

# *Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy Magazine*

*The vital resource of the Ag Industry*

*Oregon • winter/spring edition 2003-2004*

## **Oregon Potato Conference**

### **The Internet: Changing The Way Agriculture Hires Employees**

### **Farmer, Rancher Pilot Loan Program**

### **Starr Trak: Irrigation Solutions!**

*Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy Magazine*

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### **Printed By**

Eagle Web Press, Boise, ID

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**On The Cover**

Photo courtesy of Western States. For more, see page 32.  
Inset photo courtesy of Starr Trak. For more, see page 7.

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## World Potato Congress To Be Held in China

The 5th World Potato Congress has been rescheduled to March 24-30, 2004. The congress was postponed because of the SARS epidemic in China last April.

Lloyd Palmer, president of World Potato Congress Inc., noted that the program of events surrounding the congress will be essentially the same as earlier planned except that the golf classic is planned to be held on March 25th instead of at the end of the congress.

Registration will be held on March 24th and 25th, and the opening reception will be held on the evening of the 25th. The congress sessions as well as the trade and technology show will be held March 26-28. The potato variety exhibit will be held March 29th and the closing reception, dinner and entertainment will be held on the evening of the 29th. The farm and agricultural industry tours will be held on March 30th.

For more information visit [www.potatocongress.org](http://www.potatocongress.org). E-mail the congress office in Charlottetown, Canada at [info@potatocongress.org](mailto:info@potatocongress.org).

## EU Takes Hormone-Risk Data to WTO

The European Union stands firm on its ban importing hormone-treated beef from North America. It said it would take its new proof about potential health risks to the World Trade Organization to get the United States and Canada to lift trade sanctions.

EU Health Commissioner, David Byrne, said the EU has delivered a "thorough risk assessment based on current scientific knowledge" to support its ban, thus bringing the EU into compliance with the WTO rules.

The WTO ruled in 1998 that the EU's ban was illegal because of a lack of solid scientific evidence. In retaliation, the United States and Canada impose about \$125 million worth of duties each year on European products such as French Roquefort cheese and other delicacies.

In an effort to resolve the issue, the EU began compiling data in 2001 to back up its ban. New legislation was adopted last July that bans one growth-promoting hormone and temporarily bars five others while studies continue. To comply with the WTO ruling, the EU promises regular scientific research.

## Teton Seed Marketing Assoc.

Teton Seed Marketing Association was formed in 1996 by Teton Basin Potato Seed Growers. The office was established in 1997 in Teton, the center of Teton Basin. Fred Dormaier has been the marketing director since 2001.

The association, also known as TSMA, currently has six grower members who plant over 4,400 acres of seed potatoes. Members are Bruce Arnold Farm, Dennie Arnold Farms, Penfold Farms, Ehco Ranch, Bott Land and Teton Rainbow Ranch. The largest variety is Russet Burbank but many other varieties are grown.

You can reach the association by calling the office at 208-456-0904 or emailing them at [tetonseed@pdt.net](mailto:tetonseed@pdt.net). The address is: Teton Seed Marketing Association, PO Box 155, Teton, ID 83452

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Penfold Farms Inc., Teton Rainbow Ranch.*

# Oregon Potato Conference

## Jan. 29 – 30, 2004

The 37th Annual Oregon Potato Conference will be held in Gleneden Beach, Oregon January 29 – 30, 2004. Lodging accommodations can be made with the Salishan Lodge at Gleneden Beach by calling 800-452-2300 and asking for the Oregon Potato Commission rate. Reservations must be made by January 14, 2004 to receive the special group rate. Any reservations made after that

time will be on a space available basis. Conference registration before January 2, 2004, is \$100.00. This includes speaker sessions, meal functions, and Casino. After January 2, 2004, late or on-site registration will cost \$125.00. Any reservations made after that time will be on a space available basis. For a registration form, phone 503-731-3300 or Fax: 503-239-4763.

