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Northwest • fall/winter edition 2005-06

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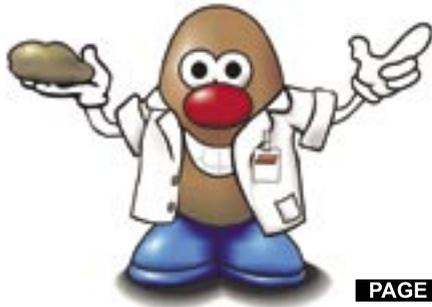
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contents



PAGE 28



PAGE 49



PAGE 66



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CONTENTS

Features

Woodpecker Truck Page 8
 The Tillage Master Does It All Page 10
 Proven technology accurately locates well water before you drill Page 12
 Otters Inc. Page 13
 General Land Office Page 14
 Varmintgetter Page 15
 Bale Before, Not After It Rains ... Page 16
 Plowrake Page 16
 Farm Works Software Announces “Low Cost Rugged Tablet PC” Page 17
 T.JT Inc. Page 18
 The Quest For Cheap Agricultural Heat Page 19
 Food Fore Thought Page 20
 Lowrys Handcrafted Footwear ... Page 21
 You May Be a Farmer If Page 21
 USDA Efforts and Response To Avian Influenza in the United States Page 22
 UDY Corporation Page 24
 Stukenholz Laboratory Celebrating 35 Years of Agricultural Testing Page 24
 West Creek Farms Page 25
 Think Your Favorite Holiday Potato Recipe is a Winner ? Page 26
 Energy Laboratories Inc. Page 28
 Washington State Seed Potato Commission Page 32
 Storage in the Making Page 34
 Pitching Potatoes Page 36
 Pemberton Seed Potato Program Page 38
 T.R.S. Industries Inc. Page 40
 Getting to the Root of the Problem Page 41
 C & R Supply Page 44

Precision Pumping Systems Page 46
 Starr Trak Page 48
 General Varmint Control Page 49
 Johanns Announces New RMA Administrator Page 50
 Share the Bounty Safely to Prevent Foodborne Illness Page 51
 Double B MFG Inc. Page 51
 Under Pressure With Patience, low-stress handling can save you time and trouble Page 52
 Buitink renews inflatable therapeutic bath for cows Page 56
 American Angus Association Plans Outreach Seminar in Oregon Page 56
 Stampede Steel Page 57
 Life in Dairy Lagoons Page 58
 Mt. Ayr Vet Clinic Page 60
 Merricks Page 61
 Liberty Companies Page 62
 Powell Livestock Scale Page 63
 Lucky Acres LLC Page 64
 Memorial Pet Care Page 65
 Horses & Salt Blocks Page 66
 Colt has 3 on his forehead Page 67
 Rio Hondo Livestock Page 67
 Udderly EZ Innovative Mare Milker Page 68
 The Idaho Horse Council Page 69
 Goats Are Buttheads Page 70
 Kiko, the extraordinary meat goat Page 70
 Boers for all occasions Page 71
 Ever Hear of a Seeing Eye Horse Page 77

Departments

Publisher Information Page 6
 Advertiser Index Page 78
 Marketplace Page 72

Livestock

Beef & Dairy Page 52
 Equine Page 64
 Sheep/Goat Page 70



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Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy Magazine
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President / CEO

Michael Ritz
mikeritz@ritzfamilypublishing.com

Executive V.P. Operations/Editor

Robert Davis
rdavis@ritzfamilypublishing.com

Sales Manager

Pat Drury
pat@ritzfamilypublishing.com

Office Manager

Angie Hawkins

Graphics/Web Tech

Heather Heaton
heather@ritzfamilypublishing.com

Executive Secretary

Amy Gronewoller
amy@ritzfamilypublishing.com

Ritz Family Publishing, Inc.

www.ritzfamilypublishing.com

Corporate Office

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

Sales

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First introduced to potato farmers in Eastern Washington, the Dammer Diker and Tillage Master have gradually changed the way many crops are managed. Originated in Washington State, the Tillage Master has become the tool of choice for many farmers across the United States and Canada, as well as in several countries around the world. Imagine using just one machine for all your Tillage work, rather than Ripping, then Disking, then plowing, then Tilling, Marking, Bedding, and whatever else.

The Tillage Master combines two rows of shanks, so the ground is ripped deep, removing compaction from the previous harvest, and then hilled in one pass. Behind the shanks, you can attach spiders for diking, mesh rollers for bedding, or choppers for seed bed preparation. This innovative combination, along with the optional hilling wings, rod weeder, markers, etc., allows fewer passes through the field. Using the Tillage Master will make your farm more profitable.

Seed bed preparation in Fall or Spring consists of breaking up the previous crop residue and mixing it into the soil, so it will decompose more rapidly. Behind grain crops, where the residue has been removed or is sparse, the bedding operation can often be done in the standing stubble. Ag Engineering's Tillage Chopper attaches to the Tillage Master frame and successfully mulches and finishes the soil. The Tillage Chopper can be sold with the Tillage Master, as a complete Ripper-Tillage unit, or alone, as an add-on.

Some growers may prefer to do some cross-ripping to break up compaction layers or fumigate prior to bedding. Generally, bedding in fall, bed-splitting in the spring, and Dammer Diking during the growing season, loosens the soil adequately for the crop.

When diking, it is best to leave the soil smooth enough behind the ripper for the bedding operation. Disk and roller harrows squeeze the air from the soil, forming compaction layers. The Tillage Master can handle a lot of trash, without overworking the soil.

To control the spring flush of weeds, the Tillage Master shanks split the beds down the center. The spiders are removed and replaced with mesh rollers and perhaps rod weeders to

firm the beds. This operation kills the weeds and loosens the beds where the seed piece is to be placed, while also increasing soil warming and drying. The roller firms and reseals the ground to prevent excessive drying. Bed splitting is normally done two weeks to ten days prior to planting, depending on soil and field conditions.

Farmers everywhere have had a significant increase by using the Tillage Master. Using the Tillage Master in operations like Ripping and Fall Bedding, farmers are seeing increased yields of 50-100 sacks of potatoes and 20-50 bushels of corn per acre. Following are several of the areas in which the Tillage Master benefits your crops:

LESS COMPACTION: Compaction only occurs on flat surfaces. The primary tillage work for fall bedding is done in a time of the year when the soil is dryer, less susceptible to compaction and more conducive to shattering. Spring compaction is reduced because the dikes drain the furrows and cushion the impact of the tractor tires on the soil. A tractor tire never runs where the crop is to be planted.

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If a field is bedded and diked in the fall, the Reservoir Tillage system not only retains winter moisture, but also absorbs more heat, so the soil warms more quickly for earlier spring planting.

NATURAL TILLAGE: Reservoir Tillage opens up the soil to allow more freezing and thawing, to loosen and heave the beds. The continuous freezing and thawing is one of nature's tools for loosening the soil. Clods are reduced and the soil is ready for planting.

SOIL WARMING: Using the Tillage Master to bed and Dike can easily double the surface area of the soil, making a more efficient solar collector. The angles of the reservoirs catch more sunlight and the little reservoirs create heat sinks for increased microbial activity. This activity can digest crop residue more rapidly, germinate seeds earlier, and achieve crop canopy more rapidly.

FERTILIZATION: Dry pre-plant fertilizer is best applied in the fall, prior to bedding. If this is not possible, dry fertilizer can be applied prior to the spring bed splitting operation. The fertilizer must be spread with the tillage reservoirs, but it will be moved into the hill and incorporated with the splitting operation.

A starter band can be applied with the planter or with the Dammer Diker. It is not suggested that a band be applied with the splitting operation because the band placement will be erratic. Other fertilizer needs can be met with applications of liquid nutrients with the irrigation water.

Over all, the Tillage Master is the only tillage equipment you may need. Ag Engineering, Co., also builds bedders and deep rippers and Fumigators for potatoes, corn, sugar beets, onions, and other crops. Contact Ag Engineering & Development, Co., toll free at (800) 627-9099. 📞



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A survey with four or more soundings can map approximately 12,000 square feet and accurately show the estimated groundwater depth, quality, and quantity (yield).

THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR A NWS SURVEY TO BE COMPLETED ON MY PROPERTY

There are only a few minimum requirements: **1)** we need to have safe access to each sounding site with our 4X4 vehicle (otherwise in acceptable weather we can do remote soundings 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 NWS 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.

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erties 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.

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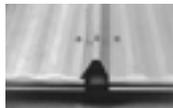
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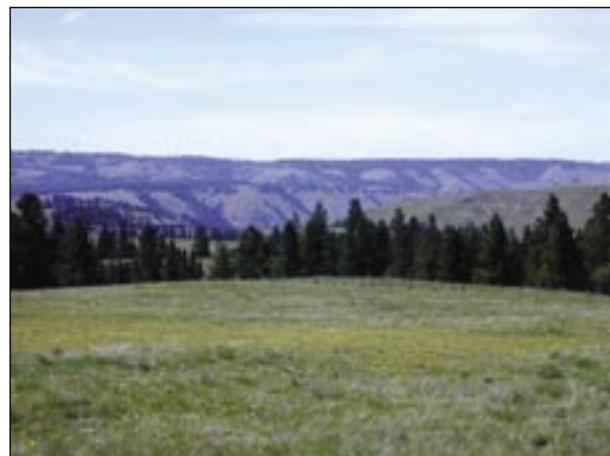
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- 9 VARMITgetter is priced hundreds of dollars less than the handheld devices on the market and doesn't break down.
- 10 Wired remote control -- up to 25' away from the blast site.

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.

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Woodward Harding of Hamden, Ct. has been granted two patents for a landscaping tool that combines a plow blade and hydraulically controlled horizontal pivoting rake-tines allowing for quick, efficient, cost effective plowing and raking of materials such as soil, gravel, wood chips and snow.

The PLOWRAKE™ has a robust overall design that is meant for heavy use and features a patented self-cleaning hinge mechanism which expels rather than binds foreign materials within the hinge. This patent hinge design assures continuous and unhindered use regardless of what material is being worked.

The PLOWRAKE™ can be attached to pickup trucks, tractors and skidloaders enabling landscapers, road construction personnel, farmers and others who work with aggregate materials to complete tasks with forward-backward motions producing high quality grading results with less time and effort than with conventional plows. This significant time savings (40% or more) equates to increased profit generation in commercial applications and substantial labor savings in private use. The PLOWRAKE™ eliminates the need for awkward, inefficient and time-consuming backblading.

Mr. Harding has enlisted the Kessler Corporation of Freemont, Ohio in assisting with the marketing of the PLOWRAKE™ to manufacturing firms interested in licensing, production and sales agreements world-wide..

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Farm Works Software Announces “Low Cost Rugged Tablet PC”

Farm Works Software, the leader in agricultural software, is releasing a state of the art personal computing device to be used in a truck, tractor, sprayer, or ATV. The Rugged Tablet PC, also known as Titan RT, uses the latest technology and software for field applications. The versatile device allows growers to use their existing GPS receiver along with the Farm Works Software “Mate” programs in order to perform a wide range of tasks in the field.

The large-screened Rugged Tablet PC is easier to see than smaller, handheld computing devices (such as personal data assistants). The nearly eight and a half inch wide computer screen makes it easier for the grower to see what is displayed while at the wheel of the sprayer or tractor and driving over rugged terrain. The device is tougher than PDAs, too, so it is less likely to become damaged while out in the producer’s field.

Designed to handle the heat, cold, rain, dust, and mud, growers will reduce stress by securing their data and eliminate time spent reinstalling software programs.

Combined with Farm Works Software programs, the affordable Rugged Tablet PC provides a low-cost option for growers to use GPS for mapping field boundaries, scouting problem areas, guidance, soil sampling and variable rate control. Crop record-keeping can also be integrated for generating application maps of seed varieties, fertilizer, and chemical usage. The hardy device utilizes a convenient touch screen and built-in device ports that support a wide-range of GPS receivers and variable rate controllers. The device has mounting accessories that make it easy to affix to any vehicle cab or ATV. Data may also be easily transported to a personal computer from the device.

For a limited time, Farm Works Soft-



ware is including its Site Mate-Basic software (Retail \$250) absolutely free to those who purchase the Rugged Tablet PC. Additional software modules for soil sampling, scouting, guidance, or crop record-keeping can be added for a nominal fee. The introductory cost is only \$2,850.00.

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The Quest for Cheap Agricultural Heat

Yes, it is possible. And, it is easier than most people think.

Farm heating costs are rising, but some farmers will save 40 to 70 percent on their heating bills this winter. These folks have discovered alternative heating systems and fuel sources.

With the right heating system, you can burn a variety of fuels to heat your business," explained Dwight Hamilton, of Turbo Burn, in Spokane WA. His company has manufactured and sold alternative heating systems for 22 years. "Wood is the most popular fuel, but waste oil is a close second because of its availability and low cost."

Used motor oil, cooking oil, corn-cobs and peach pits are just a few low-cost or free sources for fuel. Businesses can choose the fuel, based on availability in their area and cost. They are not locked into one source.

"A multi-fuel system supplies safe, clean, efficient, thermostatically controlled heat and hot water, for commercial, industrial, agricultural and residential applications. Users can burn coal today, wood tomorrow and waste oil the next day," Hamilton said.



A Montana greenhouse heating both the beds and the air with a Turbo Burn stove

The Turbo Burn system is easy and safe to use. Start the fire, set the timer and walk away. Existing thermostats control the heat distribution exactly like conventional heating systems. Since it

is not a boiler, no dangerous pressure builds up. Usually, the unit is placed outside in its own structure.

The large Turbo Burn stove holds over 1,800 gallons of treated water, storing 2,100,000 BTUs of heat-on-demand. A single three-hour fire is all that is needed to bring that water to 210 degrees and handle the heating needs of several buildings for 24 hours. Other systems on the market store considerably less water and require a continuous fire or several small fires throughout the day.

Business people can save thousands of dollars on heating costs with multi-fuel heating systems," states Hamilton. "Using the cheapest fuel available just makes sense. You no longer have to be at the mercy of rising fuel costs."

For more information on the Turbo Burn multi-fuel heating system call 509-487-3609 or visit www.turboburn.net.

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Commentary

FOOD *fore* THOUGHT

Is the Ad Council Playing Fair?

By: Susan Allen

Smokey the Bear telling us, “Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires”, McGruff, the crime dog, who takes a “bite out of crime”, and slogans like “A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste”, have made the Ad Council a trusted icon for over sixty years, but has the Council abused our trust? The Ad Council’s recent “anti pesticide” campaign sadly is an indication that they have fallen prey to the same political polarization found in print and broadcast media.

