

# *Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy Magazine*

*The vital resource of the Ag Industry*

*Northwest • summer/fall edition 2007*

*Idaho / Oregon / Washington*



## **Special Dairy Issue!** **Secrets of a Great Glass of Milk**

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This Land Is Your Land.  
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Health and Osteoporosis recognizes the role that nutrients in

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



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

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

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

**June is Dairy Month.**



**United Dairymen of Idaho**

[udidaho.org](http://udidaho.org)

# contents



PAGE 8



PAGE 22



PAGE 33



ON THE COVER

Photo courtesy of J-B Lowlines.

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## Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy Magazine

Northwest • summer-fall edition 2007

### Features

Liberty Companies. Build It Once... Build It With Steel .....	8
HEADSIGHT INC. Making Harvest Easier .....	9
Otters, Inc.....	10
got pivots? .....	10
Burrowing Rodent Control by Rodex.....	11
Doyle's Thornless Blackberries.....	12
Egbers On Super Edge .....	14
MIL_STAK Mid-Size Bale Loaders .....	15
Finding Groundwater Just Became Easier .....	16
Varmitgetter.....	16
Agro Trend Mfg. ....	18
Stukenholtz Laboratory Inc, Celebrating 37 Years of Agricultural Testing .....	18
Highland Cattle .....	20
Thinking of Joining a Winning Breed? .....	22
J & B Lowlines .....	23
This Land Is Your Land. This Land is Our Land. Sustaining Natrural Resources ....	24
Farmore of Idaho & Standley Team Up.....	24
Ultrasound on the Farm Uses As a Tool in Breeding Management .....	26
Our Animals are Our Livelihood ...	26
RAU IM2000 Animal Immobilizer user base growing rapidly .....	28
Jersey Seminar To Focus On	

### Technological Advances For Isolating, Marketing Milk

Proteins .....	28
Secrets of a Great Glass of Milk .....	30
Wescor MAS-D-TEC .....	31
Balanced & Rhythmic Ground Work .....	32
Rio Hondo Livestock & Farrier Supply .....	34
The AQHA Regional .....	36
Melissa Sexton .....	36
100,000th Registered Alpaca Marks a Milestone in the Industry .....	37
Lost Shaker of Salt .....	38
Cascade Shadow Alpacas, Living the Alpaca Lifestyle .....	39
Inland NW Alpaca ranching is a comfortable lifestyle .....	40
Summer Breeze Ranch, Committed to the Future of the Alpaca Fiber Industry .....	41
The American Kiko Goat Association .....	42
Funds Available to Help Sheep & Goat Industries .....	42

### Departments

Publisher Information .....	6
Agriculture .....	8
Beef – Dairy .....	20
Equine .....	32
Alpaca – Llama .....	37
Goat – Sheep .....	42
Advertisers Index .....	43
Marketplace .....	44

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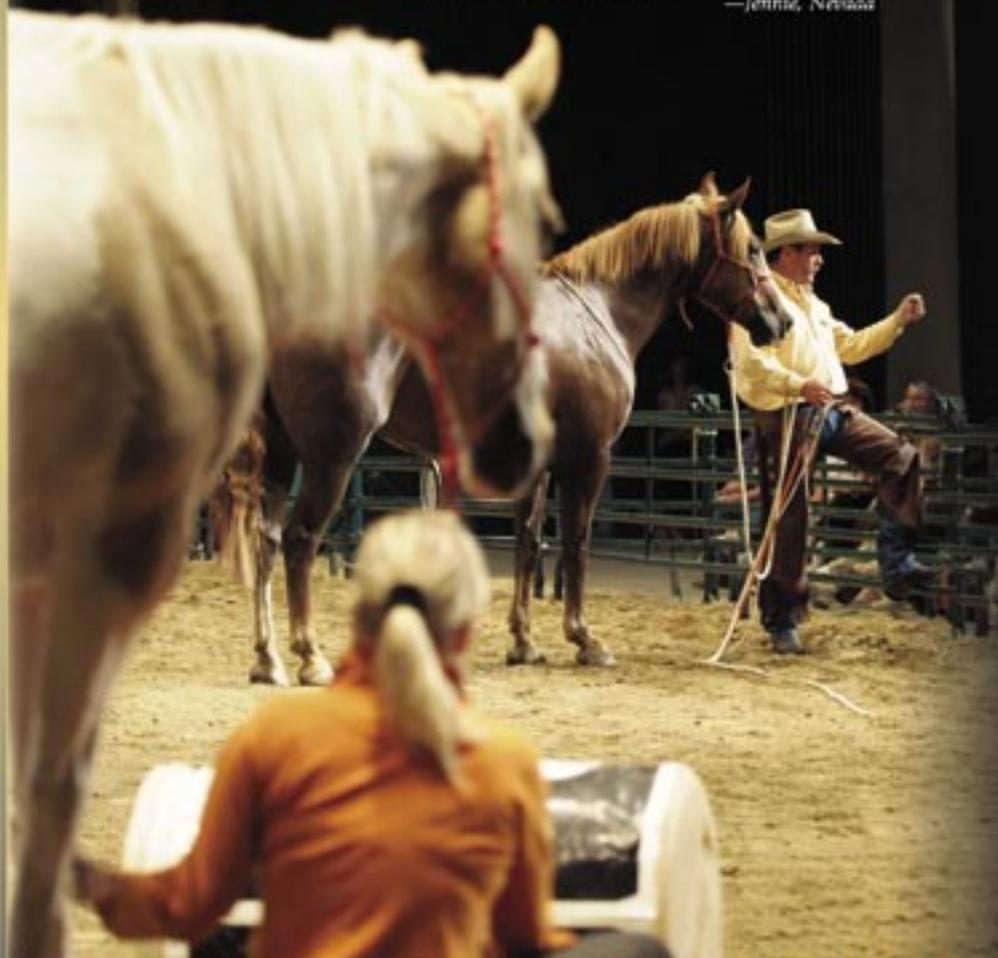
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1103 N.E. Elm St.  
Prineville, OR 97754  
**(541) 447-6263**

**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

**General Sales Manager**

Pat Drury  
pat@ritzfamilypublishing.com

**Sales Manager**

Steve Mendoza  
steve@ritzfamilypublishing.com

**Office Manager**

Angie Hawkins  
angie@ritzfamilypublishing.com

**Secretary**

Nikki McNeill  
nikki@ritzfamilypublishing.com

**Ritz** Family  
Publishing, Inc.

**Corporate Office**

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

**Sales**

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

**Subscriptions**

For a subscription or to change your existing  
address, call toll free 1(800) 330-3482 or  
1(208) 955-0124  
info@ritzfamilypublishing.com

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## LIBERTY COMPANIES

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At Liberty Companies, they believe if you are going to do something – do it right and you will only have to do it once! From selecting the most suitable and the most cost effective steel material for your fencing project all the way to providing top-notch installation. This philosophy has led Liberty to establish themselves as leaders in providing full-service agricultural, equestrian, estate and livestock fencing.

Through their Steel Pipe Division, Liberty has nationwide access to new and used steel pipe, everything from 1 1/4" to 120". Cliff Hobbs, CEO of Liberty Companies, out of their corporate headquarters in Great Falls, Montana, has 45 years experience in the steel business, and the right connections to select and purchase high-quality used and new pipe for their specialty – driven-post, welded-rail, pipe fencing.

As a major player in this surplus steel pipe market, Liberty is able to purchase good, clean, inspected, and nice looking pipe at competitive prices. With this buying power and 90% of Liberty's fencing projects designed using this steel pipe, they are able to pass along these savings to their customers. Liberty offers steel pipe at competitive prices by the foot for your fencing projects that you may want to install yourself or as a portion of the complete package that Liberty will design, supply, and install.

Most people think of steel fencing as the ultimate fence, as it is strong, durable, has a longer lifespan than other options, and provides the optimum safety for your livestock. Liberty's steel fencing can be very cost effective. This lower-cost alternative has proven to be an excellent option to other fence builders'



high-end products without sacrificing safety, strength or durability.

With the creation of the Manufacturing & Fabrication Division in 2001, located in Jerome, Idaho under the direction of their President, Darren Sparks, Liberty created a solution to their customers' fencing problems. Liberty had listened to their customers and there was an overwhelming need for containment fencing and livestock equipment that wouldn't buckle under pressure from the stock and have to be replaced and products that were designed to be animal friendly, yet user friendly. With that insight, and their 20 years experience with steel and livestock, Liberty Companies is producing some of the finest livestock containment fencing and equipment in the industry. Today when you call Liberty Companies for a quote on your fencing project, they are able to supply you with a top-quality heavy-duty steel gate, with or without a built-in slam, lever or cowboy latch, in any length you need. They will even build you a continuous panel, or latch, or feeder panel, or sheeted roundpen, to name a few, to your specifications at no extra design or fabrication charge.