### Conference Schedule

#### Thursday, January 29

1:00 p.m. • College of Agricultural Sciences: Present Status and Future Opportunities Thayne Dutson, Dean, College of Agriculture, Oregon State University

1:30 p.m. • Worldwide Potato Market Development - John Toaspern, V.P., International Marketing, US Potato Board

2:00 p.m. • Industry Improvement Program A National Potato Standardization Project DeeAnn Amstad, Amstad Farms

2:30 p.m. • Break

3:00 p.m. • Controlling Rhizoc on Stems, Stolons and Tubers – Phil Hamm, Hermiston Agricultural Research & Extension Center, Hermiston

3:30 p.m. • Optimizing the Use of Vydate for Nematode Suppression in Potatoes – Russ Ingham, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, OSU, Corvallis

4:00 p.m. • Agriculture in Oregon, Nationally and Internationally – Katy Coba, Director of Oregon Department of Agriculture.

#### Friday, January 30

8:00 a.m. • People Love Potatoes...Really! Frank van Schaayk, President & CEO, McCain Foods, USA – Potato Division

8:30 a.m. • World Food Supply – Gary Reed, Hermiston Agricultural Research & Extension Center, Hermiston

9:00 a.m. • Growing & Storing Chipping Potatoes in the Klamath Basin and Other Short Season Areas – Ron Voss, Department of Vegetable Crops, University of CA-Davis

10:00 a.m. • PVY-Infected Standard and Strain 3R. Norkotah Seed Lots –Ken Rykboost, Klamath Experiment Station, Klamath Falls

10:30 a.m. • Non-Pathogenic Factors Affecting Seed Performance – Al Mosley, Dept. of Crop and Soil Science, Oregon State University, Corvallis

11:00 a.m. • Are Organic Potatoes In Your Future – To Be Determined

11:30 a.m. • Breeding For Disease and Nematode Resistance – Charles Brown, ARS/USDA, Prosser and Rich Novy, ARS/USDA, Aberdeen

# The Great American Hamburger

Americans eat about 14 billion hamburgers a year.

The hamburger fulfills all the necessary requirements for a meal; it's tasty, economical, convenient and nutritious.

The hamburger continues to be perceived as a high fat junk food. But lean ground beef actually provides 10 essential nutrients including protein, B vitamins, iron, and zinc while contributing 7.6 grams of fat and 139 calories. Whereas the same patty made with regular ground beef has 10.6 grams of fat and still all the essential nutrients.

The secret to keeping the hamburger lean is to avoid the high fat toppings such as cheese, bacon, mayonnaise or other sauces. Instead, opt for ketchup, mustard, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, peppers and relishes.

The most important ingredient in a burger is the patty, which can range from ground turkey, chicken, pork, soybeans or other vegetables.

To begin cooking, heat a nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot (about 5 minutes). Do not add oil. The fat drippings from the meat will provide enough. Place the patties into the hot skillet. Cook each patty until centers are no longer pink and juices run clear. Hamburgers should be cooked to at least 160 degrees Fahrenheit. Turn once halfway through cooking. Never smash patties while cooking. This pushes the moisture from the burger and results in a dry patty.

Remove patties to a large, clean plate lined with three layers of white, non-recycled paper towels. Let stand for a minute. Turn patties over after 30 seconds and blot. Serve on the bun of your choice.

Breads are at the base of the USDA Food Guide Pyramid. In fact, whole grain buns provide the most nutrients. It is best to eat six to eleven servings daily from this food group. Count an average hamburger bun as two servings.

# Starr Trak

As you know, center pivot and linear irrigation systems can and do cause severe rutting under certain soil conditions. There have been several attempts at solving the rutting problems. All of these have been successful to varying degrees but none have acceptably solved the problem and most have created additional challenges.

A suitable answer has long been needed, but not forthcoming until now. We have built and demonstrated STARR TRAK successfully on our farm for an extended period of time. It is currently being manufactured, patent protected, and for sale.

STARR TRAK was designed and built as a logical answer to irrigation rutting problems. The system is simple, affordable, and most effective. Flotation is tremendously increased, therefore, the machine rolls more freely. Track depth in our soils with the STARR TRAK system is 2" to 3" compared to 12" to 24" using a high-float tire without STARR TRAK.

With the heavy belting over dual tires, puncture and/or sunlight damage is minimized allowing for much longer tire life. The tires virtually never touch the ground again. The horizontal traction device on the belt allows for water movement to the outer edges of the track rather than centralizing it as do all existing tires. This curtails soil erosion on uneven terrain which also reduces rutting. Vegetation will even grow under the wheel track.