The Ad Council defines their mission as “to identify a select number of significant public issues and stimulate action on those issues through communication programs that make a measurable difference in our society.” The Council has been so successful at their endeavor of effecting positive change that they now bask in donated media time worth over a billion dollars a year. This market value alone (without adding donations) elevates them to the status of one of the top ten advertisers in the United States. The PSAs created by the Council are funded by corporate sponsorships and produced by volunteers from premier advertising agencies. Interestingly any organization can apply for public service advertising if they can show a significant public problem for which a solution can be offered through advertising, in essence, a call to action directed to the individual and groups must sport a nice chunk of change to accomplish this venture. It takes a minimum of \$600,000 for non-profit groups or \$800,000 for government agencies per year to reach just one target audience.

Past campaigns like “Friends don’t let Friends Drive Drunk” fit snugly under the guidelines established by the founders of the Ad Council, who

desired to effect positive change. Due to such a successful track record, both donors and the public have given the council free rein; it appears now it is time to rein them in. Factions in the Ag community believe that the Ad Council’s latest

PSA produced in conjunction with Earth Share, an environmental coalition with a notable aversion to pesticides, and does not comply with the guidelines the council established. For one, pesticides can hardly be “a pressing social issue” in fact the majority of the population would contend our country is safer because of the diseases pesticides have irradiated. Yet in response to a survey completed by the Lieberman Research Group, the Advertising Council learned that children’s needs were the most important public service advertising issue. Thus, the anti-pesticide PSA was designed to appeal to mothers by using a wiser female mentor desperately urging moms to protect their child from pesticides in their school classroom. The sixty second spot goes on to infer that medical conditions like asthma and cancer are caused by pesticides, without any medical substantiation. Finally, and most ridiculously, the “mature mentor” voice tells young mothers that pesticides are responsible for lower IQs in the classroom, (that comment naturally begs the question of what is responsible for the child in the same classroom with superior intelligence.) Earth Share’s strategy is vintage “Alar scare” but today, thanks to various agricultural watchdog groups like the Food Forethought Foundation their tactics are quickly exposed. If safety at school is a cause near and dear to Earth Share why not a PSA on school bus safety, (in a five year period 62,000 children were injured and



59 died from riding a school bus), or playground accidents (200,000 children are hurt each year in playground accidents.)

When I read the long list of Ad Council donors, I found the list reveals so many corporations dependant on agriculture and agribusiness who I hope would be appalled to learn that their funds were supporting an extreme environmental agenda. I know Anheuser-Busch is greatly dependant on the hops and barley our farmers grow, I doubt Anheuser’s stringent quality control would accept barley crawling with insects or an even worse scenario, destroyed by infestation. Ditto, McDonalds and their apple slices, Burger King, Merck and Company, Kraft Foods, Wendy’s, Novartis, PGA of America, Major League Baseball Properties, (picture golf courses and ball parks without responsible pesticide application) Caterpillar, Home Depot, Good Year Tire and Rubber Company are others that should be aware that the Ad Council has crawled into the kangaroo pouch of environmentalists. Who better than an “AGtivist” to call the AD Council on this hypocrisy? 🐾

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Styles for happy "feet" are cowboy packers, woodsman, work shoes, hiking shoes, dress shoes. Making happy "feet" for men and women is Lowry's

Handcrafted Footwear goal.

Lowry's offers complete rebuilding and repair on other brands, replacing wore off heels and holey soles. Lowry's features vibram products as their choice sole. For a quote just call 1 541 519 4523.

For more information or to request a brochure please contact Chuck at 1 541 519 4523 or 24369 Keating Grange Lane, Baker City, Oregon 97814 ☎

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- You've never thrown away a 5 gallon bucket
- You have used baling wire to attach a license plate
- You have used a chain saw to remodel your house
- You can remember the fertilizer rate, seed population, herbicide rate and yields on a farm you rented 10 years ago, but cannot recall your wife's birthday
- You have fibbed to a mechanic about how often you greased a piece of equipment
- You have driven off the road while examining your neighbors crops
- You have borrowed gravel from the county road to fill potholes in your driveway
- You have buried a dog and cried like a baby
- You have used a tractor front-end loader as scaffolding for roof repairs
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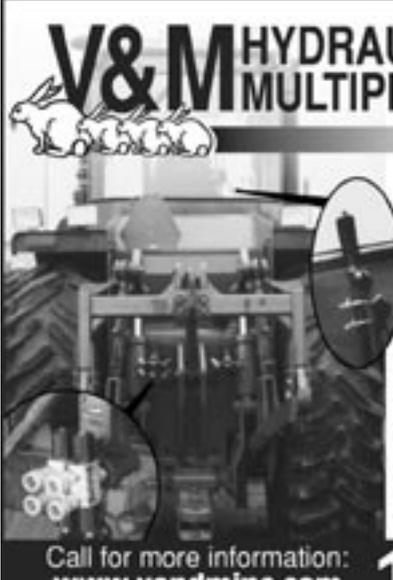
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USDA Efforts And Response To Avian Influenza In The United States

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner outlined USDA efforts to protect the United States against highly transmissible forms of avian influenza, a disease that commonly affects birds and has been transmitted to humans in Asia.

“For more than two decades, USDA has worked to prepare for and prevent an outbreak of dangerous strains of avian influenza in our country,” said Conner. “Attacking the disease at its source overseas is a main focus for USDA. We also have strict importation restrictions to prevent the spread of the virus in our country and an elaborate surveillance system in place to monitor our bird populations.”

Worldwide, there are many strains of avian influenza (AI) virus, which can cause varying degrees of illness in poultry. AI viruses can infect chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, ducks, geese and guinea fowl as well as a wide variety of other birds. Migratory waterfowl are

also known to carry the less infectious strains of AI viruses. Each year there is a flu season for birds just as there is for humans and, as with people, some forms of the flu are worse than others.

AI strains are divided into two groups: low pathogenicity (LP) and high pathogenicity (HP). LPAI, or “low path” avian influenza, has existed in the United States since the early 1900’s and is commonly found here. It causes birds to become ill and can be fatal to them. These strains of the disease pose no known serious threat to human health. HPAI, or “high path” avian influenza, is more fatal and transmissible. HPAI is the type currently affecting parts of Asia and Eastern Europe. These strains of the disease in Asia have been transmitted from birds to humans, most of whom had extensive, direct contact with infected birds. HPAI has been detected three times in the United States: in 1924, 1983, and 2004. The 2004 outbreak was quickly confined to one flock and eradi-

cated. There were no human illnesses reported in connection with these outbreaks.

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) works with states to monitor and respond to outbreaks of LPAI. APHIS has provided funding and support personnel to states when LPAI has been detected. When HPAI is detected, APHIS personnel are primary responders, due to its infectivity and high mortality rate among poultry. Close attention is also given to two subtypes of LPAI, the H5 and H7 strains, because of the potential for them to mutate into HPAI. The AI strain infecting both birds and humans in Asia is the HPAI H5N1. There is presently no evidence of HPAI H5N1 existing in the U.S. - neither in animals nor humans.

To encourage producers to report sick birds, APHIS conducts an outreach campaign called “Biosecurity for the Birds.” It provides poultry producers with the latest information on bios-

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No. of bales high when in stack	5	4	5

(cannot be mounted on a 1048, 1049 or 1065 because of the engine placement)

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security, in several languages, to prevent the spread of this disease on the farm. Additional surveillance efforts specifically target the live bird markets. USDA works closely with the industry to randomly test commercial flocks as well as testing birds that show signs of illness. USDA scientists have also been testing wild migratory birds since 1998 in the Alaska flyway.

In 2002, the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) developed a rapid diagnostic test for avian influenza. ARS continually improves the sensitivity of the test. This test diagnoses avian influenza within three hours, compared with up to two weeks required for previous tests. The rapid diagnostic test was used in the eradication of avian influenza in Texas in 2004. The test has now been distributed to the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, which includes university and state veterinary diagnostic labs throughout the United States, to better enable laboratories to monitor for and respond to avian influenza outbreaks.

APHIS also maintains an AI vaccine supply for poultry that can be used to

create a buffer around an identified area, in the event of a large outbreak among poultry, to contain the disease while it is in the process of being eradicated. In addition, the agency has formed a national network of personnel to assist with surveillance and response in the event of an outbreak of HPAI or other foreign animal disease. That network includes more than 40,000 accredited private veterinarians who report any suspected disease outbreak to federal or state officials.

USDA is working closely with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of the Interior, state and tribal leaders, along with industry stakeholders, to enhance emergency response plans in the event that HPAI is detected in the United States.

The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is working to educate the public about safe food handling practices in response to numerous questions about the human risk associated with avian influenza. LPAI, the type commonly found in the U.S., is not transmissible by eating poultry. If HPAI were detected in the U.S., the chance of

infected poultry entering the food chain would be extremely low. Nevertheless, proper handling and cooking of poultry provides protection against HPAI, as it does against other viruses and bacteria, including Salmonella and E.coli. USDA continually reminds consumers to practice safe food handling and preparation every day:

- Wash hands before and after handling food;
- Prevent cross-contamination by keeping raw meat, poultry, fish and their juices away from other foods;
- Wash hands, cutting board, knife, and counter tops with hot, soapy water after cutting raw meats;
- Sanitize cutting boards by using a solution of 1 teaspoon chlorine bleach in 1 quart of water; and
- Use a food thermometer to ensure food has reached proper temperatures (details available on-line at www.fsis.usda.gov).

Additional information about USDA avian influenza efforts can be found at <http://www.usda.gov/birdflu> and DOI at <http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/>. 📄

Article courtesy of United States Department of Agriculture

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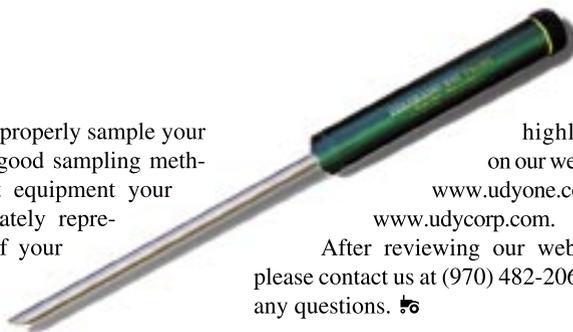
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Stukenholtz Laboratory Inc. Celebrating 35 Years of Agricultural Testing

In 1970, there were no commercial soil and plant testing laboratories in Idaho. Farmers applied fertilizers based upon educated guesswork. Dr. Dale Stukenholtz and his wife Joyce saw an opportunity to build a business and started a soil and plant testing laboratory and field consulting service based in Twin Falls, Idaho. Dr. Stukenholtz had an unusually diverse background as an educator at the University of Nebraska, an agronomist in the fertilizer industry and a farmer, and he saw a need for more modern fertilizer recommendations to produce greater yields at less cost. His clients were the growers, so he could make unbiased recommendations that maximized economic return to the farmer.

After extensive field research, he developed these improved fertilizer recommendations that quickly became popular with growers and formed the basis for nearly all fertilizer applications in the intermountain west area.

Stukenholtz Laboratory clients include growers from all neighboring states and several foreign countries including Australia, Canada, Egypt, Russia, Mexico and New Zealand.

Stukenholtz Laboratory provides 1 to 2 day service, including picking up and delivery time, across Southern Idaho from St. Anthony and Grace to Parma and Homedale. Results can be delivered, mailed, faxed, or pulled from the Laboratory's webpage: www.stukenholtz.com. To improve their service, Joyce and Dale Stukenholtz expanded the laboratory nine years ago, installed the latest in computerized instrumentation and quality control, and made it the most modern and well equipped agricultural laboratory in their market area.

Critical to the success of Idaho's most efficient laboratory and largest field consulting firm has been its personnel. Dr. Stukenholtz has had a PhD in Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition since

1964. Consulting agronomists include J.P. Kruckeberg of American Falls, a 26 year veteran of field consulting and the most successful single agronomist in the state, and Bart Kunz. The Laboratory and office staff are equally good.

Dr. Stukenholtz continues to research and improve his Laboratory. In conjunction with the Idaho Crop Production Association and University of Idaho CFEP research project, he has helped to ensure that fertilizer recommendations in Idaho are the most cost efficient possible and produce the maximum economic yield while protecting the environment. Stukenholtz Laboratory personnel have conducted field research on over 40 different products and continue to be the experts at "cutting edge" agricultural technology. As we end our first 34 years of business and begin our next, we would like to thank our current and former employees for their dedicated work and our customers and clients for their years of support. 📞

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THINK YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY POTATO RECIPE IS A WINNER?

“Grown In Idaho™” Recipe Contest Announced Thousands of Dollars in Cash Prizes Offered

America's favorite potato has launched a national recipe contest searching for home chefs' favorite holiday potato recipes.

According to Frank Muir, President/CEO, of the Idaho Potato Commission, “While we encourage consumers to keep their pantries well stocked with Idaho™ Potatoes throughout the year, we recognize that America's most beloved potato dishes are particularly popular this time of year. We want to capitalize on this fact and make it as easy as possible for consumers to qualify and win some big cash prizes.”

What's at stake? BIG money! The grand prize winner will win \$7,500 and the first and second prize winners will win \$1,500 and \$500 respectively.

What's required? One “Grown in Idaho” seal or label from a bag of Idaho Potatoes and a favorite holiday recipe using Idaho Potatoes (or as many recipes as an individual wants to enter). The labels can come from a bag or box and from fresh, frozen or dehydrated Idaho Potato packaging.

The “Grown in Idaho” Recipe Contest is a great way to remind consumers that only potatoes grown in Idaho can be called Idaho Potatoes. If a package has the “Grown in Idaho” seal or the word Idaho, then the potatoes inside will have the consistent quality and taste of Idaho Potatoes.

“Along with reminding holiday shoppers to look for the ‘Grown in Idaho’ seal, this contest will allow us to build our inventory of favorite holiday recipes using our product,” said Muir. “We'd love to find out how America prepares and serves Idaho Potatoes to their family and friends during the holiday season.”

“Along with reminding holiday shoppers to look for the ‘Grown in Idaho’ seal, this contest will allow us to build our inventory of favorite holiday recipes using our product,” said Muir. “We'd love to find out how America prepares and serves Idaho Potatoes to their family and friends during the holiday season.”