With the capability to supply and design the complete package for their customer's fencing needs, Liberty developed the Steel Fencing Division. This division is dedicated to custom fencing solutions for every steel pipe fencing application - from equestrian arena facilities, rodeo and riding arenas to livestock feedlots, custom estate fencing and industrial fencing. Liberty has formed a very successful partnership with Star Buildings, the premier steel building manufacturer, to offer the best of the best for these custom projects. Liberty takes pride in their design, supply, and installation services for some of the finest perimeter fencing for some of the largest ranches in the Northwest as well as a large number of equestrian facilities.

Liberty can literally do it all – and do it right.

More information about Liberty Companies can be found at their website [www.libertypipe.com](http://www.libertypipe.com) or [sales@libertypipe.com](mailto:sales@libertypipe.com). Build it Once...Build it with STEEL! 🛠️

An advertisement for BTL Irrigation Pond &amp; Lake Liners. The ad features a blue and white color scheme with a curved banner at the top. The text inside the banner reads: "STRENGTH • COMMITMENT • GUARANTEED CONTAINMENT". Below the banner, it says "IRRIGATION POND &amp; LAKE LINERS" and "Custom Sizes • Reinforced Material". The price is listed as "\$1.39/SQ. FT. or Less". At the bottom, it says "BEND TARP &amp; LINER, INC." and "1-800-280-0712 • www.bendtarp.com". The BTL logo is prominently displayed in the bottom right corner.

# HEADSIGHT INC.

## MAKING HARVESTING EASIER

**H**ow many of us have scalped the top of a terrace or hill when harvesting and had to stop and clean out the header?

What about cleaning out that combine rock trap only to realize it was just a bit too full?

Has it ever crossed your mind what kind of damage a single stray rock can do, damage to cutter bar, damage to auger, damage to feeder house? What about the cost of wear and tear on your machine that rocks and dirt cause?



Automatic header height can help provide that extra protection for your combine and header, helping to reduce costly down time, repair costs, and operator fatigue.

Headsight, Inc. has developed an automatic header height control which meets that need for the wheat harvester. It works with most combines made in the last 30 years, and mounts on rigid, draper or locked up flex headers.

The versatility of this system is why it is so enticing. The sensors can mount in front of the cutter bar providing the fastest response around terraces or quickly changing ground, or mount directly on or just behind the cutter bar. These options can even be used in combination with each other providing the best protection to the header and quickest response to ground changes.

Headsight's® patented design is equipped with adjustable ground pressure and forward sensing. The down pressure is adjusted by simply changing the spring position to match the thickness of crop residue or the traveling speed; providing an accurate reading of the ground height at all times. The forward sensing is accomplished by the curved shape of the wands. This shape allows earlier contact with the ground at lower operating heights, thus giving better protection to the header and combine.

Besides the curved wand shape, the other secret to Headsight's® success in wheat fields was developing sensor arms that were both flexible and rigid. The wands need to be rigid enough to give an accurate height signal but flexible enough to handle the constant abuse of varying field and operating conditions. To

date, no other sensor in the world has employed this simple but profound idea to satisfy the "rigidly-flexible" requirement.

Have you ever stopped to consider the amount of money riding on a successful harvest? Most operators have \$50,000 to \$300,000 just in one header and combine alone not to mention the crew cost, cost of down time, machinery maintenance expense, and cost of crop loss. Headsight® provides a simple product to help protect your investment and help make harvesting easier and less stressful.

If you have operators who are in training, who have to drive into the sun, who run at night, who have bifocals, who want one less thing to worry about during harvest, or simply want that added protection, you should purchase automatic header height control.

The Headsight® system offers up to 5 sensors on nearly every combine. Major combine manufacturers such as CNH and John Deere also provide header control for cutting wheat but only on their newest machines and only allow for a two sensor package.

If you have any questions regarding this new product or would like more info, check the many pictures on the website, HYPERLINK "<http://www.headsight.com>" [www.headsight.com](http://www.headsight.com), or call the Headsight office at 574-546-5022. 📞

### AUTO HEADER HEIGHT



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# Otters, Inc.

## Dozer Blades Designed To Fit Your Individual Tractor

Otter's, Inc. is a family owned operation, building angle dozer blades since 1958. The company's founder, Marion Otter previously operated under the title of Otter Manufacturing until 1997 when he retired. He then turned the company over to his sons, Frank and Greg Otter, presently, Otter's Incorporated.

An Otter Angle Dozer gives you maximum use from your tractor year-round for snow removal, packing silage, terrace repair, cleaning feedlots, etc. Otter's will custom design blades to fit your individual tractor.

Otter's offers balanced and pivotal dozer blades for the standard 2-wheel drive tractor with optional widths of 9 ft., 10 ft., 11 ft., and 12 ft. The blade mounts close to the front wheel for best control, has easy suitcase linkage for angle change and activates from a standard 8-inch cylinder which is included. The push frame is designed to take the beating that a dozer gets on the corner.

For the mechanical front wheel standard 4-wheel drive tractor there are optional widths of 10 ft., 12 ft., and 14 ft. and optional accessories offered.



"Think Otter" for your pushing, packing and cleaning. For more information or questions, Phone 785-567-4648 or Fax: 785-567-4629. E-mail: [info@otterdozer.com](mailto:info@otterdozer.com); Website: [www.otterdozer.com](http://www.otterdozer.com) 📧

## got pivots?

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

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

There are many reasons for on-site vis-



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

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

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

# Burrowing Rodent Control by Rodex®

Rodex® is the registered trademark of an electronic igniting of gases for rodent extermination. The Rodex® brand has been in use for over seven years, while going through some changes. It now is the most user friendly system on the market; made with quality material, assembled by experienced craftsmen and tested to insure quality and safety. After the original Rodex company went bankrupt, investors purchased the Rodex® trademark and intellectual property from the bank, (with authorization of the bankruptcy court) and it became "Rodex® Sales & Service" in December of 2003.

Rodex® Sales & Service has three models to meet the needs of our user; from the professional pest control operator, with remote firing capability, to the rancher/farmer or a small land owner that needs only to maintain their property. Rodex® has not compromised its quality for price or safety.

One of Rodex® Sales & Service biggest accomplishments is the reengineering of the Rodex® 4000 Plus, while reducing the price equal to 1999 pricing. The Rodex® 4000 Plus is geared toward the small to mid size user, making it affordable for the small vineyard or orchard grower.

The oxygen/propane system for burrowing rodent control has become one of the best systems on the market for organic farming. Parks and schools like it since they don't have to deal with poison and traps.

Rodex® Sales & Service knows that any oxygen/propane system is not 100% fool proof, so call and talk with one of our Rodex customer service personnel. We have more than 65 years of combined experience in the rodent control business. 🐾

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# DOYLE'S THORNLESS BLACKBERRIES BACK HOME AGAIN IN INDIANA

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

Thomas E. Doyle, Sr. was born June 26, 1900, in Daviess County, Indiana, and was an avid gardener until his death in 2001. He and his wife, Rose, were the parents of six children.

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

## **TOM DOYLE, SR. SHOWS HIS PROLIFIC BLACKBERRIES**

Tom became well known nationally as the "plastic man" and "blackberry man" after 1959 when he developed a method of using black plastic to cover a garden and planted through small holes. Because the plastic was used for up to 30 years, he called it "Gardening without Cultivation" and marketed his special formulated plastic sheets under that name. He also wrote a gardening book that has been printed in 13 editions.

## **IMAGINE THESE FRESH BERRIES IN YOUR FAVORITE PIE OR COBBLER**

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



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

Curious about how many berries he was getting from each plant, Tom planted one blackberry plant in a corner of his property, away from all the other berries. No one was allowed to pick berries from this plant except Tom. That way he thought he could get an exact measurement. So every day during growing season he would take his measuring bucket, pick the ripe berries, and write the amount in a book. But he made one mistake. He had planted the berries close to a road that was heavily traveled by walkers. One day he noticed kids walking by eating some of the blackberries. "Well, at least they're sweet enough that I don't have to give them sugar to go with them", he said. "And I have no idea how many were eaten before I could count them!" At the end of the season he had logged over 20 gallons of berries from the one plant.

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

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

bearing or in spring, so that nitrogen will be recovered and stored in the roots for the next spring.

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

## **TYPICAL BUNCHES OF DOYLE'S THORNLESS BLACKBERRIES®**



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

About ten years ago Dad signed an

agreement with Severtson Farms allowing them to grow and sell the Doyle Thornless Blackberry®. After much success, however, Severtsons have decided it's time for them to retire from the farm. And the timing couldn't have been more perfect.



