supply," says Dr. Metzger.

"To be successful in producing milk products for the export market, the U.S. industry needs to identify components of milk that are the most valuable and determine how these components can be economically isolated and converted into a shelf stable product that can be widely distributed.

"It is my opinion that fractionation of milk proteins using filtration is the key to this endeavor."

The Midwest Dairy Foods Research Center was established in 1988 as a three-way partnership among the University of Minnesota and South Dakota State University, the dairy promotion and research organizations, and industry organizations. Dairy Management Inc. (DMI) provides funding for projects that are

awarded on a nationally competitive basis. The major regional sponsor is the Midwest Dairy Association (MDA). Other regional support comes from dairy and food industry organizations which each provide at least \$5,000 per year.

Metzger joined the faculty of South Dakota State University this past January as an associate professor and holds the Alfred Chair in Dairy Education. He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in dairy manufacturing from South Dakota State University, completing a Ph.D. in food science from Cornell University in 1999. He was employed as a research scientist at General Mills for two years prior to joining the Food Science and Nutrition department at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

Metzger was recognized by the American Dairy Science Association in 2005 with the ADSA Foundation Scholar Award for his research accomplishments. He is active in professional organizations such as the American Dairy Science Association and Institute of Food Technologists, plus serves as Executive Secretary of the North Central Cheese Industries Association.

The seminar will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 27, at the Sioux Falls Convention Center, Sioux Falls, S. D.

The 2007 AJCA-NAJ annual meetings are hosted by the Iowa Jersey Cattle Club. Complete information on the program and registration forms are available on the web site at <http://iowajerseys.usjersey.com>, or on the USJersey web site at www.usjersey.com ☛



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Happy, healthy cows mean more than a sound business investment. For the nation's dairy farmers, it's a way of life.

"For dairy farmers, caring about our animals means more than just housing and feed them," said Tom Dorsey, a Caldwell dairy farmer. "They are our livelihood and we know we have to give them the best care possible."

Dairy farmers across the country rely on the health and happiness of their dairy cows to stay in business. They make significant investments in housing, feeding and medical care.

"It's critical to keep cows dry and healthy," Dorsey said. "When you're comfortable and healthy, you do a better job. Dairy cows are no different."

Many farmers have free-stall barns, meaning the cows are "free" to move about to eat, drink or rest whenever and wherever they like. These barns also provide shade and protection from the elements.

Inside these barns, farmers provide comfortable bedding for the cows in the form of sand, wood chips, recycled shredded rubber, or mattresses. The bedding is replaced and refreshed with clean straw several times a day, so cows always climb into freshly made beds. In warmer regions of the country, farmers use a system of spray misters and large fans to keep cows cool.

It takes more than creature comforts to make cows content, however. Dairy farmers rely on experts in nutrition for advice on feeding their cows. Dairy nutritionists recommend scientifically formulated and balanced diets that consist of hay, grains, protein sources, and other vitamins and minerals. Farmers also recycle different ingredients — such as citrus pulp, brewers' mash and whole cottonseed — that would otherwise end up in landfills.

"It's a science in and of itself," said Dr. Bill Stouder, a Magic Valley dairy farmer and veterinarian. "Dairy farmers rely on

the right mix to keep their cows well-fed, content and able to produce milk."

Another important part of a cow's diet is clean water. Cows drink anywhere from 25 to 50 gallons of water a day.

"Dairy farmers keep close track of everything their cows eat and drink. It's critical to a successful dairy," Dr. Stouder said.

Cows also must receive proper medical care. Cows are no different than people. They sometimes become ill and require medical attention. Farmers work with large-animal veterinarians who can diagnose and treat an illness with the proper medication. Any cows that receive medicine to aid in a speedy recovery are removed from the healthy herd and won't rejoin their herd mates until their milk tests free of antibiotics.

During milking, dairy farmers and their employees are constantly checking and monitoring their animals. Nutritious diets, comfortable living conditions and solid medical care are all part of taking good care of their animals. This includes regular veterinarian check-ups across the entire farm, either monthly, bimonthly or, on some farms, weekly, to keep an eye on the wellness of the herd. Vaccinations and prompt treatment of illnesses are among the many practices used by dairy farmers to ensure healthy herds.

Dr. Stouder said many dairy farmers go through training to recognize health problems early.