How to Enter the “Grown In Idaho” Recipe Contest:

- One “Grown in Idaho” seal or label
- Favorite Idaho Potato holiday recipe(s), including full list of ingredients and preparation instructions on an 8-1/2 by 11-inch sheet of plain paper; include your name, mailing address, email address (if you have one) and contact telephone number(s)

- Mail all of the above to: IPC “Grown in Idaho” Recipe Contest c/o Evans, Hardy+Young, 829 De La Vina Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

- Contest begins November 1, 2005 at 12:01 a.m. EDT and ends on January 15, 2006 at 11:59 p.m. PDT. All mail-in entries must be postmarked no later than midnight January 15, 2006

- Consumers may enter as many recipes as they like, each time they enter. Every individual entry package, however, must include one “Grown in Idaho” seal.

Recipe Judging Criteria:

- Holiday recipes will be judged on the following criteria: taste, originality, visual appearance and acceptability (“consumer friendly”)

- Recipes may use fresh, frozen or dehydrated Idaho Potatoes and recipes must use a minimum of four ounces (approximately half of a large sized potato) of Idaho Potatoes per serving in the recipe to qualify for consideration

- A panel of food experts will use a point-based judging system to evaluate the recipes and to determine the winners.

For a complete list of the “Grown in Idaho” official contest rules and how to enter information, log onto www.idahopotato.com and click on the contest icon.

Although Idaho is famous worldwide for its premium potatoes, some consumers don't realize that only potatoes grown in the Gem State can wear the “Grown In Idaho” seal. Both Idaho™ Potatoes and the “Grown in Idaho™” seal are federally registered Certification Marks that belong to the IPC. These Marks ensure that consumers are purchasing potatoes that have been grown in the state of Idaho.

Contact: Lisa Tumminello, Evans, Hardy+Young, (805) 963-5841, www.idahopotato.com 

Article courtesy: Idaho Potato Commission

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Energy Laboratories, Inc

Energy Laboratories, Inc. (ELI) purchased Microwise Laboratories of Idaho Falls, January 1, 2005. "I am so excited about our new personnel and expanded capabilities" says the former owner and current Branch Manager Kay Finley. With Mindi Reid and Jennifer Wright in the office; chemists Theresa Giglio and

Larry Cook, Microbiologist Michelle Radtke, Quality Assurance Officer Patty Tibbetts, and Eric Tibbetts Business Development, Energy Laboratories' Idaho Falls facility will continue to provide the fast and accurate sprout inhibitor analysis of CIPC, 1,4-DMN, and 2,6-DIPN the industry has come to expect.

The Idaho Falls branch of Energy Laboratories joins a network of six other laboratories located in Billings and Helena, MT, Gillette and Casper, Wyoming, Rapid City, South Dakota, and College Station, Texas, with a satellite location in Elko, Nevada. The company was founded in 1952 and operates on the objective of providing confidential, quality, timely, and cost effective laboratory analytical services.

Energy Laboratories, Idaho Falls, recently moved to a larger facility at 940 Lincoln Road 83401. In addition to testing sprout inhibitors, the lab in Idaho Falls does bacterial tests on processed foods, drinking water and wastewater. As a privately owned laboratory, Energy Laboratories, Inc. can provide unbiased "validation" to testing already done by the processor at their "in-house" facilities. By using an offsite laboratory such as Energy Laboratories, Inc., a food processor can limit their exposure to dangerous bacteria like listeria, salmonella, E coli, and Total coliform.

Additional capabilities of Energy Laboratories (ELI) include testing for the agricultural industry, petroleum and mining concerns, industrial and manufacturing companies, municipal water and wastewater systems, and professional engineering and consulting firms. The majority of the testing is for environmental purposes. Typical projects include the testing of soils, petioles, and agricultural products for productivity purposes.

The seven-branch corporate network employs over 150 chemists and support personnel who specialize in providing organic, inorganic, bacteriological, and radiochemical laboratory analysis of air, biota, soil, petroleum products, vegetation, waste, and water samples. Consulting capabilities include aquatic toxicity testing, NORM (Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials) identification and surveys, and field sampling. A variety of company-wide experts with decades of mining, petroleum,

Continued on page 30



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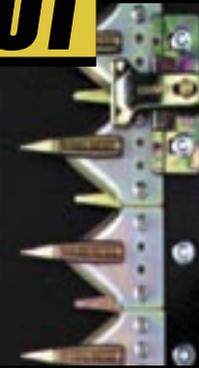
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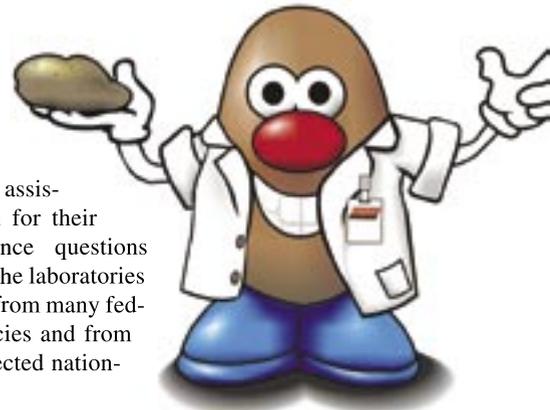
Energy Labs

Continued
from page 28

and regulatory compliance experience provide a technical resource to clientele, lending assistance and direction for their analytical compliance questions and requirements. The laboratories carry certifications from many federal and state agencies and from several highly respected national organizations.

Energy Laboratories uses state-of-the-art equipment, software, and automated analysis systems. Trace metal content analysis equipment includes AA, ICP, and ICP-MS, organics analysis uses GC, GC-MS, and HPLC-PDA, and radiochemical analysis has leading edge alpha and gamma spectroscopy and advanced ion separation/concentration techniques. The laboratory network uses more than 300 PCs, Network servers, SQL database software, and a corporate wide LIMS system for data management.

Energy Laboratories, Inc. specializes in quick turn around time, with full quality control. They may be reached at toll free at 866.522.4498 or by email through their web site at www.energylab.com. ☛



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Washington State Seed Potato Commission

2006 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Washington State Seed Potato Commission (WSSPC). The WSSPC was established in 1956 to “establish orderly, fair, sound, efficient, and unhampered marketing and standardizing of seed potatoes, and to promote and increase the sale of seed potatoes”.

Like most agricultural industries, much has changed in 50 years. What has not changed is the commitment of Washington seed growers to supply quality seed to their customers. The WSSPC takes pride in their field standards and grading and testing requirements that insure that their seed meets the demands of commercial potato growers throughout the world.

With six growers tilling about 1,600 acres, Whatcom County, located in the extreme northwest corner of the geographic US, is the state’s most concentrated seed potato growing area. Other seed growing areas include two farms farming approximately 800 acres just west of Spokane and another two farms totaling 80 acres just north of the Columbia River in south-central Washington.

Whatcom County is legislatively protected to be a prime

certified seed potato growing area. General commercial potatoes may not be grown in plots larger than an acre. That protection has helped win Whatcom seed a good reputation over many decades. Major customers for WA seed potatoes are in Skagit County located immediately south of Whatcom County, the Columbia Basin of eastern Washington, Idaho, and the Bakersfield area of California.

Scott Bedlington, a third generation grower, said he expects Whatcom County will always be a good place for the industry. Scott, who won the prestigious American FFA Degree through the Lynden High School chapter for his agribusiness involvement, joined his father as a partner about five years ago.

Scott has introduced more “deep tilling” of fields that he believes has resulted in better drainage, less compaction of soil, and overall better crops. Seed potatoes must rotate with other crops, so the Bedlingtons and the other growers also raise field corn, green beans and wheat on their land. Most seed potato acreage in Whatcom County is rotated in cooperation with the local dairy industry which has proven to be beneficial to both industries.

Nearly sixty varieties of seed potatoes are grown in Washington, including Red Lasoda, Chieftan, Russet Burbank, Ranger Russet, California White, Umatilla, Satina, and Yukon Gold. A majority of each crop is committed to buyers at harvest, and the inventory is entirely cleared out each year. Growers are committed to meeting their customer’s needs and welcome cooperation on exploring and growing new varieties.

Those interested in knowing more about the WSSPC can access the website at <http://www.waseedpotato.com/> or call 360-354-4670 for a current crop directory. ☎

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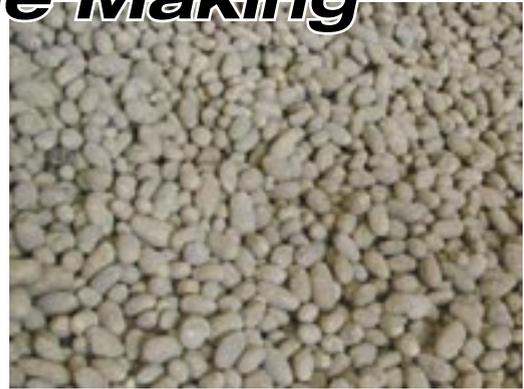
Storage in the Making

Lynn Tegland was working as a general concrete contractor when the opportunity came to build storage systems. That's when Double T's vent system was born. Fifteen years and countless storage systems later, Lynn, with his wife Carol, have built potato and onion storage systems using their vents in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Colorado, Georgia and Canada. Double T is based in Walla Walla, Wash.

"Our vent system has been a work in the making for about 15 years," remembers Lynn. "Our first air system was a wood slat floor and from there we went to a solid concrete floor with flumes underneath. The next year, we started our vent system and have made some changes every year since." The company constructs their vent system in the concrete floor that helps ventilate and regulate the air to allow potatoes to live longer in storage. Concrete tunnels and a plastic vent that is poured right into the concrete, make it easier to clean out, says Lynn.

The vent penetrations in the floor are calculated for proper air volume and placed with symmetry throughout the building, allowing potatoes to store around eight to nine months. "The concrete can easily be sterilized in preparation for the next season," Lynn adds. Carol is the office manager for Double T. Lynn developed the system and is the primary dealer. The company has two sizes of vents, one they typically use for potato storages and one for onion storages. 📧

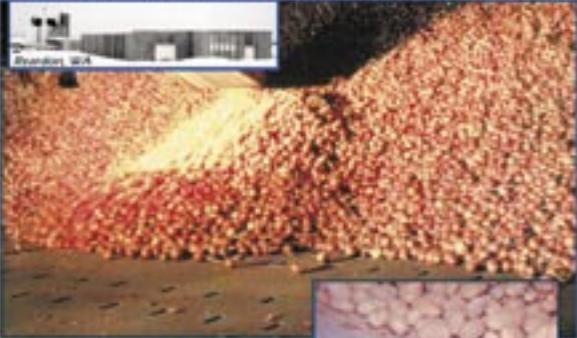
Editor's Note: This article was originally published in Potato Country magazine.





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Pitching Potatoes

Potato Commission Overhauls Image of Idaho Potatoes

By: Sean Ellis

The Idaho Potato Commission's search for the perfect spokesperson didn't have to go any further than well-known fitness expert Denise Austin.

Austin—mother, author, video producer, high-octane fitness guru—was the embodiment of everything the reshaped IPC was looking for: An energetic believer in Idaho potatoes who connects with the public and practically sells the product with her enthusiasm alone.

A major player in the fitness world for more than 20 years, Austin has sold over 20 million videos and authored seven books. She's currently writing a book called, "Eat Carbs and Lose Weight."

"To me, it's an honor to talk about Idaho potatoes because I think it's critical that we get the facts out about complex carbohydrates and the important role they play in fueling our bodies," Austin says.

A mother of two, she cooked Idaho potatoes for her family several times a week even before the IPC hired her as an official spokesperson for Idaho potatoes last August.

"I love potatoes," Austin says. "Idaho potatoes are packed with nutrition and as a fitness expert and mother, I understand and appreciate their value in my family's diet."

She is also an avid believer in combining a balanced diet with exercise.

"Just the way we're enthusiastic about Idaho po-

tatoes, she's enthusiastic about her message," says IPC President and CEO Frank Muir. "Denise was a natural. When we approached her about the idea, she was ecstatic about it because it was...something she believed in."

Keith Frank, director of information for Potato Growers of Idaho, says the industry has got a lot of mileage out of the relationship so far. "She's a very energetic spokesperson for the Idaho potato industry," he says. "It makes a lot of sense to have somebody in that kind of role delivering your message for you."

When the IPC launched its current nutritional campaign in November 2003, it was looking for someone with credibility, Muir says, someone who could connect with other homemakers and who understood the importance of a balanced diet and exercise.

Though the contract is year-to-year, Muir expects it to be a long-term relationship. Commercials featuring Austin, 47, touting the nutritional benefits of Idaho potatoes began running in 31 cities in September.

Along with sponsoring Austin's daily fitness program "Denise Austin's Daily workout" on Lifetime Television Network, the IPC is partnering with her on other pro-carb initiatives. That includes TV appearances, articles bylined by Austin in targeted print outlets and Internet communications tactics.

It's part of a multi-million dollar campaign to remind consumers that it's not only OK to eat potatoes, it's downright healthy.

The campaign began shortly after Muir took over at the IPC 1 1/2 years ago and represented what the new-look commission hoped to accomplish: Aggressively attack the notion that carbs or potatoes are bad and go one step further—remind people that they're good for you.

The marketing campaign was launched two months before a similar one by the U.S. Potato Board began and came about as a direct result of the low-carb diet craze.

For Muir, the final straw came when he heard a doctor testify before a U.S. Senate subcommittee that potatoes were the nutritional equivalent to table sugar.

"That's what put me over the edge," he says. "Because when you're taking a product that has fiber, protein, Vitamin C and 10 other trace minerals and nutrients and you're saying that it's the same as table sugar, that's just false information."

The IPC, and USPB, came out shooting. They must have hit their target. The number of people who say they are on a low-carb diet has fallen from over 9 percent last February to under 4 percent now.

Muir says more nutritionists and doctors are willing to speak out against low-carb diets, and the list is likely to grow with the

Continued on page 42

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Pemberton Seed Potato Program

The 1960s were a time of great change in Pemberton. The road to Vancouver, long hoped for, was finally becoming a reality; no longer would the railroad be the only means of transportation out of the valley. For the potato farmers, another great change was on the way.

At the University of British Columbia, a team of researchers: M.S. Wright, R. Stace-Smith, E.F. Cole, and Frances Mellor developed the first vi-

rus-free clones of seed potatoes. For a field test they selected two areas of B.C., Pemberton and the Cariboo, both isolated areas where the likelihood of contamination was minimal.