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

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



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

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# Egbers on Super Edge

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And Egbers knows their augers. Their repair and fabrication division has years of experience in re-flighting and balancing auger sections. “It just makes good sense to replace the auger flighting instead of buying a new auger section.” Confirms Doug-

“New auger sections can be pricey and the Super Edge Auger Flighting is priced to sell,” Along with their repair’s Egbers offers a wide assortments of replacement parts and tubing. They have you basic inside tubing, pipe, rolled tube for grain cart unloading augers all the way up to 40 ft. lengths for transport augers, “We’ve always thought freight and shipping to our customers was a problem, we can ship pretty much all the replacement parts a customer needs from here.” States Laura “That way all your parts come from one location instead of several.”

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Now offering three models from which to choose, MIL-STAK is able to fit any size of operation, from the family farm to the large commercial operator.

- The model 1030-s is designed for 3x4 bales with the big operator in mind. It is extremely strong and built to withstand many hours of continuous use.
- The all new 1028-s model is designed for the 3x3 bales and is nonadjustable.
- The model 1032 is adjustable and able to handle the 3x3 and 3x4 bales with ease.

All three models are designed to easily switch to and from mid-size bale loading with a few bolts and hydraulic quick couplers. Everything is either bolted on or plugged in – there is no welding on your bale wagon and no wires cut. By utilizing your bale



wagon's existing controls, the operator can quickly and easily load a tight, uniform stack of mid-size bales. And with features like the Air Bag that virtually eliminates any side roll of the bale wagon, a specially designed Cushion Valve, which allows operators to gently place bales on a second table, and the second Table Booster that helps lift the extra weight of the mid-sized bales by lifting toward the front of the second table, which greatly reduces the stress on the pivot pins, the MIL-STAK Mid-Size Bale Loaders are not only a joy to work with, but will help keep your bale wagon around longer by lessening wear and tear. Add in the matching yellow and red paint job, and it's evident that MIL-STAK is the leader in quality and appearance.

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- 3 Saves on your oxygen.
- 4 Hand held devices are DANGEROUS.
- 5 VARMITgetter gets the gas in the tunnel/burrow 3 to 4 times faster than the handheld devices.
- 6 Our device does not have to be cocked and valves to be turned each time you fire it like the handheld that are out there.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 Able to cover firing cone with loose

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Agro Trend Mfg.

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

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

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

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

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

At Agro Trend Mfg., product changes are precipitated by customer feedback or competition. “Our customers are the expert

## Stukenholtz Laboratory Inc. Celebrating 37 Years of Agricultural Testing

**I**n 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 form 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.stukenholz.com](http://www.stukenholz.com). To improve their service, Joyce and Dale Stukenholtz expanded the laboratory 11 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 and his son and Laboratory Manager Paul has nearly completed his own. Consulting agronomists include J.P. Kruckeberg of American Falls, a 29 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.

Stukenholtz Laboratory continues with research and improvement. In conjunction with the Idaho Crop Production Association and University of Idaho CFEP research project, Stukenholtz Laboratory 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 37 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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son the equipment and we listen closely to what they say. As well, if we see a good idea in the market, we improve on it," Schildroth said.

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

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

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

Aside from the manufacturing end, the company is also experiencing changes in the sales process. "We run our business a little differently from some. We try to have dealers set up without any other dealers in the area," Schildroth explained. However, as the big tractor companies consolidate their dealers, it becomes more difficult to give dealers an area to themselves.

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

Consolidation of dealers is one of Agro Trend's concerns for the future. With fewer independent dealers, companies like Agro Trend have less choice of where their equipment can be

sold because some of the big companies don't like their dealers to sell short line products. There is some consolation that growing offshore tractors are gaining market share and are willing to include other products in their dealerships. Agro Trend currently has dealers in Ontario, Quebec, The Maritimes and the Northeastern United States.



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

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## Highland Cattle

by Gary Hart

**H**ave you seen these long haired and horned animals that look like cows and wondered what they really are? Well, they really are a beef breed of cattle called “Highlands” or perhaps you may have heard of them as the Scottish Highland breed.

Highlands are an ancient beef breed that has lived and thrived for centuries in the harsh climes of Scotland. Highlands are considered the oldest registered cattle breed on record, with the first official herdbook established in the United Kingdom in 1884.

Highlands were first imported into the United States and Canada around 100 years ago. Initially, they went primarily to the harsh mid-West ranges, and were often used for crossing with other breeds and the beef calves were sold into the commercial market. The breed is quite adaptable to a variety of climates and Highland herds are now found in 48 of our 50 states and across the Provinces of Canada.

Highlands are thickset and primitive looking animals with long sweeping horns and hair protecting the eyes. Despite all this, many people consider them “cute” and the calves are quite adorable with their shaggy hair protecting them from the harshest weather. Many people fall in love with the appearance of the breed and consider them “pets” and they are ideal in small farm situations because they do not need a barn for protection. Despite their horns and fierce appearance, Highlands are normally quite docile and calm, including bulls, and are frequently handled by children.

An attribute that makes the breed popular with their owners is longevity. Many cows have continued producing calves to the age of 18 or 19 and could probably continue beyond except their owners decide to let them “retire” to leisure. Like all cattle, longevity is more than fertility and the Highlands are known for good feet and legs that contribute to their extended productive life. Ud-

ders are generally smaller than other breeds because of lower milk production, but its richness allows the calves to grow rapidly.

Another desirable attribute is their rather light birth weight, with the average calf weighing well under 70 pounds. This lower birth weight results in less birthing

problems, especially important with first calf heifers, and a high percentage of live births. The mothers may be protective for the first few days but are normally quite mellow after that. They are well equipped to defend their young, and will often work together, to defeat range predators. The low birth weight attribute makes these animals ideal for using Highland bulls on young first calf heifers of other breeds. Semen from quality bulls is becoming readily available for ranchers to use in AI programs in commercial herds.

While most cattle require good pasture, and feed supplements or expensive grains to achieve and maintain good body condition, Highlands are very efficient at converting ordinary grass and can thrive and support their calves without supplemental feed. The breed has the well-deserved reputation of being a browser because of the environment they evolved from and they will often spend time munching available brush in addition to the normal grass forage diet.

Evolving in a harsh environment has resulted this breed being insulated by a thick skin and a long double hair coat (a soft undercoat and a coarser long hair layer to shed the rain), rather than the thick layer of fat other breeds need to retain body heat in the winter. This re-



duced back fat results in less wastage at processing time and purebred Highlands and Highland crossbreeds grade out very well against other breeds in carcass competitions.

The best reason for raising Highlands is the superb healthy meat they produce. Laboratory tests in the United States and in England have shown that grass finished Highland beef is substantially lower in fat and cholesterol, yet is well marbled, when compared to the products found in your supermarkets.

The volume of Highland beef being produced today is not large enough to have an established national branded market. The American Highland Cattle Association (AHCA) has established voluntary production standards under its Quality Highland Beef label. This program is a contractual obligation that requires the producers to certify to certain standards in the raising and finishing of the animals they market using the QHB logo.

Most breeders sell to family and friends by word of mouth, and through farm websites on the internet. Highlands are mostly marketed as a natural, farm raised, product where the consumer knows how the animals were raised and harvested. In this market, farm raised and harvested Highland beef commands a significant premium over other

beef breeds and high customer loyalty. A few breeders across the country have developed viable and profitable markets for their beef with fine restaurants and high-end resorts, with their beef selling for a premium price.

The integrity of the purebred Highland breed in the U.S. is maintained through standards administered by AHCA and there is no "breeding up" of the breed. There are several regional associations across the country and they actively promote the breed. The regional associations have established a number of shows across the country for displaying their breeding stock in conformation competitions where the breed is judged to normal beef standards. The largest show is at the National Western Stock Show where the breed regularly displays over 200 animals. There are also many county Fairs and Highland Games festivals where the breed is displayed and these are great venues for local breeders to market their animals and other products.

The adaptability of the breed has resulted in the breed being widely distributed and concentrations can be found in South America, Australia and New Zealand, a number of European countries, and there is a significant concentration of animals in Canada.

The 2nd International Gathering was held in Sheridan, WY in June of this year. The event coupled AHCA's annual national convention with a gathering of breeders from across the globe. There were devoted breeders from eight other countries attending and sharing the progress of the breed in their countries. Of course, Scotland and England continue to have many breeders and the meat is highly sought after in their markets. The Royal family maintains a herd at Balmoral Castle and it is the dinner beef of choice for the Royal family.

You can find more about the history and attributes of the Highland breed at the AHCA website [www.highlandcattleusa.org](http://www.highlandcattleusa.org). The site has a complete member list to facilitate finding a breeder near you and has a downloadable Highland Breeders Guide with discussions on many aspects of the breed. If you would like more information on the breed, contact AHCA at (303) 292-9102 or send a note to [info@highlandcattleusa.org](mailto:info@highlandcattleusa.org).