Our system of dual tires allows for uneven air pressure between inside and outside tires which, in turn, allows them to run on the factory designed angle without adding undue torque and stress to axles or the horizontal support tube. This effect cannot be achieved with any kind of solid metal, bolt on, wheel. Air and rubber are natural cushions.

Imagine no stuck machine shut down calls at midnight, no missed water timing, no digging or pulling machines out, no more rock/straw/posts or whatever your practice is to fill ruts. Then imagine, smooth field preparation and harvest operations under your pivot or linear system without damage to equipment.

The market is in need of such a device and we are ready to help solve your problems whether you are an exasperated irrigation manager or in irrigation sales. Previously, difficult soil types have prevented automated irrigation systems from being installed in certain areas. We believe with STARR TRAK it is now possible. STARR TRAK units may be sold as a package for new machines or retrofit on machines already in service. They may be used on the entire system or simply on problem towers.

STARR TRAK is a win-win for everyone. It is beneficial to the land, the system, the irrigation dealer, manufacturer, and operator. The cost to benefit ratio is very positive. We urge you to contact us immediately at (541) 534-6185.



## USDA Announces Initiative To Donate Dry Milk

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced recently that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will donate non-fat milk to non profit, faith-based and community organizations for use in meal services or for distribution to needy recipients. "Partnering with faith-based and community organizations to provide a healthy food staple builds on President Bush's Faith-Based and Community Initiative", said Veneman. "This program will contribute to our efforts to meet nutritional requirements of those in need."

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## Nearly Everything U.S. Eats Will Soon Be Registered

Virtually every food product in the United States will soon have to be registered along with its supplier as part of the fight against terrorism.

Figuring that the best way to protect the nation's food supply is to keep better tabs on it, the government is requiring some 400,000 facilities in the United States to register themselves and their products with the Food and Drug Administration.

In addition, anyone importing food from abroad will have to give regulators advance notice before its arrival: two hours for food shipments coming across the border by truck, four hours if aboard planes or trains, and eight hours if by ship.

"We are providing critical new tools for

the FDA to identify potentially dangerous foods and to keep out food supply safe and secure," Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said.

FDA Commissioner Mark McClellan said the government will continue to work with food companies to assure that the requirements do not interrupt trade.

The Bush administration last May proposed making food companies notify regulators of shipments from outside the United States by noon on the day before its arrival. The industry complained that requirement for shipments as simple as daily truckloads of fresh vegetables from Canada and Mexico would interrupt trade.

Susan Stout, vice president for Grocery Manufacturers of America, said the FDA

appears to have addressed the industry's chief concerns.

The FDA and Bureau of Customs and Border Protection also have agreed to share information on food shipments so companies will not have to duplicate their reporting.

Government officials said the registration requirements will enable them to respond more quickly to emergencies, especially if terrorists were to tamper with food in a way that would spread infectious bacteria.

Registering food suppliers and their products is expected to cost the industry \$336 million the first year, the government said. Farms generally are not covered by the rules. Those that make and sell goods such as jelly and cheese will have to register.

## Proper Handling of Game Meat is Important From Field to Table

As hunters take to the field, it's important to follow safety precautions to ward off foodborne illness.

Proper handling of game meat from the field to the table is important to avoid contaminating meat with foodborne pathogens during dressing, handling or transporting.

Temperature plays an important role in keeping game meat safe and preventing foodborne illness. When bacteria have favorable temperatures, they grow to numbers where some can cause illness.

As with any perishable meat or poultry, raw or undercooked game meat can contain harmful bacteria such as *Salmonella* or *E. coli* O157:H7. These bacteria live in the intestinal tracts of game, livestock, poultry and other domestic warm-blooded animals, and cause illness in humans when eaten.

Bacteria grow most rapidly in the temperature zone, which is between 40 and 140 degrees.

This is why foods such as meat and poultry gradually spoil in the refrigerator. Properly handled game meat or birds will always be safe stored in a freezer at zero degrees. However, once thawed, bacteria

can again reach levels that may lead to foodborne illness.

When cooking game meat and birds, be sure meat reaches safe internal temperatures of 160-212 degrees in order to destroy bacteria. Set the oven temperature no lower than 325 degrees and cook ground meats to internal temperatures of 165 degrees. Steaks and roasts cooked to an internal temperature of 145 are medium rare, 160 are medium and 170 are well done. A whole game bird should reach 180 degrees.