A research station was established on the farm of Clifford Ronayne (later known as Ryan Creek Farm). For this project two thousand plants each of White Rose and Netted Gem were supplied together with smaller quantities of Irish Cobbler, Red Pontiac, Warba. Epicure, Kennebec and Norgold Russet - the anticipated yield was estimated at 2lb per plant. The following year Clifford was to grow only virus-tested seed, and also to rent two acres to accommodate further plots for research the other varieties. From these plots other farmers were supplied, eventually replacing all seed brought in from other areas; thus forming the Pemberton Seed Control area, which restricts the growing of potatoes to virus-free seed grown in the area.

At the beginning of the program, small virus-free plants were brought into Pemberton from the research laboratory at U.B.C. and planted in carefully spaced plots. After the first year the planting crew stayed at the old log house on Ryan Creek Farm for convenience.

In 1979 four greenhouses were built, funded by the Federal and Provincial Governments, on the farms of Clifford Ronayne, Anthony Van Loon, George Mitchell and John Ronayne.

These greenhouses enabled the growers to divide the varieties between them. In February carefully selected seed from Pre-Elite (that is - plants from the small plots), are brought in the house to warm up in damp sawdust. By the middle of March the potatoes are sufficiently sprouted to be planted in the pots in the greenhouse.

By the first week in April the first cuttings are taken from these "mother" plants and planted out in trays of damp soil. As further sprouts appear the process of cutting continues. When these cuttings are rooted (about 2 weeks) they are in turn planted out

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five to a large (10") pot. From the large pots, cuttings are again taken and planted in trays of damp sand. These final cuttings, when rooted, are planted out in carefully divided plots in the field.

The potatoes produced from these cuttings are pre-elite. The following year pre-elite are planted to produce Elite #1, the next year is Elite #2, then the last year Elite #3 which are sold. Throughout the process the potatoes are subject to rigorous testing and inspection.

In 1997 the Vancouver Research Center was closed down and with the Research Station in Pemberton to replace the greenhouses a laboratory was built in Pemberton, and a program of meristem cuttings began. The primary sprout was cut off selected potatoes and planted in a special medium (agar). From the resulting plant

meristem (at base of each leaf) were cut off and again planted in agar. When the resulting plants were reasonable size they were transferred to soil, hardened and set out by each grower in an area away from other plantings. The laboratory work was done by farmers wives, who were responsible to see that sterile lab conditions were kept. The building maintenance was paid for by the seed growers. All potatoes grown are carefully inspected by department experts throughout the growing period and also at the time of planting and shipment.

So over the years a government program has been transferred to the farmers and their wives, making them responsible for most of the process. At the beginning there were sceptics, but the arrival of buyers from the Western States on the first field day soon convinced all to join the program, which has brought prosperity to the farmers of Pemberton. The original researchers were given a special award for their work from the Federal Government. 🍆

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In the fall of 1989 we bought three acres of land in the Fargo Industrial Park and put up a new building big enough to repair and make new tarps. We can now drive a semi-truck and trailer into the shop and install or repair the tarp and hardware in just a short time. On the other side of the building we are making tarps of all sizes and shapes along with custom-made boat covers, store front awnings and implement tarps. We now have 15-20 full-time employees.

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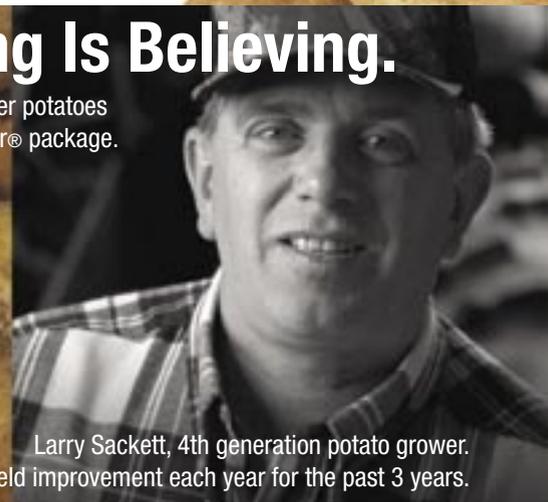


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Pitching Potatoes

Continued from page 36

recent release of the government's new dietary guidelines, which basically say what the potato industry has been preaching all along: "You don't need to go on some crazy diet in order to maintain weight."

Though that's definitely good news, the war's not over yet, Muir says, as the potato industry needs to reeducate an entire generation of homemakers about the healthy benefits of potatoes.

"It isn't just trying to debunk the anti-carb diets, it's reeducating people that not only is it OK to eat potatoes, it's good to eat potatoes," he says. It's all part of the IPC's plan to sharpen the image of Idaho potatoes and ensure they stay at the top of the spud food chain.

Muir says when he took over, he felt the Idaho potato brand has become too generic.

"Idaho had become an adjective," he says. "It was thought of as a type of potato, not a brand of potato."

He was also concerned that the quality of Idaho potatoes had been declining, while the quality of potatoes in other states was improving.

"So not only were they losing their brand image, they were also losing their quality image needed to maintain the brand image," he says.

One of the IPC's plans to tackle that problem is to get growers, processors and shippers on the same page and working together.

"Even though you're competitors or there is a customer-seller relationship, my belief has always been if you work together, there's a win-win solution," Muir says. "I sensed a need to

bring people together, cooperate, talk, work things out."

One of the ways the IPC has begun to do that is by holding whistle-stop tours, where IPC officials go to five or six cities over several days and invite all the growers, processors and shippers to come together and talk about what the IPC is doing and where the industry is headed.

The IPC's charter prohibits it from marketing activities, "but we're encouraging people to work together to solve their problems," Muir says.

Muir says IPC's No. 1 goal is to get customers to feel there is a critical need to have Idaho potatoes as the foundation of their sections and menus.

Another top priority is to ensure consumers are looking for the Idaho seal.

"Too many consumers look at brown potatoes as Idaho potatoes," he says. "We need to get people to look for the seal."

In a nutshell: "We need to reestablish that premium image, that premium value that we established many years ago and have lost. We need to regain that."

The IPC is aggressively seeking other ways to get the Idaho potato message out by getting the most bang out of its marketing dollars.

For example, as soon as Boise State University was matched up with Louisville in the Liberty Bowl, the IPC paid to have a commercial featuring Austin touting the benefits of Idaho potatoes run during the widely watched college football game.

The IPC also leveraged its promotion dollars by sending television outlets across the country a 10-minute tape featuring Austin and other fitness experts discussing the nutritional value of Idaho potatoes, combined with footage of the harvest in Idaho and an explanation of what makes Idaho spuds unique.

More than 550 stations ran segments of the video during their news programs.

"So we took a very small amount of money and leverage it to 550 markets, which basically ran commercials for us," Muir says.

Everything about the IPC has changed, Muir says, from advertising to promotion to how the commission works with growers and processors.

The end goal is to become a forward-thinking, forward-moving organization.

We want to look like the No. 1 brand and we want to act like it," Muir says.

So far, the Idaho potato industry has high praise for the direction the IPC is heading.

"I think since Frank Muir took over, there has been a quantum leap in the ability to work with the Idaho Potato Commission," Frank says. "They are extremely receptive to input from all sectors of the industry."

He says the IPC has adopted an open, progressive, forward-thinking attitude and the Denise Austin campaign is a good example of that: "They're willing to take a look at new approaches to promoting Idaho potatoes."

"Frank Muir is doing a great job," says St. Anthony potato grower and PGI President Doug Hanks. "The commission is doing a good job in promoting and advertising (Idaho potatoes). They've really upped their efforts..."

Muir says the IPC's business isn't finished yet. The group has made gaining more access into foreign markets a top priority. The Idaho potato industry has about a third of the domestic share, but only 1 percent of the international market share.

"We see that as a very undeveloped area for us to expand into," he says.

To help growers and shippers get over the right hurdles necessary to reach international markets, the IPC sponsored an export seminar in Sun Valley in September during an Idaho Grower Shippers Association meeting. Over 100 people attended.

Another export seminar is being held Feb 2 and a consultant from the USDA will meet one-on-one with people interested in shipping internationally, walking them through the entire process.

The possibilities internationally are almost limitless, Muir says. "We're very much committed to doing this."

The IPC is also working closely with the U.S. Potato Board and National Potato Council to try to help dehydrated potatoes get a wedge in the government's food aid programs.

The group is currently working with fresh growers and processors to try to get a major donation of dehydrated potatoes send the tsunami victims in Indonesia.

"That could aid our efforts to get authorization to keep dehydrated potatoes in the food aid programs," Muir says. "If we can improve our dehydrated business-because that's 70 percent of the market-it helps the whole industry here."

He says the IPC will also aggressively protect the Idaho

trademark: "We are prepared to protect that trademark at whatever cost."

Born and raised in northern Utah, Muir received his master's degree at Brigham Young University and had a long career in marketing at several major companies, including General Mills and ConAgra.

Because he grew up in the Intermountain West and was very familiar with Idaho and its famous potatoes, he was intrigued by the IPC position when it opened up. "The whole mystique of Idaho potatoes was very fascinating to me," says Muir, 49.

Plus, he adds, "I liked the idea of coming to work for a company whose brand name is on everybody's license plate in the state." 🍟

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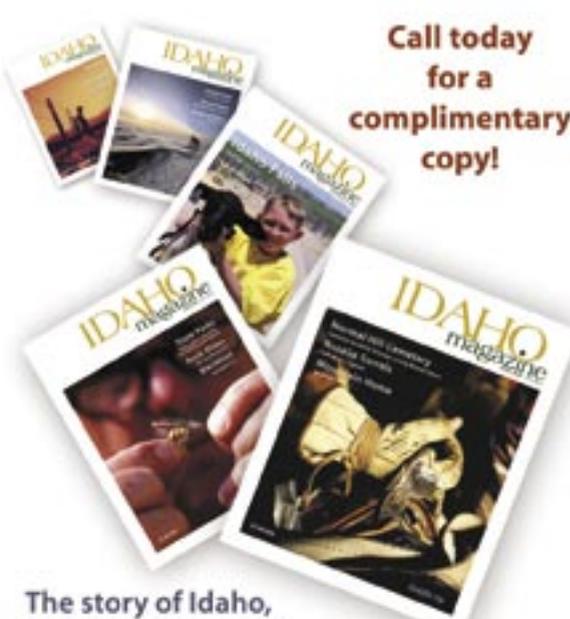
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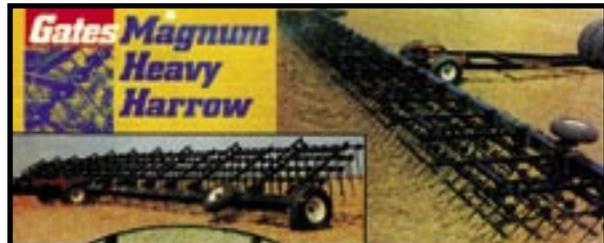
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As you know, center pivot and linear irrigation systems, under certain soil conditions, can be plagued by severe rutting problems. There are many things that irrigation managers have attempted in the past to curtail the problem such as plowing in ruts at the beginning of the year, or filling the trenches with wood chips, rock or hay bales, just to name a few. This often helps but invariably rutting problems persist and worsen leading to time and money lost to things such as:

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- Erecting and repairing corner units that have collapsed while trying to climb out of trenches
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flotation allowing the machine to roll more freely resulting in much shallower tracks. For instance, in one field test, high-float tires were creating ruts anywhere from 12" to 24". When the STARR TRAK system was used, the ruts were only two to four inches deep. One to two feet versus two to four inches, that's roughly a 600% improvement in track depth. With this improvement, difficult soil types that have previously prevented automated irrigation systems from being installed may now be manageable using STARR TRAK.

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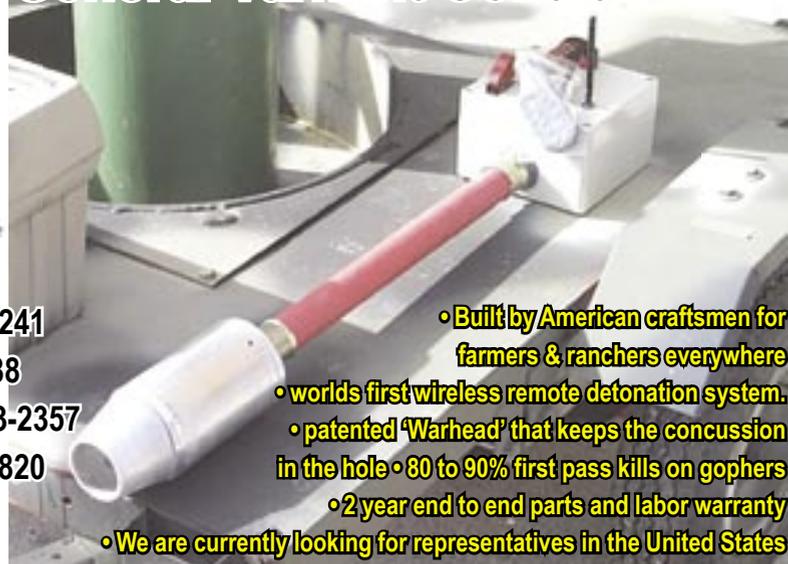


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JOHANNNS ANNOUNCES NEW RMA ADMINISTRATOR

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced the appointment of Eldon Gould as administrator of USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA).

"Eldon Gould's experience at local, state and national levels of agriculture policy and his personal history of agricultural production make him well qualified to guide the Risk Management Agency into the future," said Johanns. "His proven willingness to represent the best interest of America's farmers and

ranchers along with his comprehensive experience in agriculture fits very well with the agency's mission and goals.

As RMA Administrator, Gould will also serve as the manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board in its role as both regulator and reinsurer of the crop insurance industry. RMA is charged with implementing the crop insurance program in a timely and farmer-friendly way, evaluating new products and promoting risk management strate-

gies.

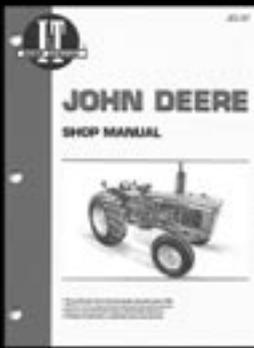
Gould's career in the private sector includes managing his 1500-acre family farm and 700-sow farrowing unit in Illinois. He has served the agricultural community throughout his career as a member of the boards of directors for the Illinois Farm Bureau, the Illinois Corn Marketing Board, the U.S. Grains Council Board, the U.S. Meat Export Federation Board, the Advisory Board for the University of Illinois Departments of Agricultural Entomology and Crop Sciences and many others. He has a long history of involvement with leadership building organizations such as the 4-H.