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# Thinking of Joining a Winning Breed?

by Shelley Dodd, Northwest Lowline Association

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

Lowline cattle closely resemble their ancestors, the Aberdeen Angus and are about 30% smaller than the full sized Angus that you see today. Selectively bred from pure Angus stock, Lowlines are not a dwarf breed. Instead they were intentionally bred down in size as part of a nineteen year study conducted by the Trangie Research Center in Australia.

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

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

The study concluded that the overall efficiency of the cattle as grass converters was essentially the same between larger and smaller animals...interesting data when one considers the fact that Lowlines are shorter, eat less and require less acreage.

Here in the Pacific Northwest, as with the rest of the country, demand for

lines on a local level. In January 2007, the Northwest Lowline Association (NWLA) was formed. Officers as well as committee chair people were voted on and are currently working hard to set the foundation for a successful organization. NWLA hopes to meet the needs of area breeders through educational events, a website, shows, sales,



Lowline cattle exceeds the supply. The breed is appealing both to ranchers and those on smaller acreage "ranchettes." As farm land is dwindling, higher stocking rates and more product per pound are vital goals for the producer. And at the other end of the spectrum, health conscious consumers have created a market for more efficient cattle genetically designed for the natural and grass raised beef market.

Lowlines are also an excellent choice for the family enterprise. Because of their size and docile temperament, the

cooperative marketing and network-

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

whole family can participate in the care and handling of the cattle from birth to maturity.

As the numbers of Lowline cattle breeder memberships increase nationally, many area breeders expressed interest in joining together to help promote Low-

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

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

An advertisement for Topline Lowlines. It features a black cow in a field. The text includes: "TOPLINELOWLINES.COM", "&gt; Efficient grass finishers", "&gt; Docile", "&gt; Profitable", "360-794-6305", "Monroe, WA", and "Great Selection of Premium Lowline Angus Genetics". There is also a logo for "TOPLINE LOWLINES" with a tree and a cow.

# J & B LOWLINES

"I don't want cows, I don't like them unless they're nestled on a bun with ketchup" – that was my initial response to my husband's idea of purchasing a few Lowline Angus cows to run on our 65 acre ranchette. We needed to do something to keep our agricultural tax break, but having grown up in Minnesota surrounded by dairy farms and dairy cows, and living in prime commercial cattle country, I did not have a high opinion of unprocessed cattle. Past experience had taught me that cows were large, difficult to handle, and generally unpleasant. The man eventually wore me down, and I agreed to the purchase of **two bred cows and two open heifers**.

The first thing that surprised me about this breed was the size; so much smaller



than I had expected, the biggest of the original cows was about 750 pounds, yet in no way 'dwarfish'. The next surprise was how very easy to handle they were. The ranch that we bought was not really set up for handling cattle. The barn has a calving stall with a head catch, but we were without a chute system, or a squeeze. Our vet was somewhat skeptical when she made her first farm call for vaccinations and pregnancy checks; how did we think we were going to confine these girls? Much to the vet's surprise (and mine, quite frankly) the 'girls' were more than willing to follow a bucket of grain into the calving stall, catch their heads, and stand quietly eating their grain while being vetted. Maybe this wouldn't be so bad after all!

But if the cows were this laid back, what kind of mothering capabilities would they have? I'd been told that Lowlines were extremely easy calvers, but I was concerned that their docile demeanor would make them less than ideal mothers. I shouldn't have worried. When the first of the bred cows dropped her calf with little apparent effort, I went out into the pasture planning to weigh and tag the new arrival. The cow

that had previously licked my face and eaten out of my hand was now preparing to take me apart. I may have set a new



land speed record that day, as well as attaining a personal best at fence vaulting. **Although this particular cow's extreme attitude proved to be the exception, and she does calm down after a few days allowing for access to her calf, all of our girls have demonstrated superb mothering abilities and attentiveness.**

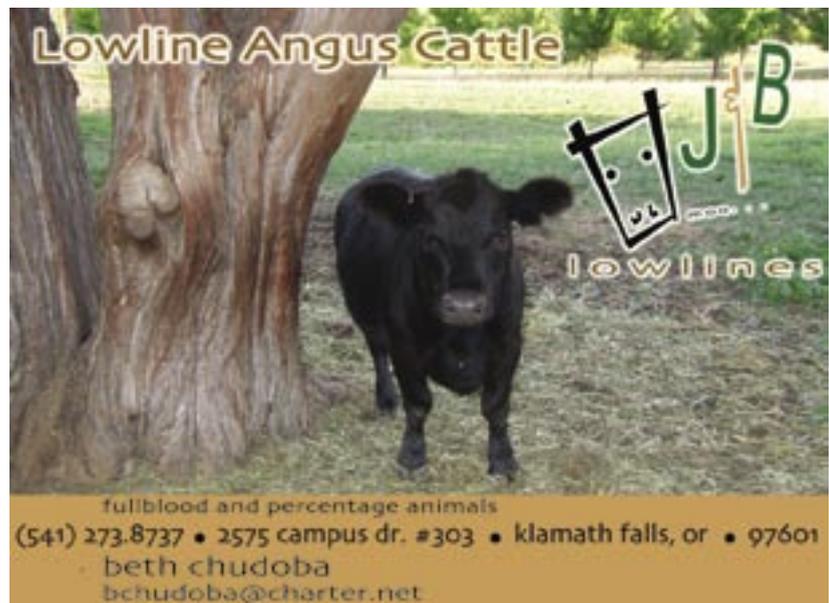
That was almost 3 years ago. We've since expanded to a herd of around 20 animals, and plan on getting a bit bigger every year. We have our original full-blood cows and their offspring, as well as a lovely small framed Lowline bull as the basis for our breeding program. **We've also expanded into percentage animals, (Lowlines crossed with various full-sized cows),** with an eye to custom meat production and 4-H steers, as well as marketing to small acreage owners. We still don't have a chute or a squeeze.

Although raising these small cattle in commercial cattle country where bigger is always better can be challenging, we believe we're on the cutting edge. Agricultural acreage is rapidly being converted to housing developments; available land is shrinking and must be utilized to its best potential. We can easily run **three** Lowlines on the same area that will support



only **one** commercial cow. Winter feeding costs are much more manageable as well. After starting the first winter feeding at a rate equal to roughly 3% of body weight, we discovered that these little cows truly are efficient feed converters. The whole herd looked like a bunch of black balloons. Although they were quite happy with their body condition scores, they were cut back to a 1.5-2% feeding program and still came out of the winter plump.

Lowlines are easy calvers, easy keepers, excellent mothers, and easy to handle. We couldn't be happier with our choice to breed Lowlines and welcome all inquiries and visitors. 🍷



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# This Land Is Our Land. This Land Is Your Land. Sustaining Natural Resources



**T**oday, not only do many people want to know that the food products they consume are healthy for them, but also that they have been produced in a way that is healthy for the environment. The nation's dairy farmers share this interest, too.

"As far back as I can remember dairy has been a part of my family's life," said Mike Roth, a Jerome dairy farmer. "It started in the 1920's when my grandparents immigrated to the United States from Switzerland and continues today at our farm, Si-Ellen."

With the vast majority of dairies being family-owned and operated in the United States, it shows the kind of history and heritage that has developed as generation after generation continues dairy farming. According to Roth, "My entire family, five brothers and three sisters, is actively involved in running our dairy. It gives each of us a sense of continuity and the opportunity to pass on long-standing family traditions. You are in this business because of your desire to create a wholesome food that people enjoy and for me, it goes even deeper. It's

a personal endeavor to honor my ancestors and the way of life they created for our family."

Dairy farmers share a lot with their neighbors and dairy consumers — air and water for starters. They also share a concern for the future. That's why they are not just farmers, but also stewards of the land and farms they call home. Whether it's recycling water, converting manure into usable energy or maintaining a clean, environmentally friendly farm, dairy farmers go the extra mile for the land we all live on. "The land we use for our dairy is important to us," said Roth. "We truly appreciate its value and know we have to take care of it. At Si-Ellen Farms, we have planted hundreds of poplar trees that not only act as a wind buffer and prevent soil erosion, but they also create a natural habitat for birds and wild animals."

Idaho's water supply is one of its greatest assets. According to Roth, "We want to make certain we use this valuable resource wisely, so we constructed a lake to catch excess canal water as a more efficient means to store it for future use.

Not only did this make sense from an economic standpoint, but the lake also serves as a conservation project because it provides the perfect environment for fish and plants." Milk is made up of 80 percent water. It's no wonder that water is likely the most important resource on a dairy farm. Clean, fresh drinking water for the cows is essential for wholesome, quality milk. In addition to a dairy farmer's personal commitment, farms must abide by clean-water laws. Water quality is routinely checked as part of Idaho's dairy-inspection program. Dairy farmers use water responsibly and judiciously. For example, water used to clean the milking parlor is often reused to clean feed alleys and then to irrigate fields. Potentially, water could be recycled two to three times on a dairy farm.