If raw game meat and birds have been processed and handled safely, they should be safe to eat.

However, if the raw meat was mishandled, bacteria may grow and produce toxins that can cause foodborne illness. Cooking does not destroy those toxins.

Contamination of game usually is related to the manner in which the animal or bird was wounded, dressed, handled or processed.

For more information on proper field dressing, handling and processing, consult a local NU Cooperative Extension office or these Penn State University publications: *Proper Field Dressing and Handling of Wild Game and Fish*,

available online at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/uk071.html>, and *Proper Processing of Wild Game and Fish*, available online at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/uk072.html>.

### *Veterinary Pet Insurance Incentive*

As employees are taking on heavier workloads and working longer days, more companies are seeking innovative ways to provide incentives and keep employee retention rates high. One voluntary employee benefit that continues to grow in popularity is health insurance for pets. The Weather Channel recently started offering Veterinary Pet Insurance (VPI) plans to its employees, joining the ranks of hundreds of other companies including GMAC, Navy Federal Credit Union and Chipotle Mexican Grill to offer this benefit. For more information about VPI policies, call 800-USA-PETS (800-872-7387) or visit [www.petinsurance.com](http://www.petinsurance.com)

## Ranchers And Wildlife Workers Swap Jobs

The new "Walk A Mile In My Boots" exchange program between U.S. cattle ranchers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) employees hit the ground running. Officially launched this past summer, exchanges have already taken place in Idaho, Montana, Texas and Wyoming. The National Cattlemen's (NCBA) and the FWS worked together to create the program, providing and unprecedented opportunity for cattle ranchers and FWS employees to learn about each other's lifestyles.

"All of the recent exchanges have been

such rewarding experiences for everyone," says Stephanie Tinsley, NCBA associate director of environmental issues. "We really have received great feedback from both FWS participants and ranchers. Many of our members have long been concerned their local FWS officials do not understand the priorities and challenges of cattle producers, and this sure changes that."

Future plans for exchange programs continue to fill the books. For more information, visit <http://walkamile.fws.gov/> or call 202-347-0228.

Montana ranchers Bob and Kathy Lee hosted Dan Brewer, a fisheries biologist from the Helena Ecological Services Field Office for three hard-working days at their Robert E. Lee Ranch Company near Judith Gap.

"We had a great time participating in the 'Walk A Mile In My Boots' program with Dan," says Bob Lee. "He definitely got hands-on experience out on the ranch, and was enthusiastic and willing to learn about what we do here. The first day was filled with sorting cow/calf pairs and moving cattle by semi-truck. Day two was spent indexing calves, sorting, and moving cow/calf pairs in preparation for marketing (shipping) day. On the third day, we hosted 120 participants at the ranch for a Montana Ag Tour".

Brewer has invited Lee to visit the FWS in a parallel exchange program. Lee says he will take him up on the offer this winter. "We feel we have established a long term relationship with FWS and Dan," says Lee.

## Visser Farms Maintains High Standards

Visser Farms had its humble beginning in the early 1960's by growing table potatoes. They were sold at local farmer's markets and door to door. In the early 1980's, Visser Farms began growing seed potatoes for the United States. They have since expanded their market to include Mexico and Thailand. Paul Visser, a third generation potato grower, with his wife Tricia purchased Visser Farms in 1999.

Clean seed begins from laboratory pure minitubers. To ensure a quality product, Visser Farms grows its own minitubers on site in greenhouses. On 650 acres, Visser Farms currently grows twelve varieties of quality certified seed potatoes. These include: Red Norland, Russet Burbank., Russet Norkotah, Nordonna, Atlantic, Banana, Ida Rose, Cal Red, Russian Blue, Yukon Gold and Bintje. The majority of the potatoes are sold at the Elite III stage.

Visser Farms prides itself on maintaining the highest standards in production, storage and field practices. They are able to store 7,000 tons of potatoes under optimum conditions. Their state of the art storage facility controls temperature, ventilation and humidity that enable them to lessen shrinkage on their crops. The entire facility is lined with cedar that also helps absorb excess moisture. The higher generation potatoes are all stored in individual wooden boxes.