"The goal is to keep dairy farmers in business by making sure their animals are healthy and get the proper medical treatment," Dr. Stouder said. "When we identify things early, we can prevent problems and keep milk moving to the public."

Back at Tom Dorsey's farm, the cows are as healthy as they can be. They're free to pick their spots to sleep, their health checks out, and they get the best veterinary care available.

"The cows are happy, and so am I," Dorsey said.

For more information about dairy farming, visit www.dairy-farmingtoday.org.

Article courtesy of: United Dairymen of Idaho

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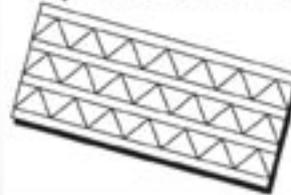
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Balanced & Rhythmic Ground Work

By Alice Trindle

One of the concepts the horses shared with us over the winter horse course was the reality that we can never get too good at our ground skill maneuvers. Whether it be at the end of our 12 ft. lead on the halter, or in the snaffle bit while accomplishing work-in-hand, our success in the saddle is greatly enhanced by our graceful abilities on the ground. As we prepare for spring riding, I'd like to go back and review some basic ground skills with a critical eye on our ability to accomplish these tasks with rhythm, balance, and a soft flow.

You will recall that in previous "Partnership Journey" newsletters, and in my "Horsemanship Principles" workbook, we have been ever cognizant for the need to develop a horseman's protocol.

"Horseman's Protocol"

- Become Present
- Think & Visualize
- Focus, which Prepares your Posture
- Allow & Reward

At times I think we forget that this protocol is equally important for ground skill maneuvers, as it is for riding.

So our first ground skill game is for the human...Take a deep breath, get yourself emotionally centered, then visualize yourself & the horse accomplishing these ground skill maneuvers: (Note: Try these skills with a horseman's halter, at the end of a 12 ft. lead)

Forward - Driving on a Circle:

Basic Maneuver – The horse flows around the human straight on a circle. The human walks a perfect circle, always engaged & mentally riding every step, every movement, every balance.

How to Accomplish – Cause or send your horse around you on a circle. Envision a round pen on the outside of you, whether there is one there or not. Focus your attention and energy on the horse's inside eye, then shoulder, then rib cage & hip as he moves off and around you. It will help to open your body, as if opening a door, to point the direction you would like the horse to move. Close, support, and drive with the shoulder and hip that is towards the outside of the circle. Move your toes, belly button, and energy on a line that connects to a place on the horse just about where the back cinch would hang. Don't get too close!

Balance - Horse is slightly arched to the inside of the circle,



eyes and ears seeking direction of travel, shoulders balanced, and feet are tracking up as if they were on a railroad track

Rhythm - Depends on the gait...At the walk a good steady four beat or march; At the trot a steady two-beat or Irish gig; At the canter a flowing 3-beat or waltz, as if they were going up-hill

Transitions – Try to accomplish transitions up and down in gait without having the horse or you pulling on the lead. Keep the horse's shoulders UP & balanced. Don't forget to breathe!! Prepare your mind before the transitions

Visualize – See yourself riding the horse and think about the aids you might use to remind him to keep his shoulders up, lift his belly and back, and carry a softness. Use your body positioning, arms/hands, or tools such as the whip or stick to send energy to those body parts that might be falling in or collapsing down. Try to avoid using the hand on the lead rope to lift or drive, rather check your body positioning & focus.

Turn on the Forehand:

Basic Maneuver – The inside hind foot crosses under the belly of the horse, with the movement flowing from the inside hind towards the outside shoulder, and then a balancing up on the outside hind foot – there is little forward movement.

How to Accomplish – First, try this maneuver from a stand

still, and then add variations with more forward movement. While facing your horse, stand slightly to one side with the lead rope in the hand closest to the horse. Begin walking a slight arc, towards the horse's inside hind foot, and encourage the nose, eyes and ears to follow your direction of travel. If the inside hind does not cross under the belly to a balance up on the outside hind, simply reinforce your request with the popper end of your lead, or the dressage whip. Don't pull on the lead rope! A little forward movement may help to get the weight off the inside hind so that it is free to cross under.

Balance – From the inside hind foot, to the outside shoulder, and a re-balance onto the outside hind foot. If you stop here, then I might call this a “disengagement”, but if you continue on with a little forward movement and ask the horse to accomplish this maneuver several times in a row, then you are simply crossing the hind leg under the belly for a balanced turn on the forehand.