It's important to my family that we are good neighbors. We make every effort to build strong relationships. We work with our neighbors, providing top-notch natural compost for their fields and they in turn provide feed for our cows, reducing everyone's dependency on commercial sources of fertilizer and feed. Our dairy farm has given us a unique opportunity to develop a give-and-take connection with our neighbors. It's one of the reasons my family and I enjoy what we do so much.

Dairy farmers share a lot with their neighbors and dairy consumers — air and water for starters. They also share a concern for the future. That's why they are not just farmers, but also stewards of the land and farms they call home. Whether it's recycling water, converting manure into a reusable product or maintaining a clean, environmentally friendly farm, dairy farmers go the extra mile for the land we all live on.

To learn more about dairy farmers and their stewardship efforts, visit [www.dairyfarming.org](http://www.dairyfarming.org).

Article courtesy of: United Dairymen of Idaho

# Farmore of Idaho & Standley Team Up

**K**urt Standley has been the owner of Standley & Company for over 45 years. The company is in the business of helping farmers, "From cow to crop," find answers to their manure equipment and management. Tie that in with Farmore of Idaho, an irrigation equipment installation company, and you have a team effort whose intent is to keep wastewater from manure moving out and healthy crops abounding.

Downtime, unnecessary labor costs, and high energy expenses often take big chunks out of a farmer's resources, both natural and capital.

That's where Standley & Company and Farmore of Idaho step in to make the typical farm operation odorless and efficient. Kurt Standley does his part by helping farmers to achieve better aerobic digestion of dairy waste, which reduces odor, nutrient runoff and emission of greenhouse gases such as methane and carbon dioxide. In the face of concern about pollution, farmers are searching for alternative crops on which to spread manure.

One of those crops is alfalfa. Applying manure to alfalfa has several potential environmental, agronomic and management advantages. It allows more scheduling flexibility and it's good for the crop. Finally, alfalfa does an excellent job of recycling nitrogen from the soil.

"I like the challenge, dealing with dairy odor and phosphorous and nutrient management," said Troy Hartzel, of Farmore of Idaho. "If farmers can keep dairy waste in an aerobic state, there's less odor. That's where we can help them."

In order to keep waste in an aerobic state, solids must be separated from water and the water returned to the crops. Farmore mixes irrigation water with lagoon water, which makes for nutrient rich water for alfalfa. The product is applied through pivot sprinklers after it is diluted.

Farmore sells a wide selection of Reinke mechanized irrigation systems including Center Pivot System (Standard and Towable). Lateral Move Systems (Canal Feed, Hose Feed and Pivoting) and Small Field Irrigation Systems (Mini-Pivot and Hydrus by Reinke). In addition, Reinke's new computerized irrigation management system gives growers more control over essential functions from their office or laptop computer.

Farmore's Reinke technicians are highly trained. In fact, Farmore's Troy Chandler, Bruce Hunt and Andrew Jacobsen of Farmore of Idaho, Jerome, Idaho, were awarded the PLUS (Proven Leaders in Unmatched Service) Certified Technician Award from Reinke. The award is only given to a handful of technicians in the Reinke service network.

For more information, call: Jerome, Idaho Office - 1.208.324.3341, or call Dave Skinner at 1.208.280.2576. 🐾



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# Ultrasound on the Farm Used as a Tool in Breeding Management

Q. What is Ultrasound?

A. Ultrasound is a diagnostic tool that is used in Hospitals and Animals on a farm. Ultrasound produces a 2-dimensional image as it responds to tissue and fluid. Ultrasound is a wonderful non-invasive tool that provides a great deal of diagnostic information.

Q. What is it used for on the Farm?

A. Ultrasound is most commonly used on a farm for breeding management information. Ultrasound is used on almost all species including: sheep, goats, pigs, cows, horses, etc. Ultrasound is used to diagnose early pregnancy, twins, ovarian structures, reproductive abnormalities, and cysts to

name just a few.

Q. Why is it used on a Farm?

A. Ultrasound can be a very useful tool in managing reproduction in a breeding operation.

No longer is agriculture managed with a pitchfork and wooden cart. Raising livestock has become high tech and science motivated to produce a more efficient product for the least amount of cost.

Ultrasound was first introduced into the animal industry in 1984 in equine breeding and quickly spread into all other species using breeding management techniques. Veterinarians and breeding professionals use ultrasound as a tool in

---

## Our Animals Are Our Livelihoods

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

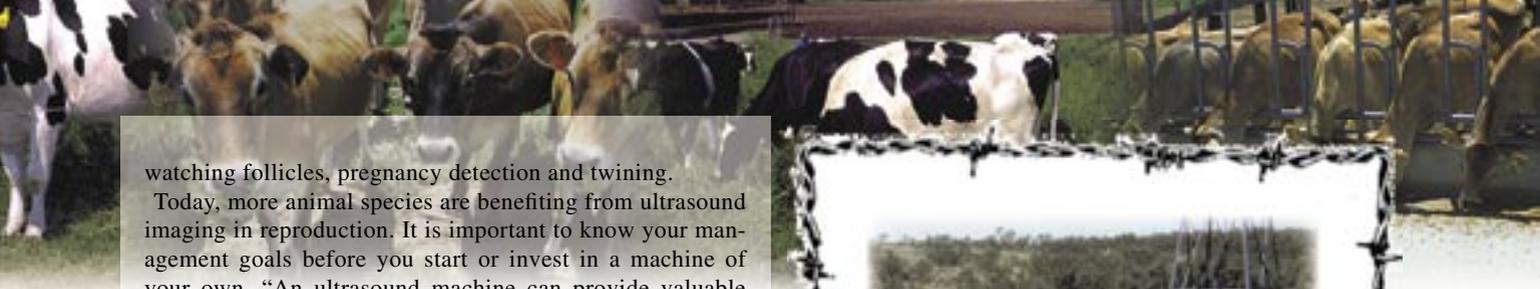
"The goal is to keep dairy farmers in business by making sure their animals are healthy and get the proper medical treatment," Dr. Stouder said. "When we identify things early, we can prevent problems and keep milk moving to the public."

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

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

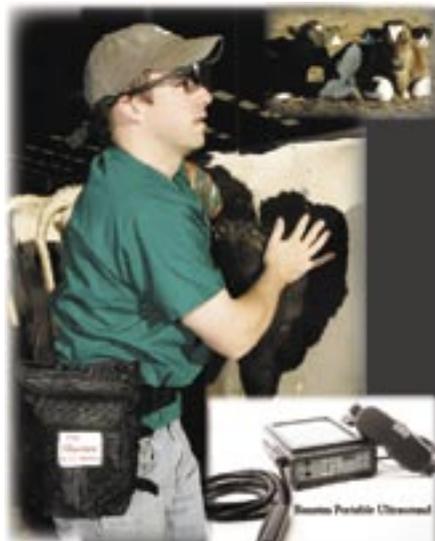
For more information about dairy farming, visit [www.dairy-farmingtoday.org](http://www.dairy-farmingtoday.org).

Article courtesy of: United Dairymen of Idaho



watching follicles, pregnancy detection and twinning.

Today, more animal species are benefiting from ultrasound imaging in reproduction. It is important to know your management goals before you start or invest in a machine of your own. "An ultrasound machine can provide valuable information, but if you don't have a plan of what to do with the information, for example sync and re-synchronization treatments, or selling open animals and "hard-breeders", then the ultrasound is just for show" says Kraig Peel, Colorado State



University. "I don't know of any other farm investment that can have such a high ROI (Return on Investment) in such a short amount of time" says dairy producer Arnel Cordoso (California).

"The Bantam ultrasound is probably the most valuable piece of equipment ever used on a sow farm. The reduction in non-productive sow days has been about 8 days. Improved reproductive performance, farrowing rate, conception rate, and the ability to troubleshoot management problems are just some of the advantages we have seen at Prestage Farms. Farrowing rate has improved 5% over the last 2 years." Mark Daughtry (N.Carolina)

E.I. Medical Imaging a world leader in Portable Animal Ultrasound has been designing and engineering ultrasound machines specifically for animal applications where portability is mandatory. Mia Rossini, E.I. Medical Imaging says "Portable ultrasound has been making great strides over the past years. It is designed for the farm environment with a purpose of convenience and durability when working with the animals." Located in Loveland, Colorado for over 20 years, E.I. Medical Imaging is the only U.S. manufacturer of strictly portable animal ultrasound. "We feature InSite Monitor Glasses so that the operator can use the ultrasound in direct light situations without the interference of glare" says Mia. "It must be easy to use and accurate out in a barn to be truly beneficial."