These storage boxes allow for maximum airflow and ensure varieties will not be mixed. Loading the potatoes indoors in their large loading area which allows them flexibility during the shipping months, eliminates weather stress.

Visser Farms is located along the North Saskatchewan River in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. This location is optimum for seed potato production. The area is made up of number one soil, and the North Saskatchewan River allows for irrigation. This area is also known for its "Northern Vigor" long summer days and very cold winters resulting in more productive, disease free potatoes.

Paul Visser is always searching for the latest developments in field management and potato fertility. Paul has traveled and worked on potato farms around the world learning and incorporating new and innovative ideas. Soil samples are done every fall and decisions are made concerning what levels of fertilizer will produce the best quality and

vigorous crop. Herbicides, pesticides and fungicides are also incorporated into the growing program to ensure best results. Visser Farms eliminates any possibility of bruising by using specially designed equipment which reduces stress and damage that can occur from handling.

Visser Farms continues to provide quality products and service for their customers.

For more information contact Paul Visser, RR #6, Box 171A, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5B 4K3, phone 1-780-472-6127; fax 1-780 472-6032; e-mail, [info@visserfarms.com](mailto:info@visserfarms.com).

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# calendar of events

## Upcoming Calendar of Potato Events

### Jan. 6-10, 2004

National Potato Council Annual Meeting, Moon Palace Resort, Cancun, Mexico.  
Contact John Keeling at 202-682-9456 or johnkeeling52@aol.com or visit  
www.npc-spud.com

### Jan. 11-13, 2004

Potato Marketing Association of North America Winter Meeting, Gran Melia Beach & Spa Resort, Cancun, Mexico.  
Hosted by Potatoes New Brunswick. Contact: Kyla at 506-276-1820.

### Jan. 21-22, 2004

The 36th Annual Idaho State University Potato Conference, Student Union Building, Pocatello, ID. Contact Jim Hughes at 208-529-8376 or jhughes@uidaho.edu or visit extension.ag.uidaho.edu/district4/potato.html.

### Jan. 21-22, 2004

Eastern Idaho Ag Expo, Holt Arena, Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID. Contact David Beale at 800-635-2274.

### Jan. 29-30, 2004

37th Annual Oregon Potato Conference, Gleneden Beach, OR., Willamette Valley Potato Growers Association.  
Contact Oregon Potato Commission at 503-731-3300.

### Feb 3-5, 2004

Washington State Potato Conference and Trade Show, Big Bend Community College and the Grant County Fairgrounds. Phone: 509-765-8845.

### Feb. 4-5, 2004

Potato Conference & Trade Show, 2004  
Knights of Columbus Hall, Perth-Andover, New Brunswick. Contact: Kyla Stewart at 506-276-1820 or  
Fax: 506-276-1828. E-mail: ctpotato@potatoesnb.com.

### Feb. 9-12, 2004

International Root & Tuber Symposium, International Society for Horticultural Science, New Zealand. For more information, contact Dr. Mike Nichols at m.nichols@massey.ac.nz.

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# History of the Potato

The potato crop belongs to a number of American crops like maize and bean that have been introduced to Europe and other continents in the last 5 centuries.

There are more than 160 wild potato species, and most of them contain high levels of alkaloids. The first edible potatoes are considered to have been cultivated 4000 years ago in Peru. The South American Indians were in fact able to select alkaloid-free potato varieties, the results of which is still seen today.

The first cultivated potato species were diploid (some of them are still cultivated in South America). The development of the modern varieties was related to the spontaneous occurrence of tetraploid species that were superior in yield. Almost all current varieties are autotetraploid.

The introduction of potatoes to Europe happened at two independent instances: around 1570 in Spain, and around 1590 in England. However, the large-scale cultivation of the crop began only in the beginning of the 19th century. Initially, the crop was used as a medicinal plant and grown by pharmacists, in Spain in particular. It was later introduced to other parts of Europe by merchants and

kings, who encouraged the cultivation of this efficient plant to increase local agricultural production. The successful introduction of this new crop did not only require changes in the dietary habits of the people, but also a biological adaptation of the crop to a new climate. In fact, the potato plant being originally adapted to short day conditions of the tropical highlands, it would yield very little under the long summer days in Europe. Breeding over more than 150 years led to plants tolerating long day conditions. The modern breeding of potatoes began approximately in 1780, where crossings were performed between local varieties. At the beginning of the 19th century, the introduction of new potato germplasm, especially from Chile, contributed highly to the breeding of modern varieties. Towards the end of the last century, there was already a large array of breeding varieties available to the breeders. However, because of the need for new resistance genes against pests and diseases, the 20th century brought about the use of a