He earned the Master Farmer Award by Prairie Farmer Publications, the Superior Pork Producers Award from Illinois Pork Producers, the World of Corn Award by Illinois Corn Growers and the Illinois Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award. Gould holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from the University of Illinois, Champaign and completed the Top Executive Producers' Agricultural Program at Texas A&M University.

A native of Illinois, Gould and his wife Sandra have three children and six grandchildren. 📍

Article courtesy of United States Department of Agriculture

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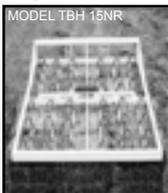
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Share The Bounty Safely To Prevent Foodborne Illness

Throughout the year, food banks, religious and civic groups and many other organizations work tirelessly to provide donated food to those in need. For many, these gifts are more than just a single meal. Rather, they make it possible for those in need to have an occasion where they can enjoy the company of family and friends and the memories that come from such a gathering.

But whether you are a provider or a recipient, donated food must be handled with care in order to prevent foodborne illness. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 76 million people suffer from foodborne illness each year and



5,000 people die as a result. Moreover, food-borne illness affects the most vulnerable populations—older adults, young children and those with compromised immune systems—more so than others.

Fortunately, foodborne illness is preventable. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages

everyone who delivers, handles or prepares food this holiday season to learn about the basic food safety messages that will help prevent foodborne illness.

Perishable foods can cause illness when mishandled. The basic rule of thumb is to keep hot food hot and cold food cold. Keep hot food at 140°F or above, while cold food should be kept at 40°F or below. Discard all perishable foods such as meat, poultry, eggs and casseroles left at room temperature longer than two hours; one hour in air temperatures above 90°F.

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has an array of information available to help consumers prepare safe, easy and delicious meals. One of the best resources is the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline, 1-888-MPHOTLINE.

"There are many food safety challenges associated with holiday meals," says USDA's Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Richard Raymond. "People may not have a lot of practice roasting turkey or cooking hams, they may not be used to cooking for larger groups, and foods tend to sit out on the table for long periods of time."

By following the four basic food safety steps, you and your guests can have a meal that is both delicious and safe:

- Clean-Wash hands and surfaces often.
- Separate-Don't allow cross-contamination between raw and cooked foods.
- Cook-Cook food to the safe internal temperature. Check temperature with a food thermometer.
- Chill-Refrigerate or freeze promptly.

For more helpful information on food safety, visit www.fsis.usda.gov.

When it comes to food safety, hot food should be kept hot and cold food cold. ☛

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Under Pressure

With patience, low-stress handling can save you time and trouble. by: Brooke Byrd

No matter how calm your cattle are, stress is a factor in nearly all livestock operations. Stress is often the biggest cost to producers and feeders, says Roger Ingram, University of California Cooperative Extension farm advisor.

“Stress can affect animals in many different ways,” he says, including a reduction in drinking and eating. Because of this, stress directly affects a producer’s pocketbook. “If you have 100 head and your average daily gain (ADG) is 3.5 pounds, the gain per day per pen would be 350 pounds,” Ingram notes. An animal that doesn’t gain doesn’t make money.

Other problems, Ingram explains, are the health costs. “If the animal isn’t eating or drinking, then the chances of it getting sick are much higher.” Treatment costs are among producers’ biggest expenses.

Stress also costs the people who work livestock, says Bud Williams, Bowie, Texas, who teaches livestock handling workshops around the country. “Most people, when they’re working livestock, get very upset and frustrated,” he notes.

Throughout a lifetime of working with all kinds of livestock, Williams has developed a set of principles and methods to help combat stress in livestock production.

Low-stress handling

The main cause of stress in the livestock industry, Williams says, is an inability to communicate. Many people work animals into confusion and panic because the animals don’t understand what they’re expected to do.

“My method of working livestock consists of learning to ‘read’ what the

animal is telling you and changing your position so she wants to go where you want her to go,” he says.

The first step to a better understanding of livestock is a change in attitude, Williams notes. He says everything an animal does is in reaction to something its handler does. The ways people position themselves cause trouble because humans are predatory animals and cattle are prey animals.

Williams explains that humans naturally want to either chase or force animals to move, which directly causes stress and causes animals to run, go the wrong way or turn to fight.

“I don’t want any animal I work with to perceive me as a predator,” he says.

Pressure and release

Williams’ way of handling cattle revolves around movement.

“Our body language is how the animal reads what we want,” he says. The central principle involves pressuring the animal to cause a reaction and releasing that pressure, while working around an animal’s flight zone.

He defines “pressure” as anything that causes a reaction in an animal. Williams mostly pressures an animal with movement, but notes that noise or nearby objects could also apply pressure. However, he warns, loud or continuous noise can put too much pressure on animals.

The flight zone is the area around an animal that, if moved into, constitutes pressure.

“As long as you’re outside of it, you’re not exerting any pressure on the animal. When you move inside of it, you are,” Williams says. Some flight zones encompass an entire corral, so the first step may be just getting the animal used

to your presence.

Williams begins by pressuring an animal, usually by moving toward it. As it moves away or otherwise responds by moving its head or shifting position, he eases up the pressure. That can mean either taking a step away from the animal, standing still or ceasing to make noise. However, he advises, don’t release the pressure completely by stepping too far away. The point is to step away enough that the animal realizes it won’t be constantly pressured and understands that you are not a predator.

When applying pressure, Williams offers two things to always keep in mind. “The angle at which you pressure and the amount you pressure are extremely important,” he states.

Angle

“The angle you pressure at determines the amount of pressure that you’re putting on,” Williams says. “If animals aren’t moving and you want them to move, change the angle.” Walking toward an animal’s hip is what he calls a flat angle and doesn’t constitute much pressure. Angling toward the middle pressures more, and angling toward the front is even sharper and causes the most pressure.

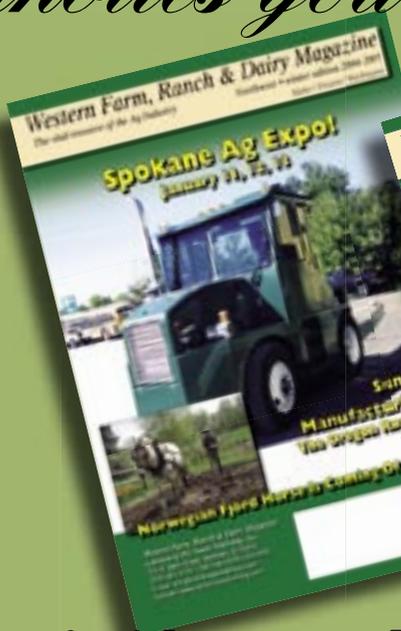
Choosing which angle to take can depend on the temperament of the animal, Williams explains. A calm animal won’t respond to the small amount of pressure from movement toward the hip. However, a wilder animal may panic at that much pressure.

Angle also factors into directing animal movement.

“If you pressure an animal, and it’s not

Continued on page 54

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Under Pressure

Continued from page 52

doing what you want, then you must assume that you have done something that's not quite right, and you must move to another spot to pressure," Williams says. Pressuring from directly behind an animal makes it nervous and causes it to turn around to see the cause of pressure.

Amount

Applying too much pressure causes many livestock-handling problems, Williams notes. "The reason an animal breaks off and runs is because we're exerting too much of the wrong kind of pressure," he says, adding that too much pressure will cause a negative reaction. Handling then becomes associated with a single negative experience.

Too much pressure also causes an animal to panic and break off when faced with a gate. "She's focusing on the excessive pressure and is not even concerned about the gate she's trying to get away," Williams says.

The key to Williams' method is to release the pressure after the animal has responded. "It's helpful if somebody can guide you with a slight push on the shoulders," he says, "but if they keep pushing, it doesn't take long until you've had enough."

Practical perspective

Putting his different principles together, if Williams wants to sort out a single animal, he first discovers how much pressure the animal will take by finding its flight zone. After applying and releasing pressure to show he is not acting predatory, he discovers where the animal needs to be pressured to make it go straight and turn by trying different angles. After turning the animal in the direction he wants, he then pressures and releases until the animal willingly walks when he applies pressure.

"It doesn't take as much pressure to keep an animal moving as it does to start one," he notes.

To sort through a pen of cattle, Williams will begin near the gate, pressuring the animals he wants to move out, then step back toward the gate to block an individual from leaving. He can then use the same technique to pressure other unwanted

animals in the opposite direction.

When moving a group of cattle, Williams notes that he uses a crossing pattern.

"I move back and forth across. Even though I may be behind the animals all of the time, I'm not behind one animal for any length of time," he says. By applying similar pressure to different animals in succession, no individual animal feels too pressured.

To slow down individual or group movement, Williams says, move parallel to livestock in the same direction animals are going. To speed up movement, move parallel in the opposite direction. "Animals want to continue in the direction they are headed," he says. "When they see you coming, they will try to hurry past you."

While Williams affirms that his method can work in a variety of circumstances and will eventually save time, he offers some cautions. Each animal or group must be approached differently, and they will respond differently, he says. "Every situation that I get in I use some of the same things, but I don't necessarily use them in the same way."

Williams says this method can be translated to other ways of working cattle, such as with horses, dogs, four-wheelers, and even helicopters. However, he cautions, "A four-wheeler is going to put on more pressure than somebody on foot."

He also notes that the method will take time to thoroughly understand. "A beginner can learn something that can help them," he says, "but this is something I've spent a lifetime studying and I've just scratched the surface on what can be done when working with animals.

"Anything worthwhile is going to take some effort."

Starting points

Because this method takes a great deal of practice, Ingram, who also teaches livestock-handling classes, suggests producers start working with their herd when they don't need to accomplish anything specific — the time they normally spend checking eyes or calves. He also suggests people first practice on calm animals. "As you begin to understand these techniques better, you can move on to more challenging animals," he says.

The first step when working with any

animal, Ingram notes, is to make it comfortable with having you around. Once it's comfortable, it can be trained to take pressure. He also notes the importance of pressuring and releasing pressure to establish trust, especially if you've never handled them before. "If you've got your herd trained, they will stay trained," he says. "But, you may have to do some more initial work with a new pen of animals."

While it may sound complicated and confusing, Ingram says, "As you get more comfortable with those methods, you can actually achieve a lot of this stuff in relatively short periods of time." The key, he says, is patience. "You have to be willing to invest time to learn a new skill."

Learning curve

Jack Martin, a veterinarian and owner of Bar M Bar Ranch, Cherryvale, Kan., compares learning this method to using your opposite hand.

"So many times you start wanting to use your right hand, because it just seems natural," he says. But, to be successful, Martin cautions against returning to forceful ways when frustration sets in.

One way to head off frustration, he says, is to realize that each animal and group of animals will respond differently, Martin says, "Be open and ready to evaluate every group of cattle differently. Realize that you've got to change your tactics and not try to do the same thing with every group of cattle and expect the same results."

Even so, he says, the hard work is worth it. "You can get a lot more done in a day and get it done a lot easier. It'll pay huge dividends, but it also takes huge commitment."

Feedyard experiences

Greg Glunz, assistant manager of Fairleigh Feed Yards, Scott City, Kan., says calming cattle as soon as they arrive at the feedyard is crucial to his operation. "The whole focus is to try to get your cattle to become more relaxed in your presence — accept you being there as not being a threat," he says.

One of the biggest benefits he has found is easier detection of disease. Cattle that are not feeling well, he says, will more easily express it because they aren't afraid. "Because animals aren't perceiving you to be a

predator, they're more relaxed in your presence," he says.

"Any time that you're able to utilize another tool that helps you identify cattle at an earlier stage of illness, you'll reduce your medicine cost per head." Glunz also notes that it's not easy to change an established mind-set. "We all know habits don't change overnight," he says, "but we've learned how to work with cattle instead of fight with them."

Real results

For Wally Olson, Vinita, Okla., Williams' method has provided some very real results. Olson has a cow-calf and stocker operation, feeding about 3,000 calves a year. "We used to run 3% or 4% death loss on these calves, but now

we're down to 1% or 2%," he says. "What's really impressive is we've cut our vet bill from \$20 a head down to about \$6 or \$8 a head."

He also recognizes a decrease in his labor load. "We moved 600 or 700 cows out of a pasture that, a few years ago, took eight or 10 riders. Two of us went and did it."

However, Olson notes that his results did not come overnight. "You really have to work at it," Olson explains. "It's not a simple thing."

Even so, he still enjoys it. "I'm probably the happiest person in the world when it comes to working cattle, because I have no problems — only learning experiences," he says. He also

recommends that interested producers attend one of Williams' stockmanship schools. "Unless they are around it, people almost don't believe what they can do," he says.

For more information about stockmanship and Bud Williams, visit www.stockmanship.com to see a calendar of upcoming stockmanship schools and find out how to receive a video. To find out about other schools teaching Williams' methods, visit <http://hand-handlivestocksolutions.com>. Further information about low-stress handling, including a discussion of Williams' methods, is available in *Stockmanship*, by Steve Cote. 📖

Article courtesy: American Angus Association



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In practice it became clear that most of the buyers of the cow bath were rental company's and (University) veterinary clinics or hospitals, who used the bath very frequently. This frequent use demands other qualities than when the bath is used incidentally by a cattle farmer.

In cooperation with our customers we

have made important improvements to the cow bath. The purpose of these improvements were to make the cow bath easier in use and maintenance and to increase the durability (for intensive use). For that purpose Buitink Technology has developed a heavier and even stronger material, of which the bath is manufactured. There have also been made such adjustments to the design that the bath is build up out of different modules so different parts are easily to replace (by the user) when this is necessary. Since a big part of the cow baths will be exported and used abroad, the cow bath has been designed in a way that users can easily maintain the bath themselves. Standard included in the delivery of the bath is a pressure system which independently keeps the pressure in the bath and so pumps in air when this is necessary. This system can also be equipped with an SMS alarm, which will send a message when for instance the pressure drops under a certain level. Therefore it will not be necessary to be continuously near the cow bath.

The advantages

It is a serious problem if a cow can't stand on their feet anymore. A problem that can occur when a cow has milk fever or after an operation. The cow must get back on her feet or otherwise the consequence often is that the cow has to be put down. The conventional methods to do this are not very animal friendly

and can even injure a cow. The Buitink therapeutic cow bath makes it possible to help a cow stand back onto their feet, in a way that is kind to the animal. The Buitink cow bath has a number of advantages compared to other conventional systems :

- The cow is moved as little as possible; the bath can be brought to the cow.
- The bath is made entirely from canvas and therefore does not have any hard components where the cow can injure itself on.
- The bath is very easy to use.