For more information on the Bantam Portable Ultrasound contact E.I. Medical Imaging toll free 1-866-365-6596, (970) 669-1793 Email: info@eimedical.com www.eimedical.com

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## RAU IM2000 Animal Immobilizer user base growing rapidly

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



be recharged from a vehicle power outlet or, with an adaptor, from the 110v AC supply to give 8 –10 hours of working time when needed.

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# Secrets of a Great Glass of Milk – Cold, Clean, Pure

Steam it for a latte, mix it into pancake batter, but mostly, keep it cold. Milk should have a warm berth only a few times in its life — in the cow's udder, during pasteurization, in the process of becoming cheese or yogurt, and when it is an ingredient. Otherwise, milk stays chilled in its seamless flow from dairy cow to your refrigerator, untouched by human hands.

Along the way, milk is frequently tested to make certain it meets and retains quality standards set by the government and the dairy industry.

"Highly perishable, milk is more carefully regulated and tested than most any other food," said Marv Patten, Idaho State Department of Agriculture. A certified processor lab tests samples from each tanker before it goes to the milk processor. The processor then runs a battery of tests on the milk and milk products.

## No Antibiotics

The slightest hint of antibiotics, and the entire bulk tanker of milk is discarded and is not used for human consumption. "The Pasteurized Milk Ordinance requires that all bulk tankers be screened for residues before a processor accepts the milk," said Patten. Dairy farmers are doing a good job of policing themselves. The Food and Drug Administration's most recent data shows less than one-tenth of one percent (0.067%) of tanker loads are discarded because of antibiotic residue.

## Tracking the Milk

Let's track a gallon of milk. It takes an average 5 1/2 minutes for

a modern milking machine to milk a cow.

- Milk then passes through tubes in which it is cooled instantaneously.
- In the few seconds it takes to reach the refrigerated farm bulk holding tank, the milk's temperature has dropped from the cow's body temperature of approximately 100 degrees to 38 degrees.
- Bulk tanker trucks pick up milk daily or, if a farm is small, every other day.
- Before the milk leaves the farm, the licensed bulk milk hauler take samples for testing.
- If a farmer accidentally contaminates a tanker load, the load is discarded. The farmer loses the income he would have received from the sale of his milk, and if the tanker also carries milk from other farms, he is charged for the value of his fellow dairymen's milk. In addition, he pays a penalty.
- Any contamination is readily tracked because samples from the farm go to a certified lab to be checked for antibiotic levels and other quality checks.
- The refrigerated tanker transports the milk to the milk processor's refrigerated storage tanks.

## Ready for Processing

After further testing, including flavor tests, the milk processor accepts the milk into its raw milk storage tanks, which hold 30 – 50,000 gallons. Within minutes or at the most, hours, it is on

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its way through the processing system. Most plants process milk from the farm to the package daily. They also clean stainless steel lines, tanks and other machines daily to maintain the milk's quality.

#### Pasteurization

Milk continues to flow to machines that pasteurize it killing pathogenic bacteria. It flows through this system at the rate of 100 gallons per minute into storage tanks for pasteurized milk. More machines homogenize the milk, and finally bottle, label and cap it.

Filled milk containers are packed into milk crates — also by machine and conveyor belt. The milk is temporarily stored on warehouse shelves until refrigerated trucks arrive to carry it off to your market. All of this takes place in refrigerator-cool warehouses, kept below 40 degrees F.

If milk isn't fresh for a week beyond code date, it's likely that it lost its cool somewhere along the route — or after purchase. Keeping it refrigerator-cold is everyone's responsibility.

For more information about milk quality and dairy products, visit [dairyfarmingtoday.org](http://dairyfarmingtoday.org). Article courtesy of: United Dairymen of Idaho

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MAS-D-TEC measures electrical conductivity in a small sample of milk. Research has shown that conductivity increases markedly with the onset of mastitis infection. MAS-D-TEC uses sophisticated technology to detect increases in conductivity long before other clinical symptoms and signs are evident.

With an average dairy of 120-150 cows losing up to \$37,500 to mastitis every year, it is no wonder there has been so much talk among dairymen about mastitis. It is estimated that at least 40% of all cows are infected with mastitis. Most dairy farmers deal with the obvious clinical cases and usually overlook the less obvious, but far more costly, subclinical mastitis. Those dairymen who are best informed as to herd health will be those who, through the application of good management factors, will ultimately have the "cleanest" herd. In the past, detecting subclinical mastitis was difficult. MAS-D-TEC makes it easy to detect and provides critical

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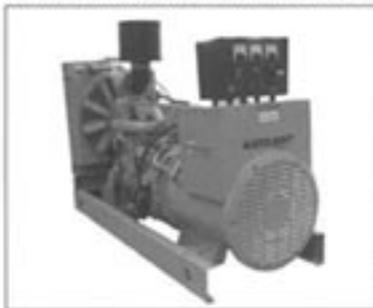
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## Balanced & Rhythmic Ground Work

By Alice Trindle

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

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

### "Horseman's Protocol"

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

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

So our first ground skill game is for the human...Take a deep

breath, get yourself emotionally centered, then visualize yourself & the horse accomplishing these ground skill maneuvers: (Note: Try these skills with a horseman's halter, at the end of a 12 ft. lead)

### Forward - Driving on a Circle:

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

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

**Balance** - Horse is slightly arched to the inside of the circle, eyes and ears seeking direction of travel, shoulders balanced,



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and feet are tracking up as if they were on a railroad track

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

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

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

#### Turn on the Forehand:

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

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

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

Rhythm – This exercise is primarily used to flex and strengthen your horse, and probably would not be used except at the walk. The rhythm I feel for at the walk is a two-beat, very slow gig, with a little breath-in on the second beat, where the horse balances up on the outside hind. (Note: Certainly you

will have the hind foot crossing under at the trot and canter, but with much more forward movement in a shoulder –in type maneuver)

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

Visualize – Again, see yourself riding, and feel for where your



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

#### Leg Yield or Shoulder-in

##### Posture on a Circle:

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

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

Continued on page 34

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**R**io 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.

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Rio Hondo would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our customers for their support and patronage. We appreciate your business, and look forward to supplying your needs in the future. 🐾

## Balanced & Rhythmic Ground Work

Continued from page 33

circle under the horse’s neck. Hind feet cross, then front feet cross.

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

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

**Transitions** – Try varying the size of the circle or the speed within the gait. Remember that before each change, each transition, take a deep breath, see the picture of what you are going to ask, check your positioning and posture, ask, and allow it to happen.

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

OK...Now you have the idea. I RE-

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

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

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

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

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# The AQHA Regional Experience Comes to Nampa Center

The AQHA Regional Experience Comes to Nampa Center July 25 thru 28. The Public is invited to all events including Show, clinics and entertainment at no charge.

The 2007 AQHA Region One Regional Experience will be held at the Idaho Center in Nampa Idaho. Region One is made up of Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. There are ten Regions in The AQHA and each Region holds a Regional Experience annually within the respective Region. Region One regional Experience was held in Redmond Oregon the last two years. These events are open for the public to attend at no charge.

Regional Experiences Shows are patterned after the AQHA World Show and are restricted to exhibitors who live within the Region. Exhibitors and their horse that have placed in the AQHA World Show in 2006 may not compete

in the Regional Show. The format of the show and the presentation of the awards are like the World Show. There will be over \$ 130,000.00 in prizes and awards.

The Regional Experience is more than a show. It is truly designed to be an "Experience" built around equine activities and programs to allow the public to participate and interact. For example, there will be a "Test Ride" where anyone can ride a Quarter Horse, free of charge. There will be a large Trade Show. Clinicians and Professional Horsemen will be available for assistance and advice at no charge. Also included will be interactive contests, challenges, special events, specialty acts and a World Class Regional Trail Ride that is open to the public.

Youth are a big part of the focus of this years Regional Experience. 4H, FFA, Riding clubs and Rodeo organizations are invited to participate in the show and other equine related events. Education

and individual improvement of equine knowledge and skills is a part of the "Experience. Young riders may compete in "walk trot" and "lead line" classes regardless of the breed of their horse.

The entire program is designed to be educational, entertaining and interactive and give everyone a World Class equine "Experience". There will be twelve World Class Clinics with renowned clinicians presented through out the program. Profession Horsemen will be available at the event to answer questions and assist the public.