large population of wild- and cultivated potato species from South America for backcrossings into European varieties. The potatoes of today in Europe are largely the result of the intensive breeding programs of the 19th century, but have benefitted greatly from the improvements in breeding techniques of the 20th century to improve traits like disease resistance, tolerance to environmental factors, etc.

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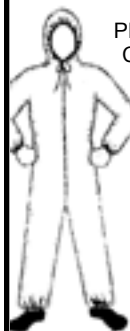
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## Angus Group Creates Selection Tools With Dollars In Mind

**B**eef producers today have access to a powerful list of genetic selection tools, primarily in the form of Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs). However, the wealth of information can become overwhelming when it's time to rank various herd sizes for numerous performance measures. Fortunately, the dynamics of multi-trait selection indexes as tools for commercial cow-calf operators and seedstock breeders are rapidly evolving for the beef industry. These tools, when used as part of a complete breeding system encompassing all production arenas, can combine a set of EPDs into targeted economic values.

As an answer to this call for dynamic performance indicators, the American Angus Association Board of Directors recently approved the release of new tools for commercial producers to add simplicity to genetic selection decisions. The American Angus Association Spring 2004 Sire Evaluation Report will include the release to Total Beef Value (\$B), the first in a suite of bio-economic values, expressed in dollars per head, to assist commercial beef producers. The \$B values will be in the printed version of the Sire Evaluation Report and may be viewed and sorted by accessing the Sire Evaluation Search page at [www.angus-siresearch.com](http://www.angus-siresearch.com). Further enhancements to this technology will include an interactive website, where users can define postweaning and carcass parameters to create tailored \$Values for their given scenario.

"Although carcass merit is an important component of the beef production chain, the Total Beef Value is not to be used as a single

selection criterion, since it only combines postweaning and carcass industry segments," says Sally Dolezal, genetic research director for the Association. "The complete system of bioeconomic values, or net merit system, will in the future also include comprehensive reproduction and weaned calf values."

\$B encompasses the dollar per head progeny difference in combined postweaning and carcass merit. The \$B value has two pieces: Feedlot Value (\$G). The values are calculated for animals with growth trait EPDs and end-product predictions (carcass EPDs, ultrasound EPDs, or both). The Feedlot Value (\$F) assigns a \$ per head difference in expected progeny performance to postweaning genetic merit. The Grid Value (\$G) combines quality grade and yield grade attributes, and is calculated for animals with carcass EPDs, ultrasound EPDs, or both types of EPDs. \$B facilitates what almost every beef breeder is already seeking simultaneous multi-trait genetic improvement for feedlot and carcass merit, based on dollars and cents.

Real-world economics of this \$Value concept are a powerful addition to the already sizeable list of 17 EPDs currently available through the American Angus Association. The \$Values were derived using available EPDs converted into economic terms using industry relevant components for feedlot performance (i.e. days on feed, ration cost, cash price, etc.) and carcass merit (i.e. choice-select spread, heavyweight and YG 4 & 5 discounts, etc.). These new tools provide commercial producers, along with seedstock breeders, an avenue to simplify the use of EPDs, evaluating feedlot and carcass separately or simultaneously.

Details on the \$B will be available online at [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org) during the release of the American Angus Association Spring 2004 Sire Evaluation Report. Questions can be directed to the American Angus Association Performance Programs Department at [ahir@angus.org](mailto:ahir@angus.org) or 816-383-5100.

The American Angus Association, with headquarters in St. Joseph, Missouri, is the world's largest beef breed organization, providing programs and services to thousands of commercial producers and more than 34,000 members nationwide.