Rhythm – This exercise is primarily used to flex and strengthen your horse, and probably would not be used except at the walk. The rhythm I feel for at the walk is a two-beat, very slow gig, with a little breath-in on the second beat, where the horse balances up on the outside hind. (Note: Certainly you will have the hind foot crossing under at the trot and canter, but with much more forward movement in a shoulder –in type maneuver)

Transitions – At first stop when the horse balances-up on the outside hind foot (i.e. a disengagement); Progress to asking for several soft, flowing rhythmic crossing of the hind foot to a balance on the opposite hind.

Visualize – Again, see yourself riding, and feel for where your balance would need to be in order to free up the inside hind foot; (Hint: You can't be sitting on the part you'd like to move!) Watch the horse's eyes and ears and note how little bend in the neck is required to softly move the inside hind.

Leg Yield or Shoulder-in

Posture on a Circle:

Basic Maneuver – The horse will flow around the human, moving sideways on a circle, with his hips seeking a larger arc than his shoulder.

How to Accomplish - I like to start this from a work-in-hand positioning, standing close to the horse, with a slight down pressure on the lead where it connects to the halter. Position your toes so that they are facing a little forward and under the horse's neck. Extend your hand closest to the horse's tail towards his inside leg, asking him to step forward, crossing the inside hind foot under the belly towards to outside shoulder. Now begin walking a large circle with your toes drawing a circle under the horse's neck. Hind feet cross, then front feet cross.

Balance – The balance here is the same as the turn on the forehand, but with forward movement.

Rhythm – At the walk and trot, I feel a two-beat rhythm that closely matches where the balance of the movement is coming from and going to. In other words, I hear a “Inside hind (one) to outside fore (two); Inside hind (one) to outside fore (two)”. At the trot, the timing is faster. It is difficult to accomplish this exercise on the ground while in the canter.

Transitions – Try varying the size of the circle or the speed

within the gait. Remember that before each change, each transition, take a deep breath, see the picture of what you are going to ask, check your positioning and posture, ask, and allow it to happen.

Visualize – Once again, I see myself riding this exercise, and trying to keep out of the way of the flow of movement...maybe even a little ahead of the movement. I see myself compressing the air between my driving hand and the horse's body to ask for sideways movement, rather than pushing. I picture the horse lifting his shoulders up, around, and away from me with balance and rhythm and softness.

OK...Now you have the idea. I REALLY am asking you to dissect your ground skill exercises and call yourself and your horse to a very higher level of awareness and purposeful accomplishment. Remember that you are preparing both partners to become physically & mentally ready to spring riding. Your “Horseman's Protocol” applies in the saddle, AND on the ground.

Now give yourself a test: Visualize the following skills and ask yourself to describe:

1. The basic maneuver
 2. How to accomplish this skill
 3. What are the balances, rhythms, and transitions I am watching & feeling for
- Sidepass (Shoulder-in and Haunches-in postures)
 - Turn on the Haunches
 - Stop to a Back up
 - Turn on Center
 - Combination of Exercises
 - Forward on a circle to sideways on a circle to turn on center to turn on the haunches
 - Forward on 1/2 a circle to a turn on the forehand to a back up to a turn on the haunches
 - Shoulder-in with the horse's rump to the wall to haunches-in with his nose to the wall

Spring is the perfect time of year to get yourself and your horse into condition and a great way to start is with your ground skill maneuvers. Going back to basics never hurt anyone, nor any horse. If we can approach these old exercises with a new and deeper mindfulness of what and why we are accomplishing them, I truly believe we will reap the rewards when we are on board. 🐾