Renowned barrel clinician and World Champion Lance Graves will join Curt Pate, prominent trainer and AQHA clinician Other clinics will include Showmanship, Trail, Working Cow Horse, The Roping School, Ranch Sorting, Western Pleasure, and English Pleasure. These great programs and more will be presented at no charge. 🐾

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## Melissa Sexton • Sexton Equine Center

Melissa Sexton is the owner of Sexton Equine Center, located at M Bar J Ranch, a full care equine facility. An equine science graduate from Colorado State University, Melissa specializes in training the "all-around" horse and rider. She is an AQHA Judge and member of AQHA Professional Horsemen. Melissa has competed in the horse industry her entire life. As a youth competitor she enjoyed extraordinary success. Winning the first of 3 World Championship Titles in 1978 set her on the road to compete and win at many more World and National events. Her most recent World Show accomplishments have been in the AQHA with multiple Top Ten placings in Jr. Western Riding and several Top Fifteen places in Jr. Trail, Jr. Western Riding, and Jr. Hunter Hack. Melissa's horse show diversification and her expertise in individual performance events has assisted her instruction of many world class all-around competitors. Her students have earned

many Regional Awards, all-around and circuit titles, WSQHA, IQHA and Mt. States year-end awards in Trail, Western Riding, Western Pleasure, Horsemanship, Showmanship, Hunt Seat Eq., and

AQHYA World Championship Show and her Select Amateurs have competed at the Bayer Select World Championship Show. Melissa specializes in showing Jr. and Sr. Horses in Trail, Western Riding, Western

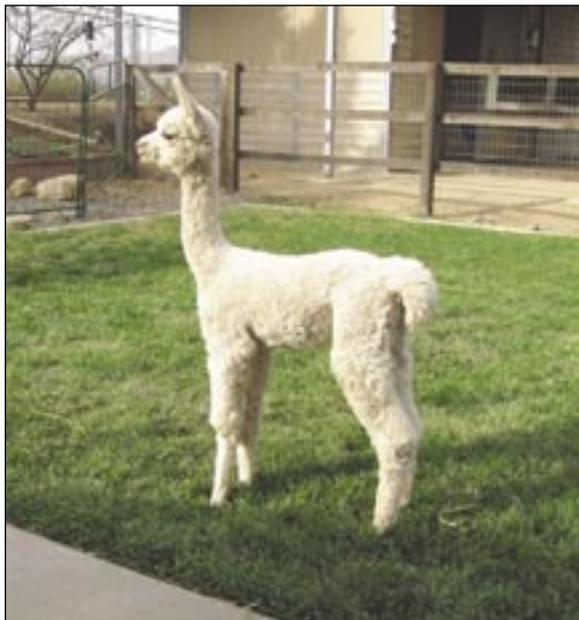


Hunter Under Saddle, as well as, several Hi-Point saddles. Her youth competitors have earned multiple invitaitons to the

Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle and is the author of the published book "Breed Show Hunters Under Saddle". 🐾

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Alpacas were first commercially imported into the United States from

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

To find out more about alpacas, or to locate an alpaca farm new you, please visit [www.alpacainfo.com](http://www.alpacainfo.com). 🐾

## Lost Shaker Of Salt - Found!

Are you looking for your Lost Shaker of salt: Jack Beck and Vicki VanRoekel a husband and wife team of professional educators were looking for theirs - and found it in the dream world of alpacas. What other exquisite farm ani-



mal can you have that is used solely for it’s fiber, breeding, showing and selling to others with the same purpose. What other farm animal produces fiber as high-end and desirable as the alpacas?

After spending several years volunteer-

ing with *Rescue A Golden of AZ* finding homes for lost and unwanted Golden Retrievers (and acquiring 9 of our own along the way), we were looking for an animal we could love just as much. With no more room in the house it definitely had to be an out door animal. Through friends, alpacas appeared on the horizon- Vicki visited *Orion’s Gate Ranch*, in southeastern Arizona and purchased 3 pregnant females with crias (baby alpacas). After visiting with the Elkins of Orion’s Gate, Jack discovered that he had worked for Bob in the construction business 30 years earlier. What a small world.

Besides the love we shared for animals. Jack and Vicki are also self-proclaimed Jimmy Buffett fans known as “Parrot Heads”. Thus we found the ranch name *Lost Shaker Alpacas*, from a line in the Jimmy Buffett his song *Margaritaville*. *Lost Shaker Alpacas* has grown to 27 alpacas with 14 cria to be born in 2007. With each new cria, our love for these

wonderful animals grows. The herd is now large enough and our knowledge base wide enough to offer alpacas for sale and provide continuous support for our clients.



*Lost Shaker Alpacas* relocated from the Phoenix metropolitan area to a 12 acre ranch in Twin Falls Idaho in the fall of 2005. We are here to help you find your *Lost Shaker* of salt. You too can spend your time in the tranquil world of alpacas. Call and come visit *Lost Shaker Alpacas* and discover the world for yourself. 🐾

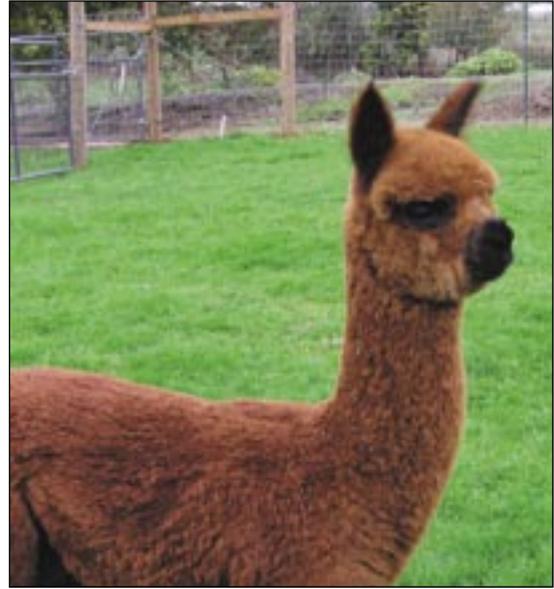
# Cascade Shadow Alpacas

## Living the Alpaca Lifestyle

Cascade Shadow Alpacas is nestled in Oregon's beautiful central Willamette Valley, just minutes from I-5 and Highway 22. We are a family-run ranch, and have been breeding top quality alpacas for the past 3 years. Our whole family, from kids to grandparents, enjoys owning and raising these fascinating, and gorgeous animals.

Our specialty is breeding for solid, colored, suri and huacaya alpacas. We emphasize correct conformation, friendly personalities, great fleece qualities, and soundness. We have lovely alpaca fleece for sale, as well as our wonderful animals, in a range of colors.

We also offer breeding services. Our blue-ribbon-winning solid black suri, Captain's Midnight Buccaneer, is just beginning his stud career. His grandsire is three-time Herdsire of the Year, Macgyver, and his sire is Reserve Herdsire of the year, Captain Morgan. With genetics like that, we



expect some amazing offspring from Buck!

The benefits of owning and raising alpacas have been more than just financial for our family. We love to talk alpacas, and to share the alpaca lifestyle with others. We are easy to find, and would encourage you to contact us to arrange a visit. You can learn more about us at [www.cascadeshadowalpacos.com](http://www.cascadeshadowalpacos.com)

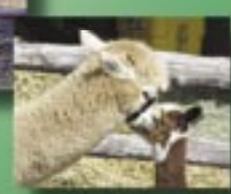


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# Inland Northwest Alpaca ranching is a comfortable lifestyle.

**W**e first learned about alpacas at the PNAA show (Northwest Alpaca Showcase) in Post Falls, ID 2001. We fell in love with the animals immediately and started a year long research project.

The Alpaca showcase the following year found us purchasing 4 animals (3 bred females and 1 stud). Fantastic animals from Running Wild Alpacas, Eastern Montana. Dennis and Rebecca McEuen were fantastic and helped us get started.

We had our first cria's (baby alpacas) born and we were off and running. We subsequently purchased 16 more animals the following year. The great things about alpacas include, calm-mild tempered animals, easy to care for, very soothing to be around, easy on the land (padded feet) and soft to the touch.

Care for these animals includes scheduled worming, toe nail trim-



ming, sheering of fleece, vitamins and vaccines when needed and daily feed and supplements.

The alpacas are remarkably smart. They deposit their droppings in a cou-

ple spots in the pasture, which makes clean-up a breeze. They generally give birth during daylight hours (usually from about 9 am to 2 pm).

We have discovered that it has been very educational for our children as well, who are now very well educated alpaca ranch hands. Subsequently, both of my younger daughters want to be veterinarians as a result. We started selling our alpacas last year and have done fairly well.

We have incorporated the help of a ranch in Kansas, Smokey Valley Alpacas, run by Jodie Stickney and her son Zach. This has been beneficial for both ranches and we hope this will continue for the future.

We have now gotten into the show ring and hope for great thing for our alpacas. For more information, contact Moose Meadows Alpaca Ranch at 208-755-4561 or visit our website at [www.moosemeadowsllc.com](http://www.moosemeadowsllc.com). Margaret Stickney, Owner; Kevin Illies, Ranch Operator; Robin Illies, Administrator; Gardner Black Ranch Operator. 🐾



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# Summer Breeze Ranch

## Committed to the Future of the Alpaca Fiber Industry

Located in the beautiful northern panhandle of Idaho, Summer Breeze Ranch is owned and operated by Frank and Beverly Koerperich. Both Frank and Beverly were raised on farms in the Midwest so, while caring for alpacas is new to them, caring for livestock is not.