## New Zealand Lamb Numbers Decline

**A**ccording to Meat New Zealand, lamb numbers fell six percent over the past year to 31.15 million head, down from 33.09 million. Declining ewe numbers, lower consumption rates and poor breeding conditions have been blamed for the decrease. Given the decline in breeding ewes over the past few years, a fall in lamb numbers was expected in 2002/2003. However, drought, conditions earlier in the year, followed by cooler conditions, resulted in lamb numbers falling further than expected. Mark Jefferies, chief executive of Meat New Zealand stated, "With the colder conditions experienced this year, we would expect the lambing season to be extended. This will mean tighter supplies to our overseas markets prior to Christmas."

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# Profitability Will Be Focus Of Convention

Cattle industry attention, leadership and expertise will meet in Arizona at the Phoenix Civic Plaza this January when the cattle industry holds its 2004 Convention & Trade Show. The event will run from January 28 to January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Pocketbook issues will be examined in an effort to enhance producers' profitability as part of the many educational and informational offerings at the event. The Cattlemen's College, a trade show, entertainment and networking await the more than 5,500 cattle industry participants expected in Phoenix.

The annual convention and trade show

will again be hosted by the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion & Research Board, NCBA, the American CattleWomen, Inc., National Cattlemen's Foundation and Cattle-Fax.

The convention will begin January 28<sup>th</sup> with Cattlemen's College, a series of education sessions sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health. The sessions seek to keep cattlemen and women up-to-date on may changes going on within the industry.

Included are sessions about selling on a grid system, how to detect and control BVD among your herd, process verification, how to boost profitability and other subjects.

The Cattle-Fax Outlook Seminar, which

will look at trends, strategies and management opportunities for 2004 and beyond, is free with your paid registration to Cattlemen's College. Cowboy poet and humorist Baxter Black will entertain folks at the Cattlemen's College Luncheon, also free to those registered for Cattlemen's College.

The Opening General Session, sponsored by Fort Dodge Animal Health, features speaker Gene Kranz, leader of the team of flight directors who brought the Apollo 13 spaceship safely back to Earth in 1970. For information, call Conventions, 303-694-0305.

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the country. This "Tillage Master" has spread from Washington to Eastern U.S. and has even gone into Canada and other parts of the world. Farmers everywhere have had a significant increase by using the "Tillage Master" with the practice of Incremental/Fall Bedding. Farmers are seeing increased potato yields of 50-100 sacks and 20-50 extra bushels of corn per acre.

The "Tillage Master" further magnifies Fall bedding in many ways. Compaction, moisture absorption, soil warming and earlier field entry are just some of the ways the "Tillage Master" helps improve your field.

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swing of the curve, growers need to reduce input cost. The Tillage Master" can do all your tillage, bedding, cultivation and diking as well as increase your efficiency of timely operations.

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## Group: EPA Didn't Thoroughly Study Atrazine, Cancer Link

**A**ctivists want a judge to force the Environmental Protection Agency to thoroughly study the health effects of atrazine, a common weed killer.

The Natural Resources Defense Council, a Washington based environmental group, filed a motion with U.S. District Court in San Francisco arguing that the agency failed to comply with a court order requiring it to look at the link between atrazine and cancer. The order was issued two years ago.

"Europe has decided to get rid of this stuff and here in the U.S., the EPA is refusing to take a new look at all the data that show atrazine is linked to several types of cancer," said Erik Olson, an attorney for NRDC. EPA officials said they will review the complaint.

The EPA was required to file a review of all the health effects by Oct. 31, but the agency said it would focus on the link between the chemical and prostate cancer. The EPA said in July that studies so far are not showing a connection.

Atrazine may also be linked to another form of cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The weed killer is commonly used in North America. Farmers spray it on fields of corn, soybeans and sugarcane to fend off weeds. Road crews and golf course managers also use it. Studies have found it in rainwater, snow runoff and drinking water sources.

The European Union has said it may ban atrazine because of the health concerns. Denmark, Germany, Norway and Sweden already prohibit it.

## MALIBU WATER RESOURCES • *Farm Pond Care In Simple Terms*

By Dr. Mervin Brown

**P**ond aeration improves water quality by maintaining good dissolved oxygen levels in the water especially where oxygen is really needed... at the bottom. Pond and lake bed aeration adds oxygen to all of the water, including the bottom. This is very important because once the lake or pond has oxygen near the bottom, new insect larvae, snails, and other fish food can begin to live there.