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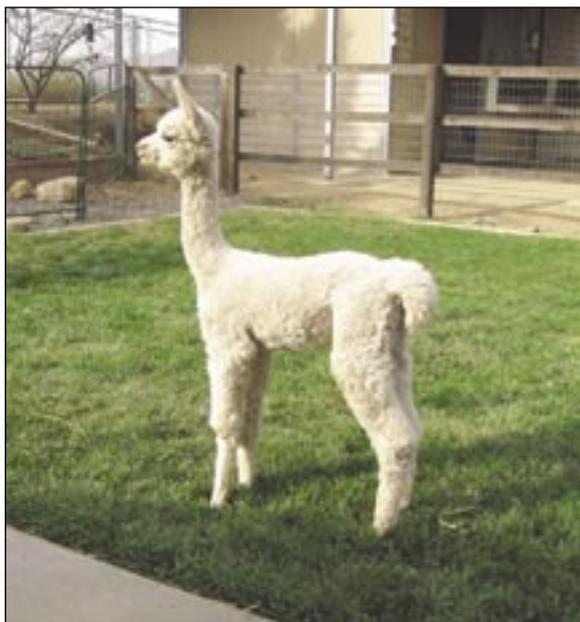
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alpaca – llama

100,000th Registered Alpaca Marks a Milestone in the Industry

On August 18, 2006 at about 7:30 p.m., a very special new life came into the world. A 15 pound female cria (baby alpaca) named Dee Lux was born at Alpaca Palms in Wildomar, California. BDAP Accoyo Dee Lux is not only special to her owners, Dennis and Bea Miller because of her beautiful pure white fleece, her beautiful big dark eyes, or her feisty personality. She is also special to them (and to the entire alpaca industry) because she is the 100,000th alpaca registered by Alpaca Registry, Inc.



The Alpaca Registry, Inc. (ARI) is an organization that manages a database housing pedigree and parentage information for registered alpacas. ARI registers alpacas born in the United States and Canada who are offspring

of two other ARI registered parents. ARI maintains a database of alpacas and DNA records as well as managing a list of animals owned or sold by owners.

“The ARI staff is very excited to reach this important milestone,” Darby Vannier, Executive Director of ARI. “We were counting down the days! Although it took many years to get to this point, the next 100,000 will arrive much more quickly.”

The Millers began helping the North American herd grow five years ago when, during a sleepless night, Dennis

saw a commercial about alpacas on the television. His curiosity piqued, Dennis began researching the animals.

Alert and curious, adult alpacas stand at approximately 36 inches at the withers and generally weigh between 150

and 200 pounds. They do not have horns, hooves, claws or incisors. Social animals that seek companionship, alpacas communicate most commonly by humming.

In February of 2002, the Millers purchased 9 female huacaya (wah-KI-ya). There are two types of alpacas bred in the United States, the suri (surrey) and huacaya. Although almost physically identical, what distinguishes the two types of alpacas is their fiber. The huacaya is the more common of the two and has a fluffy, extremely fine coat. The suri is the rarer of the two and has fiber that is silky and resembles pencil-locks.

Today, the Millers have 32 alpacas and four crias due in the next several weeks.

Alpacas are relatively easy to care for and many who start their alpaca business are new to farming. Dennis, however, grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania raising and caring for cows, pigs, chickens, ducks and rabbits (to name a few). In comparison to other livestock, Dennis says, “Alpacas are much more unique in that they each have their own personalities. They have a calming, relaxing effect on you.”

During the day, Dennis is a full time manager at a metals plant and Bea is an elementary school teacher. “We look forward to coming home to these beautiful animals after a hard day’s work,” said Bea.

Unlike some other livestock, alpacas do not have to be killed to be profitable and usually live to be 15 to 20 years old. Alpacas are shorn ever 12 to 18 months. Most breeders shear in the spring, but in cooler climates this may be extended to two years. One

shearing produces approximately 5 to 10 pounds of fiber. Variables such as age, genetics, environment and nutrition may alter fiber production.

Alpaca fiber is as warm as wool at 1/3 the weight. It is a specialty fiber,



being both rare and extremely fine. Pure alpaca fiber is hypo-allergenic. Additional alpaca performance characteristics include: stretch, strength, wicking properties and odor reduction.

Alpacas were first commercially imported into the United States from

South American in 1984. Since then, the alpaca industry has grown steadily. What began as a small, intimate alpaca community has blossomed into an official national breed registry, Alpaca Registry, Inc. (ARI) and a national marketing organization, the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA).

“Emotionally, the business has united us even more as a couple and team as we do so much together and reap the joys of our hard work,” said Bea. “We are especially thrilled when we know our alpacas have made others happy through a sale.”

The birth of the 100,000th alpaca was an exciting milestone for the alpaca industry.