The couple purchased their first alpacas in the spring of 2005 and the farm's first cria arrived just weeks later. Since then the Summer Breeze herd has grown to 25 Huacayas. The Koerperiches are willing to share what they know, and are careful to take the time to know where to find the answers for anything they need to learn.



The focus of Summer Breeze Ranch is improvement in the quality of their herd in every way, with the ultimate goal of quality fiber production. Frank and Beverly believe the future of the alpaca industry is fiber production and commercial development, and that only an alpaca of increasingly excellent health and conformation will produce fiber of the highest and most marketable quality.

In order to preserve the safety and security of their own herd, the Koerperiches recently acquired a beautiful Great Pyrenees guardian dog. Kodiak was such a valuable addition to the farm that the decision was made to add a Great Pyrenees breeding program to Summer Breeze Ranch, with the first litter anticipated in 2008. Summer Breeze Ranch features Great Pyrenees' from the Karolaska and Quibbletown bloodlines. These dogs are gentle, vigilant guardians for your alpaca, goat or sheep herd, residing in the field for full-time protection.

Summer Breeze Ranch is a developing farm, yet with generations of experience in both their families coupled with enthusiasm for their herd, Frank and Beverly have already shown

vision and drive that promises to make them valuable partners in the future of the alpaca community. Their love of the alpaca



shows in every aspect of the Summer Breeze Ranch, from the farm guarantee and discounts for multiple services and sales, right down to their friendly and welcoming manner. 🐾



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# goat – sheep



## The American Kiko Goat Association

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

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

ing AKGA interest in improvement of the Kiko breed.

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

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

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

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

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

## Funds Available to Help Sheep & Goat Industries

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

applications that serve the goals of this program.

"Most recently the Fund has been used to help establish a livestock merchandising center, expand several goat dairies, build a consolidated goat association, develop a sheep meat supplier, and create a weed control and fire protection

program using sheep," Richard Drake, chairman of the NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund Committee said. "Our loan program is unique in its ability to evaluate each applicant's specific needs and create a flexible financing plan. We also offer a very competitive interest rate, currently 5.75 percent."

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

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

For more information or an application please contact the National Livestock Producers Association at 1-800-237-7193 or visit [www.SheepandGoatFund.com](http://www.SheepandGoatFund.com). 🐐

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# advertisers index

ADVERTISER	PAGE	ADVERTISER	PAGE
Agro Trend Mfg .....	19	Lehman Brothers .....	44
Alpacas of Cedar Wind .....	47	Lewiston State Bank .....	29
American Dorper Sheep Breeders Society .....	42	Liberty Companies .....	7
American Quarter Horse Region One Experience .....	33	Lost Shaker Alpacas .....	39
Art's Service Inc. ....	44	Magic Valley Irrigation .....	46
Art's Way Manufacturing Co Inc .....	19	Maz-Zee S.A. International .....	13
ASNW, Inc. ....	48	Metal Clad Buildings of Oregon .....	44
Aztec Gravel & Construction .....	21	Mil-Stak Inc. ....	15
Bend Tarp & Liner, Inc. ....	8	Modern Printers .....	45
Bennett Machine & Welding Inc. ....	44	Moose Meadows Alpaca Ranch .....	40
Blevins Mfg. Co. Inc. ....	32	Mountain Home KOA .....	47
Boise Muffler .....	46	Mountain States Contractors, Inc. ....	45
Bowman Farm Systems Inc. ....	44	Mountain View Equipment - Caldwell .....	48
Brews Brothers .....	45	Mt. Angel Meat Co. ....	45
Canyon Honda .....	6	Mur-Tex Company .....	27
Capitol Racing .....	34	Northwest Propane Sales, LLC .....	44
Cascade Shadow Alpacas LLC .....	39	Otter's, Inc. ....	7
Centennial Tractor Inc .....	48	Ott's Farm Equipment - Fallon .....	2
Chino Welding & Assembly .....	2	Ott's Farm Equipment - Yerington .....	2
Cub Farms .....	14	Parelli Natural Horsemanship .....	5
Cushman Drilling .....	46	Pioneer Healthcare Center .....	6
D & L Processing .....	25	Pivotrac.com .....	11
Diesel Injection Service .....	44	Powell Livestock Scale .....	21
Doyle's Thornless Blackberry Inc. ....	13	Pratt Truck Service .....	46
E.I. Medical Imaging .....	27	Prineville Medical Clinic .....	6
Egbers Flighting & Supply .....	14	Repair Manual.com .....	46
Eldridge Ranch .....	21	Replacement Flighting Supply .....	46
Fairly Reliable Bob's .....	46	Rio Hondo Livestock & Farrier Supply .....	35
Farm Bureau Insurance of Idaho .....	45	Rodex Sales & Service .....	11
Farmers Tractor & Equipment .....	2	Roeder Implement .....	46
Farmore of Idaho - Twin Falls .....	11	Schlofman Tractor & Implement .....	48
Four Star Services, Inc. ....	6	Sprayer Specialties Inc. ....	15
G.J. Verti-Line Pumps Inc .....	46	Standley & Co. ....	25
Giant Rubber Water Tanks.....	29	Starr Trak, LLC .....	44
Goat Steak Ranch .....	47	Story Book Farm .....	47
H.R. Hartsook Photography .....	47	StrataTek Groundwater Imaging .....	17
Headsight Inc. ....	9	Stukenholtz Laboratory Inc. ....	18
Hi-Land Hay .....	29	Summer Breeze Ranch .....	41
Horse Transporter .....	32	T & T Horsemanship .....	35
Idaho Hydrojetting .....	30	Target Seed, LLC .....	17
J & B Lowlines .....	23	TNT Enterprises .....	33
Jayker Wholesale Nursery .....	45	Topline Lowline Angus .....	22
J's Ultimate Hand Carwash .....	46	Tractor Sales & Auto Inc .....	48
Katolight Corp. ....	31	Treasure Valley Mixer-Feeders Inc .....	47
Kern County Tractor Parts .....	46	United Dairyman of Idaho .....	3
Kinder Goat Breeders Assoc., The .....	47	United Oil .....	45
Kings Equipment Comp Inc - Hanford .....	2	Valley Repair .....	48
Kings Equipment Comp Inc - Madera .....	2	Varmitgetter, LLC .....	17
Komcrest Farms .....	47	Walla Walla Farmers Co-Op Machine Shop .....	44
L 3 Ranch Specialties .....	35	Wescor .....	30
LaForge Systems Inc .....	7	Western Metal Fab., Inc. ....	44
Lee's Diesel & Mobile Repair .....	44	Woodpecker Truck .....	17

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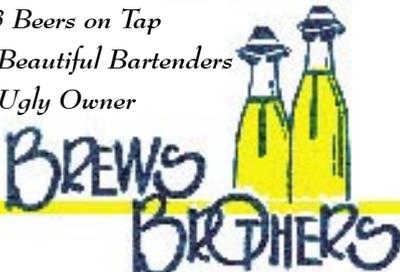
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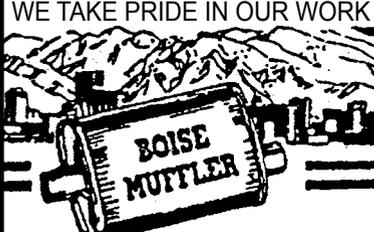


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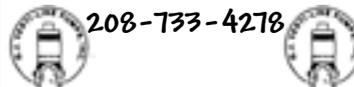
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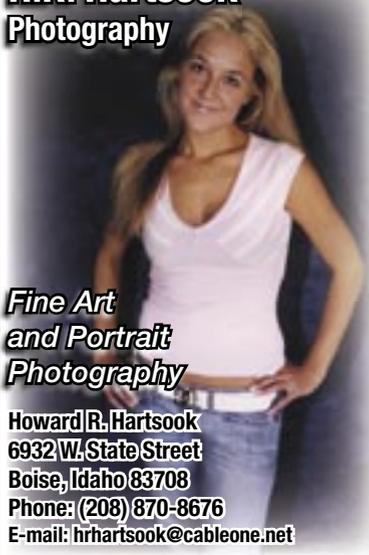


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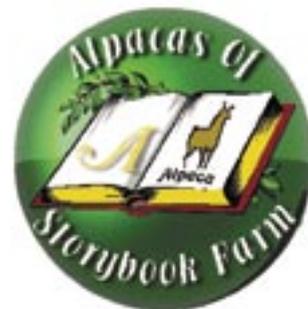


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