When the bath is used it must be brought to the location in the uninflated state (thus completely flat), after which the cow can be rolled or placed onto it. The inflatable sections of the side walls are then filled with air one by one and in the meantime the bath can be filled with warm water. As the bath fills with water, the cow will at some point start to float and thus get back onto its feet. After three to four hours in the bath the most cows can walk again. After years of experience it became clear that the bath can also be used on horses.

Since we manufacture the bath in our own factory, we can also supply custom-made baths to meet your specific wishes and requirements. If you are interested or when you have questions about the cow bath please contact us so we can give you additional information and send you pictures of the bath. ☛

American Angus Association Plans Outreach Seminar in Oregon

In a continued effort to communicate with its members at the local level, the American Angus Association will conduct a series of Outreach Seminars for the third year. The seminars start in December 2005 and will continue into the winter and spring of 2006.

An Outreach Seminar is set for Thursday, January 5, 2006 at the Comfort Suites, 2243 SW Yew Avenue, in Redmond, Ore. The seminar will be from 6

to 9 p.m.

Association staff and directors will be on hand to discuss current Association programs, including the Angus-SourceSM marketing program and genetic selection tools. They will also discuss the future of the beef industry and the role the Association and its members will play in the future of the beef business.

"These seminars were designed so our staff can visit with the member-

ship in their own backyard. In addition to informing the membership about current Association programs, we also want to know what ideas are on our members' minds," says Jim Shirley, Association vice president of industry relations and director of commercial programs.

For more information about this or other scheduled Outreach Seminars, go to www.angus.org or contact the Association at 816-383-5100. ☛

Stampede Steel

Stampede Steel Manufacturers Ltd. is located in Linden, Alberta, Canada, a small industrious community approximately one hour north of Calgary, Alberta.

Stampede Steel was established in 1991 and has rapidly grown into a major supplier to the cattle handling and feedlot equipment industry.

To support this growth, Stampede Steel has partnered with Wilco Machine & Fab. Inc. in Marlow, Oklahoma, USA. Wilco will expand our manufacturing capabilities and furnish a manufacturing base in the southern United States.

To allow both plants to focus on manufacturing quality products, a new sales organization, Stampede Sales LLC has been created. Stampede Sales LLC will market all the great Stampede Steel cattle handling equipment in Canada and the United States.

Stampede Steel strives to improve existing products and make our equipment more efficient and safer for the user and the livestock. We are known for our innovative changes to methods that have been used for years. Customer satisfaction is what both Stampede Steel and Stampede Sales continuously keep in the forefront. Quality, customer satisfaction and the never-ending process of product improvements is what Stampede Steel will continue to reach for today and in the years to come.

Why Stampede Steel Equipment?

- Stampede Steel is a full line manufacturer of Innovative Farm & Ranch equipment.
- We specialize in custom built systems and cattle feeding



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equipment.

- We can design and build a system to meet your specifications or use many of our stock designs.
- We have a comprehensive warranty program.
- We can provide service to you through our extensive dealer network which extends from British Columbia to the Atlantic Ocean in Canada as well as in the United States from the Mississippi River to the West Coast.
- We are presently expanding our network into the eastern states as well.
- We are making product improvements to make cattle handling easier and safer for both the handler and the animal. 🐾

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Life in Dairy Lagoons

The smell coming from dairy lagoons has everything to do with the organisms growing in the lagoon. If organisms which produce certain anaerobic waste products are growing, there can be an incredible stink coming from the lagoon. If organisms are growing which do not produce these waste products, then the lagoon can smell just fine.

It's all determined by what organisms are present and growing. And that is determined by the habitat you set up in the lagoon.

"If you build it, they will come".

Just like people, conditions determine what class of critters will be attracted. Build mansions, in attractive settings, with all the amenities, golf courses and spas, and rich and famous people will come to live there. Build stuffy, ugly apartments with tiny windows and views of brick or concrete walls, without no greenery, play areas, or gardens, and the "critters" that live there will not be healthy.

The same with a dairy lagoon. If the conditions in the lagoon are mixed, well-aerated, with balanced inputs of waste material, then the lagoon will not generate odor. The liquid put on the pasture will not kill the plants. If waste is not balanced with adequate aeration, then stink is inevitable.

If something smells bad, it means it is bad. Over hundreds of thousands of years, humans have learned that if it stinks, it is not good for you. Anaerobic gases and liquid by-products can kill mammals as well as plants. The odors can cause immune reactions, stuffy, runny noses, reduction in ability to breath, and can be an important contributor to the development of pneumonia. The slime left behind on the floor of the barn as a result of anaerobic organism growth can result in dangerously slippery surfaces, leading to broken bones.

A few simple changes and these horrible conditions can be reversed. So, why are so many of us living downwind of toxic gas producing conditions?

Understanding microbiology can be complex. But fixing the situation does not require complex solutions. The solution is simple, except, there is no market for slick advertising campaigns, no industry that will generate billions in sales, or profit to

shareholders. Education is the ticket. Anyone living near stinking conditions can begin to change things. You can start to fix the situation by yourself.

But let's go back through some history to understand how we got here, to stinky, smelly, disgusting waste lagoons.

When people occupied a small percentage of the landscape, there were lots of places to put waste and no one was bothered by the terrible odors that developed when wastes were left to decompose in their own way. If no one lived within 5 miles of a sewage treatment plant, or a landfill, why worry about the smell? Why spend money on speeding up the process, or making certain the stink did not happen?

But, as towns and cities grew, dealing with wastes could no longer be ignored. Diseases were the first and foremost problem, but stink is the next problem, which we are only coming to deal with now. We don't have the space to not worry about waste odor anymore.

That means people have to understand the microbiology of decomposition. Bacteria and fungi are the major players in processing human or animal waste, and whether we suffer from stink, or not, depends entirely on which species of bacteria and fungi are growing in that waste material.

It is the habitat, the set of conditions present, that determine who will live and grow, reproduce and alter the habitat. Set up conditions correctly, control the conditions so the "undesirables" cannot survive, and the habitat remains healthy. Conditions that attract undesirable, allow the "bad guys" to take-over.

BOTH kinds of critters are present in most habitats, at least initially, so conditions must be changed to select for one group or the other, and preferably, the conditions should be changed to select for the beneficials, not the diseases. The solution is just that simple.

I have been told, many times, that bacteria couldn't possibly be important, because individual bacteria are so small. Bacteria may be tiny, but consider that in a single teaspoon of healthy soil, where pesticides and inorganic fertilizers are NOT needed to grow bumper crops of plants, over half a BILLION bacteria are typically present. Maybe

individual bacteria are a millionth of the size a single person, but put a million people in a room, and the impact will be overwhelming. Put a million more bacteria than that in a place, and overwhelming is barely the right word for what occurs.

Human beings owe their existence to micro-sized critters. The atmosphere of this planet once had very little gaseous oxygen in it, until those individually tiny, but incredibly numerous, bacteria increased oxygen concentration from less than 1% oxygen to more than 25% oxygen. Quite a feat for such little critters.

So, even though small, bacteria changed the world, because they are so numerous.

Fungi can be equally as important as bacteria. The largest organisms on this planet are fungi. An individual fungus can be larger in size than 5 blue whales! They live in forest soil, and have been documented to occupy huge areas in forest stands.

The next thing we have to recognize is that different kinds of bacteria and fungi occupy different kinds of habitats. Photosynthetic bacteria require sunlight, and of course they are the ones that released oxygen and changed our atmosphere. Today, we have green plants that also photosynthesize and make oxygen for us. But those photosynthetic bacteria are still very important in maintaining balance in our atmosphere.

But photosynthetic bacteria, adding oxygen to the habitat, only grow on the surfaces of the water. Deeper in the water, thick, light-absorbing concentrations of manure or organic matter prevent photosynthesis from occurring, and thus oxygen reaches lower and lower levels the deeper and deeper one gets in a non-mixed, non-aerated lagoon.

Thus, lack of oxygen, with the production of very anaerobic gases, like ammonia, hydrogen sulfide (rotten eggs, brimstone), putrescine (decaying flesh), methane, and pyrimidines, is the result. These are extremely hard on the air passageways of anyone, or anything, downwind of the lagoon. The organic acids produced in anaerobic conditions have very low pH, for example, acetic acid (vinegar), butyric acid (sour milk), and valeric acid

(vomit). Thus anaerobic conditions can be very corrosive on lung tissue, as well on the container. Phenols, alcohols, and phosphine gas will kill any plant cell that they touch. All the major nutrients will be lost through volatilization. So just think about what is being lost when the lagoon becomes stagnant, and oxygen drops into the anaerobic range.

From a human point of view, if the wrong set of critters grow, i.e., anaerobic microorganisms, stinky, toxic wastes will be produced. If the right set of critters grow, i.e., aerobic microorganisms, materials beneficial-to-growing things will be made. The stinky waste products can be toxic-to-plants, while the non-stinky materials typically are beneficial to plant growth.

Waste products from aerobic metabolism are carbon dioxide, water, sugars, proteins, and simple carbohydrates. Plants need carbon dioxide in order to fix energy in their cells, they need aerobic forms of nitrogen, such as nitrates and ammonium, of sulfur, such as sulfates, and the aerobic form of phosphorus, for example, phosphate. These are beneficial to plant growth. Typically aerobic metabolism results in a shift in pH to more alkaline levels.

How do we prevent the growth of anaerobic organisms that produce these results? How do we select for organisms which use the toxic material made in anaerobic conditions as food? Which organisms suppress the growth of the bad guys, and maintain the conditions that will keep beneficial organisms growing?

Again, simple - aerate the system and keep adding organisms which maintain the right populations. Maintain oxygen levels above 6 mg oxygen per liter. If that can't be managed, then make sure organisms which prevent the growth of the bad guys are added, and consume the toxic materials, if conditions are accidentally produced which allows the anaerobes to grow. The aeration process needs to also mix the lagoon, so the water at the bottom of the lagoon doesn't become stagnant and drop to extremely low levels of oxygen.

The lagoon will always have adequate food resources because manure and/or manure water is added throughout the day. How much aeration is needed, how much mixing is required, and how often

the organisms have to be re-introduced? This depends on how much manure and liquid from the barn is added. How many antibiotics come through in the manure? What is the salt level in the foods being fed the animals?

If high levels of antibiotics are used, then more beneficial organisms will have to be added back into the lagoon. Antibiotics kill the beneficial bacteria, fungi, protozoa and nematodes, as well as pathogens and pests. But as lagoons are aerated, and the health of the dairy herd increases because the herd is no longer downwind of a toxic gas producer, (the anaerobic dairy lagoon), the fewer antibiotics are needed.

As the liquid from the lagoon going out on the land is no longer high in ammonia, hydrogen sulfate, and acidic organic acids, plants are no longer burned by the high inorganic N concentration, phenols, alcohol, and inappropriate pH. Plant production can be improved, instead of harmed.

Does the lagoon water have to be fully aerobic? No. The lagoon needs to aeration all the way down to through the liquid and into the sludge layer. This does not mean the lagoon is necessarily aerobic. As long as beneficial organisms are present and functioning, aeration of the lagoon does not have to bring the lagoon to fully aerobic levels. But, the beneficial organisms will have to be added to the lagoon as long as the lagoon is not above 6 mg oxygen per liter.

How do you add the right bacteria and fungi? Good, aerobically produced compost will have these beneficial organisms. Beware stinky, smelly "compost" just as much as you would beware stinky, smelly liquids. Aerobically produced compost, or aerobically produced compost tea, added to the lagoon will do the trick of inoculating the organisms.

Make certain the lagoon is a beneficial habitat, to select for the growth of organisms that will prevent pathogens from growing, prevent harmful compounds from being made, or allow nutrients to be lost through volatilization. The easiest way to tell if there's a problem is to use your nose. If it stinks, something is going seriously wrong. Fully mix the whole water depth, and aerate as much as possible. An example of a mechanical aeration system which does this is the Natural Aeration System (www.circul8.com). An example of an easy way to assess the beneficial organisms in your lagoon can be found on the Soil Foodweb Inc. website (www.soilfoodweb.com), when using simple compound microscopes (e.g., Alexis or Leica microscopes). Classes are offered through Soil Foodweb Inc. so you can learn to assess good biology in mere seconds with these microscopes.

Maintain your lagoon habitat so the good guys grow there, not the bad guys.

Dr. Elaine Ingham

President

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Mt. Ayr Vet Clinic & Vet Products

Vet's Product Fosters Togetherness In Cattle

"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 sprinkle some "Calf Claim" then rub 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 10-12 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. 🐾

Calf Claim

An Aid In Pairing New Born Calves With Cows



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Merrick's A Division of Merrick Animal Nutrition, Inc.

Bringing together experience, research, performance and commitment.

Merrick's mission is to manufacture animal feed products and ingredients for a worldwide market, providing quality and service exceeding the expectations of our customers. Merrick's began selling dairy products to the feed industry in 1959. The experience and knowledge Merrick's brought to the industry helped establish the standards by which milk and fat products are judged today.

Innovative Product Development

After pioneering in the manufacture of 60% and 80% dry high fat products, we expanded this line to include 100% fat for both dairy cow and swine rations. Merrick's was the first to develop and introduce many innovative products that optimize the survival and health of baby animals. In 1982 Merrick's expanded to manufacture and market a full line of brand-



ed milk replacers for calves, baby pigs, foals, lambs and kids. Over the years we have developed innovative supplements, additives and electrolytes for all species.

Milk Replacers . . . and So Much More!

Animal plasma in milk replacers was introduced into the market by Merrick's in 1989. In 1998 we developed a calf milk replacer formulated with spray dried animal blood cells. In the search to develop nutritionally advanced products for use in milk replacers, we test many alternative proteins. This testing resulted in the formulation of egg protein milk replacers for both Merrick's branded milk replacers and private label customers. In 1994 we developed a calf nursing bottle and a patented nipple featuring the first advance in calf nipple design in many years. That year Merrick's also entered the poultry feed industry with products to help producers maintain healthier animals.