“An all white and full Accoyo from Titan and Camilio bloodlines, Dee Lux shows off a teasing spectacular presence with her impeccable conformation,” said Bea of the 100,000th alpaca. Her dam, Titan’s Accoyo Lady

Lucille, is a bragging beauty by way of her coquettish strut. And what can I not say about her sire! Camilio’s Accoyo Kahuna has put out quite a few show winners in the last couple of years.”

Dee Lux is a feisty little one. She loves her freedom and would much prefer not to be “messed with”. This



little spitfire holds much promise to live up to her celebrity status.

To find out more about alpacas, or to locate an alpaca farm new you, please visit www.alpacainfo.com. 🐾

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goat – sheep



The American Kiko Goat Association

The American Kiko Goat Association (AKGA) is the official organization of Kiko breeders and owners in North America, owning and maintaining the original Kiko Goat Registry for all Kikos registered everywhere with the exception of New Zealand.

AKGA serves to promote the Kiko goat, assist members in breeding, raising and registering Kiko goats and to educate the public about the advantages of the Kiko goat as a premier meat breed. Participation in the Kiko EPD Program through the National Sheep Improvement Program, with its new Reference Sire Program in cooperation with Tennessee State University, is evidence of continu-

ing AKGA interest in improvement of the Kiko breed.

Continued growth of AKGA membership has led to the formation of two regional groups, the Georgia Kiko Goat Association and the Mid-America Kiko Goat Association, the latter comprising Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma.

The AKGA web site at <http://www.kiko-goats.com/> includes information on the association itself and its registry with registration guidelines and convenient downloadable forms. The members and their contact information are listed by region of the country for the convenience of visitors searching for nearby Kiko breeders. A history of the development of the Kiko breed

serves as an educational resource, with insight into the economical impact of the traits for which the Kiko is known.

Newer features include classified ads and a sire directory, which lists participating members' herd sires with their pedigrees to aid in marketing and promotion. This provides potential buyers the opportunity to see photos and research the pedigrees of those bucks from bloodlines in which they are interested.

So, to learn how the Kiko breed was developed, or who has Kiko goats in Kansas, or how to come up with the Kiko-Boer cross that is known as the Texas Genemaster, visit the AKGA web site. 🐐

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The National Livestock Producers Association (NLPA) has money available in its Sheep & Goat Fund to loan to industry participants to strengthen and enhance the sheep and goat industries. For more information, go to www.SheepandGoatFund.com or call 1-800-237-7193.

Get the money you need for your sheep and goat projects from the National Livestock Producers Association today.



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Hell on Wheels Ranch

We started our goat operation here at **Hell on Wheels Ranch** in 2005 with a purchase of some percentage does. We then researched different bloodlines and breeders until we purchased our main buck Rowdy Mountain Sherriff Woody from Rowdy Mountain Boers in Kentucky. We have based our entire operation around this buck and are intensively linebreeding to Eggsfile. The first kid crop from those percentage does and "Woody" went on to win every class they were entered in at the Lexington Goat Exposition in Lexington, NE in 2006. Woody's kids have amazing confirmation and rate-of-gain.

We now have greatly increased our numbers and have quite a few fullblood does that we've either raised or gotten from breeders such as Paul Payne, Rowdy Mountain Boers, Matthew Cantrell, and Donald Johnston. We also have quite a few percentage and commercial does that have dairy bloodlines to increase milk production.

We have enjoyed getting involved with the goat industry and are excited about learning more as we go. We now hold memberships in the International Boer Goat Assoc., American Meat Goat Assoc., and the Western Nebraska Sheep and Goat Assoc..

Watch for our 2007 kid crop sired by **Rowdy Mtns. Sherriff Woody**; a promising young Woody son, **HOWR Lefty**; and **P/H Classic Warrior**. 🍌



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It is not always easy to raise goats in West Texas. The pastures are often sparse, with an annual rainfall of 13 inches. Schafer Farms runs an average herd of 400 goats on their 160 acre farm, and about 900 acres of native pasture. This is accomplished through a rotational grazing system using drip irrigation, and conservative use of pasture. The drip irrigation conserves water because it

is installed 15-18 inches beneath the ground and feeds the root system of the plants. Schafer Farms plants a mixture of beardless wheat and oats in the fall of the year which provides excellent grazing for recip does and their new offspring. This small grain crop lasts until the Texas weather heats up usually in May. At that time, the does go back to native pasture. The farm also has a permanent grass on some of the sections of drip irrigation, which can be grazed year-round, but goes somewhat dormant in the winter. However, goats like dry grass, and seem to do quite well on it. The rest of the rotational sections are utilized with hybrid sorghum, which is usually baled in the summer, and then grazed after the last cutting until well into the first frost of the winter. It provides dry matter for the goats, but has to be supplemented with molasses tubs in the winter. However, it is not uncommon to harvest 90 round bales of hay from 12 acres of drip irrigation, with fertilizer being put right through the irrigation system. These bales are put back for feed for the winter months. With any help from Mother Nature in the form of rainfall, there can be up to 3 cuttings for hay.