Research and Product Formulations

At Merrick's, research is a basic belief and an ongoing process. Research into all aspects of animal nutrition results in the development of innovative products and in our ability to offer products with a wide range of protein and fat sources. The manufacture of these products allows us to fulfill a variety of needs to help guarantee the survival and health of valuable animals. Merrick's qualified nutritionists can help determine which product formulations will best meet producers needs. We also market a wide range of ingredients for swine and dairy rations, in addition to dry fat, including whey, lactose, animal blood cells and plasma.

Commitment

Merrick's is committed to develop, manufacture and market quality products. We maintain a high level of commitment to

the individual needs and success of our customers and producers. Merrick's technical staff is available to assist with any questions about our products and good animal management practices.

Merrick's, Inc. Brands:

Milk Replacers: Centurion, Millennium, Cell Star, Winter Star, Super Star, Gold Star, Silver Star and Blue Star for Calves; Soweena Litter-Gro and Litter Life for Baby Pigs; Super Lamb and Super Kid; Grow-N-Glow for Foals

Additives & Supplements: Plas/Magic, Super Calf-Kit, Super Guard - Type B for Calves

Electrolytes: Blue Ribbon Electrolytes with Direct-Fed Microbials – for all species

Poultry Vaccine Stabilizer: Vacci-Guard

Nursing Equipment: Super-Calf Nipples & Bottles Super-Calf Oral Bottle Feeder

Dry Fats: Soweena 7-60/4-80 & Select 100 for Swine Rations; Dairy Ultra 100 for Lactating Cows

MERRICK'S, INC.

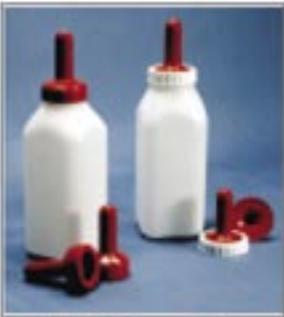
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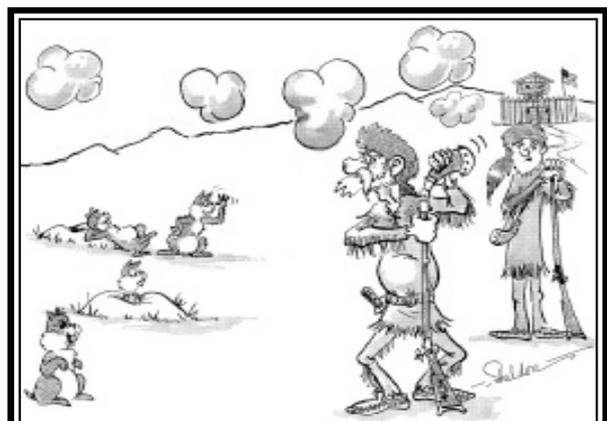


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LUCKY ACRES LLC

Hello my name is Levi Berquist, I am the owner of Lucky Acres LLC. In the past few years we have become a major player in the fencing industry from high stress livestock systems to providing fencing for entertainment venues. Lucky Acres LLC provides galvanized fencing products throughout the cattle and horse industry providing an affordable product that is specific to each customer need. Through research and development in the feedlot industry as well as the Equine industry we feel we have a grasp on providing quality and durable that are not only functional but also a sound investment for the future of the consumer.

We at Lucky Acres LLC are proud to announce our newest addition to our fencing

product. The first product that we are going to be releasing this spring will be our new high stress gates with crowned rails to brace for the pressure from both sides, we have tested these in feedlots and have had great results with them holding up to high pressure. The second line of fencing is contour fencing, this fencing is designed to be incorporated into pasture or pen fencing, this type of fencing goes with the contour of the ground providing an attractive and durable fence. Lastly we are stepping up to the plate in the vinyl fencing industry. We are stocking and supplying more than 30 different styles. We feel that we will be able to provide rail fencing for most competitive prices in the Northwest.

I would like to thank all the customers that have enabled us to become a player in the fencing world. We at Lucky Acres LLC are committed to providing a quality product at the lowest possible price. We also encourage all of your ideas, we want to make something that will work ideally for your operation whether it is a one horse outfit or a multi-head feedlot system. We have our own trucks and freight to different areas weekly, while on the road we would love to stop and check-out all of your different ideas. I would like to stress that we produce catalog products, but are open to custom orders and ideas. Once again keep our family in mind when you look at new livestock handling systems. 🐾

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owner chooses not to keep the remains, they can send them to our tree farm located in Donnelly, Idaho. This option is one that many owners have chosen to do. They are welcome to visit this site anytime of the year. Our farm consists largely of blue spruce and Scotch pine trees, so regardless of the time of year it is very pretty. The cost to cremate a horse starts at \$595.00 and goes up from there.

The owners of the horse also have the option of burying the remains in our cemetery, located at our cremation facility. The burial includes a headstone with the plot. The cost for burial of the remains starts at \$735.00 and goes up from there. We also have our Memorial wall. This will provide all animal owners with a place to remember their friend and companion forever.

All of our cremations, whether it is a

hamster or a horse, are handled with the utmost dignity and respect by our certified pet cremator operator. All of our customers are welcome to view the cremation if they would like to. We also offer private memorial services for those owners that wish to say goodbye in their own way.

As our cities grow and our farm land decreases, cremation is becoming a much better option. The remains can be taken with them anywhere, or simply scattered in their favorite riding place or even put in a small keepsake pendant so that they can be kept close. Just remember, whichever option you choose, Memorial Pet Care is here to serve your cremation needs, 24 hours a day. For further information on our services, please call our office at 208-887-7669 and our qualified staff will be happy to assist you. 🐾



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Horses and Salt Blocks

Rebel courtesy of H. Heaton



Salt is one of the things that all animals need in one form or another. It's been around for as long as man has been in existence and has been a staple of his diet. While man has learned to mine salt from the ground and turn it into a variety of products, animals have always relied on obtaining it from natural sources. Animals, including man, can not live without some salt and without minerals.

Unfortunately, man seems to have overstepped his boundaries when it comes to salt. Salt in its natural form is often bound with other minerals. This salt is usually a light grey or pink in color. Minerals and salt go together in their natural environment.

Salt is an electrolyte and one of its primary purposes is to attract and retain water as well as to balance our cell fluids. This is why athletes were often given salt tablets during training in hot weather. You and your horse will likely need more salt if you're riding in hot weather.

However, today all salts are not created equally. The problem with most salt today is that it's been altered in some way. Trust man to try and make it better or more convenient. In the case of our human salt, someone decided that "when it rains it pours" is better, so they made salt that doesn't clump together anymore. If you're as old as I am, then you remember when rice or a piece of soda cracker was placed into the salt shaker to absorb moisture and keep the

salt from clumping. Today they use silica to perform that job. Unfortunately, it's added to the salt, and we ingest it. Along that same line, someone invented a salt block for cattle.

Salt blocks for cattle served a great purpose. They would hold up to the environment and could be left out in the open where cattle grazed. They were so compact that they lasted a long time, too. Even in climates where we get lots of rain, a salt block will hold up all year long. But there's a problem with the salt block when it comes to all livestock -- it was designed for cattle and not horses. Because it was convenient, it received widespread use for horses and in fact has become the main manner in which salt is given to horses -- and that's a problem.

Cattle have rough tongues and have no problem licking salt from a salt block. Horses, on the other hand, don't have a rough tongue and have great difficulty in getting as much salt as their bodies require from a salt block. Look at any salt block that's offered to horses and you'll see teeth marks and scrapes in it. Why do you think those are there? Some people think that happens because the horses love the salt so much that they try to be greedy and get more than they should. In fact, I once heard a person say "that's why you have to use a salt block for a horse, otherwise they would just eat it all." Nothing could be further from the truth.

The truth is this...the horse can't get all of the salt he needs from just licking a salt block, and sooner or later the horse will try and chew off more salt. This is hard on the horse's teeth and jaw (it can even cause TMJ problems), and definitely an indication that your horse is struggling to get what he needs from the salt block.

Animals are great regulators of what their bodies need. If your horse is after the salt block constantly, and you are seeing teeth marks in it, then he really needs more of it to help balance his body. He needs it to help his cells function and to keep his electrolyte system

in balance. Look at most electrolyte formulas and you'll see one of the main ingredients is salt/sodium.

What's the solution to this issue? Buy a Natural Trace Mineral salt that's loose. Do NOT buy a white bleached salt, and do NOT use human table salt (remember there is a reason that it pours). Pour four to six ounces into a small container or feeder and bolt it to your horse's stall wall. Leave it alone and let your horse eat what he wants. Don't pour salt into his feed daily, as there is no way you can tell how much he really needs and you will upset his natural chemistry. Only your horse knows the balance he needs, let him find it. He will use different amounts each day -- and you will see his consumption vary by the amount of work he's doing and the seasons.

You may find that in the beginning he goes through quite a bit trying to balance his system. Then he'll use less, and then you'll notice that he may not use any for several days or even a week. Then he'll dip back into it. During the heat of summer, he'll probably use more. But don't be surprised if he has an increased desire for it in winter, too. Because it's loose and granulated your horse will have easy access and can quit biting salt blocks that were made for cattle. You'll be surprised how free access to a good quality trace mineral salt will help your horse function better in all of his activities.

If you don't have access to loose salt in your area, then go to the <http://www.horsethink.com/Dynamitehorse.htm> nutrition section of my web-site and you will find quality trace mineral salt there.

Scot has had many training and general horsemanship articles published widely both in print and on-line. His wide range of experience, instruction, and practical use of horses allows Scot to effectively teach a wide array of horsemanship skills. Scot is available for demos and clinics worldwide. Read more about Scot's products and clinics at www.HorseThink.com. 🐾

Colt Has A 3 On His Forehead

You've never seen anything like this colt, born on Friday, May 13th with a no. 3 on its forehead.

"The only thing that's different about the colt is that he has a number on his head," says the Amish farmer who owns the colt. He wishes to remain anonymous for religious reasons. At first, many think it's a hoax or that the mark is painted on. "It's for real and will grow with the colt as he gets older," he says.

A few Dale Earnhardt fans expressed an interest in getting the colt into a race-

car magazine. Earnhardt, one of NASCAR's most successful drivers ever, drove a No. 3 black Chevrolet.

He's received letters offering to buy the colt although no one's named a price yet.

Although the farmer plans to eventually sell the colt, born from a Standard-bred mare and Haflinger sire, he's not in any hurry. "A lot of people say 'let me know before you sell him.'

"He's going to be more of a collector's item than a horse," the farmer says. 🍷

Story & photo reprinted with permission from FARM SHOW Magazine



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Rio Hondo is family owned and managed by Richard and Lynn Brook. Rio Hondo is Spanish for the "deep creek" running through the Brooks' ranch situated in the Snake River Valley of southern Idaho, 4.5 miles west of Buhl, along Scenic Highway 30.

The Brooks have been in the ranching and farrier business for 35 years, having complete knowledge and expertise pertaining to the horse shoeing industry

including distinctive brand name tools and supplies. They also include their son and daughter, Rick and Surya in the daily operation of the business emphasizing friendly service and customer satisfaction.

The Brooks' thorough knowledge and experience in cattle ranching has prompted them to offer consumers Hi-Hog, "The Outstanding Brand" in farm and ranch livestock handling equipment. Rio Hondo

will be the only provider of Hi-Hog equipment in Idaho. An "onsite" equipment display offers consumers a "no obligation" demonstration with the opportunity to check out the high quality and ease of handling this exclusive equipment offers.

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UDDERLY EZ™ INNOVATIVE MARE MILKER

by Heather Smith Thomas

A new invention by Buck Wheeler (who created The Stabilizer®, a unique restraint device for horses) is making life easier for horsemen during foaling season. A simple idea, the Udderly EZ mare milker is easy to use and easy on the mare—making everything a whole lot easier when you need to milk colostrum for a newborn foal. Wheeler worked on the idea for 5 years to get it perfected, and is now starting to market his invention.

He gives a few instructions for using it: wipe the udder so it's clean, and give a squeeze on the teat to strip off any "wax" that may be plugging the end of it—to make sure you'll have milk coming out and won't get flakes of wax in the bottle. Once the plug is out of the teat and you have a flow of milk, place the flange of the mare milker over the teat and get it seated, and start pumping. It takes 2 or 3 pumps to create a vacuum, then the milk flows into the container. When the milk starts to flow, quit pumping, so you don't put too much pressure on the udder.

The mare milker is a hand-held trigger-operated vacuum pump that fits onto a flanged plastic cylinder. The top of the flange is lined with soft rolled plastic where it fits over the teat. The cylinder screws onto a clear plastic 16 ounce bottle which the milk is easy to see in. Once the bottle is full, a nipple can be placed onto a plastic soda bottle for feeding the foal, or it can be poured into a storage container for freezing. The bottle is easy to attach and detach from the pump.

Mike Cavey, DVM (a veterinarian in Kentucky who owns



Respite Farm—breeding, foaling and selling Thoroughbreds) uses the mare milker and likes the way it works. "We generally foal about 20 mares a year, and this year used the mare milker on each mare that foaled, because we hand feed the initial colostrum. When a mare foals, we milk her and feed the foal with a bottle, to make sure the foal gets adequate colostrum even before he gets up. Also, if we have a mare that has a lot of extra colostrum, we milk about 8 to 12 ounces from her and freeze it for our colostrum bank, for use if a mare doesn't have enough colostrum," says Cavey.

"We also use the EZ milker if a mare has a weak or sick foal that has difficulty standing to nurse. We use it to milk the mare and feed the foal by bottle. Wheeler has developed two sizes (the flanged cylinder that fits over the teat). One fits large mares (with larger teats) that produce a lot of milk, and one fits smaller mares or maiden mares," he says.

The pump generally doesn't put too much pressure on a mare; it's not uncomfortable. I haven't had any mares react badly to it. You have to be a little careful and not put an excessive amount of pressure on it, or you might bruise the mare's udder, just like you could if you use a large syringe to extract the milk," says Cavey.

"It takes about 3 to 5 pumps to get the milker seated on the nipple and create the proper vacuum and suction. Once you create the vacuum you'll see milk begin to flow. When the flow slows down, pump it again, and when it slows down again, pump it again. You let the mare tell you when you need to squeeze the trigger again," he explains.

"It's very simple to operate. You can have someone hold the mare and you can reach under there with one hand. It's much safer than trying to milk her with thumb and forefinger because you don't have to get down underneath the mare. You can keep one hand on her side, and if she moves or gets upset or tries to spin sideways or kick, it allows you to have one hand to protect yourself, or to soothe and scratch her. Hand milking, by contrast, is difficult because you are right down under her. This is much safer." 🐾



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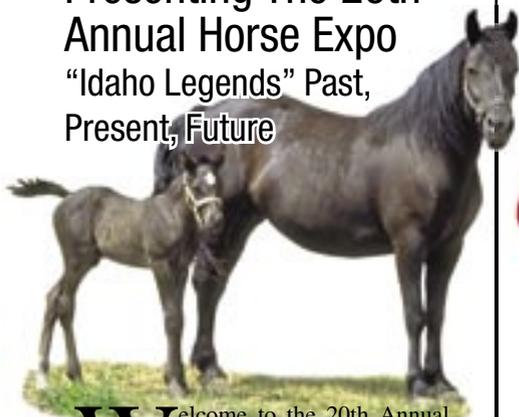
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The Idaho Horse Council

Presenting The 20th Annual Horse Expo
"Idaho Legends" Past, Present, Future



Welcome to the 20th Annual Horse Expo April 21, 22, 23, presented by the Idaho Horse Council. The Idaho Horse Council is a non profit council organized in 1975 as a united front to represent the diverse horse groups, individual horse owners and members of the related industries.

The purpose of the council is to promote every type of horse activity, to be it's official voice in Idaho, to monitor legislation affecting horse activity and to act as an information resource for horse owners and regulating bodies. The Horse Expo is the premier equine exposition in Idaho and is sponsored by the IHC. It is the greatest presentation of the horse industry to the citizens of Idaho and all surrounding states. Proceeds from the Expo fund college scholarships for qualified Idaho students and other horse related business. This year the Expo will be at the Idaho Center Horse Park in Nampa, Idaho. This years featured performer will be international clinician, RAY HUNT. There will be Stallions on Parade each day, a Round Pen Challenge each day and demonstrations by drill teams, breed groups and other speciality groups. A Blue Ribbon Horse Sale Preview will also be presented. In the outdoor Rodeo Arena there will be demonstration riders. In addition there will be a Trade Show, Youth Activities, Coloring Contest, Educational Booth, a Silent Auction each day and on Saturday evening a Live Auction. Further information can be found on our Web Site www.idahohorsecouncil.com

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IDAHO HORSE EXPO

goat – sheep

Goats Are Buttheads!

You can call a goat a butthead and be technically correct! Goats with horns are some-



times referred to as buttheads. Goats can be born with horns or without horns (the hornless trait is also called the polled trait). Since the hornless trait is linked

to an undesirable intersex trait that will cause the goat to be infertile, most breeders raise genetically horned goats.

In dairy animals, the horns can be inconvenient and dangerous during milking. Also, most dairy goats are so gentle that they can be lead around by a neck collar like a dog so additional handles are not needed. For these reasons, dairy goat breeders will often dehorn goat kids in the first few weeks of life while the horn buds are barely palpable on the head. The most common way to accomplish this task is to use an electric disbudding iron to cauterize the horn growth.

Most goats that are raised for meat are left horned, because the horns are useful as handles while restraining these goats for routine procedures like vaccination, deworming and foot trims. These goats are typically handled less frequently

than a milk goat. Regardless of breed, horns give a goat a fighting advantage,



so it is best to have the whole herd either horned or hornless. 🐐

Kiko, the extraordinary meat goat

By the AKGA public relations committee

Kiko... the word itself means meat. The name for the Kiko meat goat breed comes from “kikokiko,” a generic word for meat used by a tribe of people indigenous to New Zealand, where the Kiko breed was developed. According to the history files from the American Kiko Goat Association (AKGA), the meaning of that word was always in the forefront of the breed development plan: not a dairy animal, not a fiber animal, not a show queen, but an animal destined to put meat on the table of millions of people.

With goat meat, a.k.a. chevon or cabrito, already the red meat of choice with more than 70 percent of the world’s population (with many of those people moving to The United States), it’s no wonder that goat ranches are springing up everywhere. And as they do, goat ranchers are discovering what the Kiko can do for production.

Developed in a temperate climate with ruthless culling, the Kiko goat breed evolved with meat production in mind. To be successful and profitable, goats must be ready for slaughter (i.e., at the target

weight) in minimal time and with minimal input of either time or money from the producer. This means using from the start a breed developed for just that purpose.

Although known as a great forager with the ability to utilize browse from “nutritionally challenged” land, the small-boned Kiko has even more to offer the commercial herd. Fiercely protective mothers kid uneventfully and raise robust youngsters on only their milk and whatever browse they teach their offspring to eat.

Indeed, studies have been under way for several years at Tennessee State University under the direction of Richard Browning, Jr., Ph.D., to compare performance of several breeds under conditions found in the southeastern United States.

In one such study, Boer and Kiko yearling does and doelings were exposed to Spanish bucks in mixed breed, single-sire breeding groups in the fall of 2002 to evaluate doe and kid performance. Kiko does tended to wean a higher kid crop percent and more litter weight per doe

exposed compared to Boer does in the study. (Presented in Tulsa, OK -Small Ruminant Production I – Genetics and Breed Evaluation Small Ruminant Information Exchange Group) Parasite tolerance and resistance to hoof problems mean less work and expense for the owner and are traits especially valued in areas of the country with high rainfall. And the Kiko build often belies a carcass dress-out rate that rivals even that of the Boer.

All of these characteristics suggest that the Kiko breed can provide a significant boost for the bottom line of many commercial goat producers. Depending on the location and climate of the goat ranch, using the Kiko for crossbreeding may mean hitting on the “perfect” market goat for specific areas because of the hybrid vigor gained in such programs.

Check out the AKGA web site at www.kikogoats.com for more information about this remarkable breed and where to find it. 🐐

Article courtesy: American Kiko Goat Association

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Lynx Hollow's doe herd includes 20 plus uniform BJA Top Gun daughters to be the foundation for our next generation. The sire selected for this group is a Blue Chip grandson, CCBG Bodie. We anticipate 80lb-weaning weight for uncastrated kids sold directly from dam to slaughter at 4 months.

The owners of Lynx Hollow Boer Goats welcome inquiries and devote much attention to educating new goat owners. We believe good management plus good goats equal success and growth for the meat goat industry.

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*Two 2004 Northwest National Champions earning their keep!
(left) JH Bar Lawman – 2004 USBGA NW National J. Buck Champion
(right) BJA Top Gun – 2005 USBGA NW National SR. Buck Champion*

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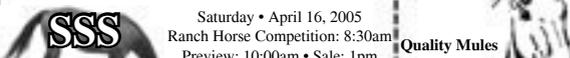



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Ever hear of a Seeing Eye horse?

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Gail Claussen is a Colorado rancher who began to lose his vision approximately 30 years ago from hereditary macular degeneration. Even though Mr. Claussen went through a period of depression, he decided to move forward with the help of his wife, Karol, who challenged him to keep ranching. When his vision got so bad, he relied on Silk Shotgun, a quarter horse bred and raised by Karol on their ranch, to help him with the cattle. By keeping a close eye on the horse's head, Claussen is able to tell where they are going and what he is looking at whether it is cattle, horses, dogs, people, or antelope. Shotgun takes over and goes to the cattle. Gail can ride through them,

take them home or whatever he needs to do. One time when he and Silk Shotgun were driving a bull home, the bull turned on the horse and began attacking him. Silk Shotgun fought back, biting and kicking, until the bull got back in line. What a horse.

After seeing an article written about Claussen, the producer of Animal Planet contacted Claussen to be on their TV show with Silk Shotgun. An organization called Colorado AgrAbility became aware of Mr. Claussen's disability through his appearance on Animal Planet. Colorado AgrAbility is a partnership between Colorado State University Cooperative Extension and Easter Seals Colorado, funded through the U.S. De-

partment of Agriculture. This organization provided Claussen with Zoom Text software, which modifies the lettering on his computer screen, allowing him to enter important data regarding his business. AgrAbility also provided support during his low points and provided information on how to enhance his quality of life.

After all Claussen has been through, he is able to maintain a positive attitude. He credits his wife, Karol, for giving him the strength to keep going. He says he feels like a very lucky man. He remains the spunky, quick witted, and warm-hearted cowboy he always has been and plans to continue his dream of ranching long after his sight is gone. 🐾

advertisers index

ADVERTISER	PAGE	ADVERTISER	PAGE	ADVERTISER	PAGE
A L Doering Spark Plug Corp	47	Idaho Horse Council	69	Powell Livestock Scale	63
Adams, Inc.	13	Idaho Hydraulics	74	Pratt Truck Service	73
Ag Engineering & Development Co.	11	Idaho Power	5	Precision Pumping Systems	46
Agri - Service Inc, Buhl	8	Idaho's Cowboy Supply	55	Rachel Hawes	76
Agri - Service Inc, Burley	8	Independent Drilling	74	Rain for Rent - Idaho Falls	29
Agri - Service Northwest	8	Intermountain Feed Co	7	Rain For Rent - Paul	29
Agri - Service, Nyssa	8	J.R. Simplot Co.	74	Rain for Rent, Inc - Nampa	29
Agri - Service - Twin Falls	8	J's Ultimate Hand Carwash	72	Rainbow Ranch	35
Agri - Service - Weiser	8	Jack Ronayne	37	Ranchers Supply	29
Agri - Service Inc - St. Anthony	8	Jayker Wholesale Nursery	75	Red Lion River Inn	6
All Breed Horse & Trade Expo	65	Jim Wilhite-Bale Wagon	72	Reinke	29
AOK Contractors	72	Kahn Steel Co.	72	Reinke Pasco, Inc	29
Art Peterson Insurance	14	Kandler Farms	30	Repair Manual.com	50
Art's Service Inc	73	Karam Manufacturing	45	Replacement Fighting Supply	72
Art's Way Manufacturing Co Inc	45	Katolight Corp.	7	Reynold's Seed Potatoes	31
B & V Enterprises	55	Kern County Tractor Parts	75	Rio Hondo Livestock & Farrier Supply	67
Bernie's	79	Kimm Brothers Farming	38	RLM Farms	35
Bio Safe Systems	34	K-Line Irrigation	2	Roeder Implement	75
Bleyhl	79	LaForge Systems Inc	16	Salmon Select Mule Sale	76
Brews Brothers	74	Lee's Diesel & Mobile Repair	75	Schlofman Tractor & Implement	8
C & M Llamas	77	Lewco Mfg. Inc.	50	Schutter Seed Farm	38
C & R Supply	44	Lewiston State Bank	10	Soil Foodweb, Inc.	59
Can-Usa Truck Brokerage Inc	72	Liberty Companies	62	Spokane Ag Expo	3
Canyon Honda	50	Livestock Products, Inc.	63	Stampede Steel/Sales	57
Carey Knowles	74	Loosli Farms	31	Starr Trak	48
Carhartt	79	Lowry's Hand - Crafted Footwear	21	Steelco Fabricators Inc	23
Centennial Tractor Inc	8	Lucky Acres, LLC	64	Stettler Supply Co	29
Cliff's Saws & Cycles, Inc.	7	Lynx Hollow Boer Goats	71	Steve Regan Inc	18
Cliff's Welding Inc	47	Mac-A-Bee	55	Steveco Canyon Farms	27
Collins Custom Farming	73	Magic Valley Irrigation	75	Stinger Ltd	16
Connell Grange Supply	73	Magic Valley Truck Brokers Inc	73	Stoller Enterprises, Inc	41
Cotton Seed Inc	33	Malibu Water Resources	75	Stukenholtz Laboratory Inc.	24
Cushman Drilling	73	Mark Kuurne	37	Sunny "D" Manufacturing, Inc.	17
Darrin's Wigs & Accessories	12	Martene Logging	73	T.R.S. Industries Inc	40
Dennis Fransen Farms	35	Martinez Farms	40	TJT Inc.	18
Diesel Injection Service	75	Mary's Feed & Farm	7	TNT Seed Co	43
Double B Mfg	51	Mas Ass Acres	76	Terra Marc	30
Double S Farms	31	Massey Ferguson	8-9	The Farm Store	7
Double T Construction	34	Maz-Zee S.A. International	7	The Kinder Goat Breeders Assoc.	76
Doug Gilmore	37	Memorial Pet Care	65	Tillamook Concrete Grooving Co.	63
Droge Farms	32	Merrick's Inc.	61	Tractor Sales & Auto Inc	8
Edmonton Potato Growers LTD	39	Meyer Seed Potato	37	Trails West	55
Elk Springs Ranch	76	Miles Brothers	27	Turbo Burn Inc	19
Energy Laboratories	28	Mil-Stak Inc.	22	Tuttle Blacksmith & Welding	64
Fairly Reliable Bob's	74	Modern Printers	77	Twister	45
Farm Bureau Insurance of Idaho	72	Mountain Home KOA	73	Twister Pipe Ltd	45
Farm & Ranch Manufacturing LLC	49	Mountain Plains Agricultural Service	74	USBGA	71
Fort Dodge Chemical Inc.	62	Mountain Valley Seed	28	Udy Corp.	25
Four Star Services, Inc.	10	Mountain View Equipment	8	United Oil	74
Frank Boreman	33	Mt. Angel Meat Co.	77	V & M Inc	21
Freedom Irrigation Inc	29	Mt. Ayr Vet Clinic & Vet Products	60	Val Schwemdiman Farms, Inc	27
G.J. Verti-Line Pumps Inc	75	Mule Action Ranch	76	Varmitgetter	15
G.P.O.D.	73	National Guard	23	Vickers Western Store	79
Gates Mfg. Inc.	47	Northwest Farm Credit Services	11	Visser Farms	26
Gem Supply Co-op Inc	76	North Verde Auto Salvage	47	Vitaquine	76
General Land Office Inc	14	Ohman Livestock Company	76	Walla Walla Farmers Co-Op Machine Shop	75
Generator Works	22	Oregon Telephone Corporation	73	Wedge - Loc [™]	72
Gilbert Farms LLC	27	Otter's, Inc.	13	West Creek Farms, Ltd.	25
Halton Company	8	Oxarc	75	Western Equipment and Supply	8
Hawley Farms	33	Parkinson Seed Farm	35	Western Metal Fab., Inc	73
High Desert Feed & Farm Supply	8	Paul Cherry Farms	32	Western Trailers	5
Hi Tech Distributors	77	Pioneer Healthcare Center	12	Wheeler Enterprises	68
Hoogland Farms, LTD	37	PolyExcel, LLC	17	Wood Farm Supply	72
Hoopes JH Ranch	31	Portland Systems	72	Woodpecker Truck	8

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