Schafer Farms, Hugh and Ann Schafer, are pioneers in the development of the boer goat. They were members of a syndicate that imported some of the first boer goats to the United States. They are dedicated to promoting the breed for showing, breeding, and commercial use. Each year is a challenge to produce better livestock than the previous year. Their goal is to produce the best stock for their use and for their customers, and to stand behind what they sell. They have sold to 25 states and 6 foreign countries.

Schafer Farms will be bringing their top-line genetics to buyers from West Texas to California to the Midwest this year. In order to provide these animals, they use embryo transfer, and artificial insemination, as well as natural breeding.

Schafer Farms has produced a National Reserve Champion Buck in 1998, and a National Reserve Champion Doe in 2003. They have also sold many champions. In the last few years, the wether competition for 4-H and FFA has become phenomenal, and Schafer Farms is dedicated to producing some of the best wethers in Texas. This year, they produced the Grand Champion Wether at The Arizona National Livestock Show in Phoenix, Az. Schafer Farms' schedule for 2007 includes the following:

Schafer Farms' Club Goat Sale—at the farm, June 4, 2007

Lone Star Elite Jackpot Wether Sale - June 2, 2007 at

Central Texas Livestock Center, Goldthwaite, Tx. 1:00 PM

Schafer-Helms Southern Classic Wether Sale July 28, 2007,

Gonzales, Tx. 1:00 PM

Platinum Alliance Sale - August 25, 2007, Sydney, Ohio, at 1:00 PM

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International Goat Days • Start Plannin'

It's the middle of summer; 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.

This trip will serve a dual purpose as we are also delivering a brand-spanking new chariot to another friend in those parts. Yep, you read it correctly; a goat chariot. Built especially for a goat to race around a 300' track and hopefully capture the first prize of \$1,000.00. One thousand "U.S. long green" if he can train his goat to pull him and the chariot 300 feet faster than the rest of a lot of unique individuals. If that sounds interesting to you, call Janis Rogers at (901) 872-5171 at International Goat Days and she will send you a set of plans for building your own chariot and a list of other stuff at the September 9th, 10th and 11th festival.

"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 windsong@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 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 7th, 8th and 9th, 2007. 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 Cotten at (901) 837-7827 or sawtree@bigriver.net. #6

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Funds Available to Help Sheep & Goat Industries

Since 1999, the National Livestock Producers Association's Sheep & Goat Fund has helped a variety of innovative projects come to fruition. Currently the Fund has \$9.4 million in loan commitments with 45 loans to 33 entities in 21 states. The Fund Committee continuously reviews applications that serve the goals of this program.

"Most recently the Fund has been used to help establish a livestock merchandising center, expand several goat dairies, build a consolidated goat association, develop a sheep meat supplier, and create a weed control and fire protection program using sheep," Richard Drake, chairman of the NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund Committee said. "Our loan program is unique in its ability to evaluate

each applicant's specific needs and create a flexible financing plan. We also offer a very competitive interest rate, currently 5.75 percent."

The Sheep & Goat Fund was established in 1999 when an agreement was signed between the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (Sheep Center) and the NLPA that enables Sheep Center funds to be used in the sheep and goat industries through a revolving loan program. The NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund 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).

For more information or an application please contact the National Livestock Producers Association at 1-800-237-7193 or visit www.SheepandGoatFund.com. 🐐

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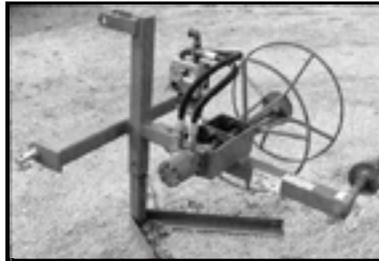


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