Bottom aeration is simply using an air compressing windmill or an electric aerator to pump through an air line attached to an aeration stone which is then placed on the bottom of the pond. The rising air bubbles from the aeration stone release oxygen in the water and brings oxygen-poor bottom water to the surface where it is exposed to the atmosphere. Thus, large volumes of water brought to the surface by the rising air bubbles lose poisonous gasses to the atmosphere and pick up more oxygen while on the surface. Aeration speeds up the process of oxidizing or burning up the pollution in the water. The result is fresh, sparkling clear, sweet-smelling water which supports abundant fish life, free from excessive algae and weeds.

**REDUCE ALGAE** - Aeration reduces algae growth by removing its food (nutrients) – Nitrogen, ammonia, and soluble phosphates are driven into the surface air and out of the pond. Iron and manganese are oxidized and drop out of solution to the bottom of the pond. Once oxidation of these metals begin, they

don't go back into solution. Aeration increases aerobic bacteria which eat the other nutrients on which algae and weeds need to grow. The aerobic bacteria eat these nutrients before the weeds and the algae can... forcing it to starve and die.

Aerobic bacteria are the good guys: They breathe oxygen and exhale CO<sub>2</sub> like us. They have a TREMENDOUS appetite...eating anything organic... very quickly. The aerobic bacteria begin to eat the organic sediment at the bottom of the pond... and will continue to eat it as long as they are given oxygen.

Aeration also works for de-icing a winter pond. Moving water won't freeze so there remains a 20' diameter of ice free water above the air stone. The more aeration in the winter, the less algae in the summer.

For windmills, we recommend a 12 foot tower. Tower leg extensions of four foot are available making a 16 foot and 20 foot tower if needed.

**Aeration Stone:** We recommend that you put some gravel in the bottom of a five gallon bucket, and place the aeration stone on top of the gravel. Attach a cord **and float** securely to the bucket and lower the aeration stone and the bucket into the water. Use the cord/float for retrieval and repositioning if needed.

**AERATION** in well water storage tanks removes iron, manganese, zinc and other metals through oxidation and precipitation. Metals are oxidized and drop out of suspension because they become heavier. **AERATION** removes sulfur and other poisonous gases (methane, ammonia, nitrogen) by phase distribution. SO<sub>2</sub> and other gasses are more soluble in air than water so are transferred to the rising air bubbles and then to the atmosphere via a tank vent. **AERATION:** removes hydrogen sulfide and anaerobic bacteria which produces methane. **AERATION:** leaves all beneficial minerals intact – removes only metals, phosphates and gasses.

For more information, contact Malibu Water Resources, 800-490-9170; Fax: 310-457-4298; www.MalibuWater.com

Recommended Pond Books:

Earth Ponds by Tim Matson: 802-333-9019

Ohio Pond Guide: 614-265-6300



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## LGW Ranch hosts Australian Angus Breeders on Oregon Tour Stop

A tour group of six Angus breeders from Victoria and New South Wales, Australia stopped at Lon and Sheri Wadekamper's LGW Ranch in Hermiston, Oregon on September 19, 2003. The Australians arrived in San Francisco two days earlier, beginning a three week auto tour of U.S. Angus operations that wound its way through N. California, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North & South Dakota, Nebraska and Colorado.

LGW Ranch had just weaned the 2003 calf crop; allowing their visitors close inspection of 125 head of select bull calves that will sell March 4, 2004 in their 5th annual "Powerful Performance" auction

in Hermiston. The Australians took advantage of the opportunity to inspect the dams of these bulls as they grazed close to the weaning pens and critique the mating results. Most impressive to the visitors were the 37 sons of BCC Bushwacker 41-93 that they graded "80 percent top-end", one of the best ratings the Australians gave any operation on their tour. Mark Gubbins of Coolana Angus, Victoria, Australia said, "Sons of New Design 036 looked quite good", and Lot #34, a son of Rito 616 was a "top bull".

Daughters of SA Neutron 377 were judged "standouts" in the replacement heifers pen. The Wadekamper's enjoyed the opportunity to discuss the advantag-

es and short comings that the Australians had experienced with some of America's best known A.I. sires. The visitors complimented the Wadekamper's on the quality of the Angus herd that LGW Ranch had amassed in seven years building their registered herd.

The Australians left the States on October 11th and returned home to what is their Spring time. Mr. Gubbins said, "When we left, pastures were a bit droughty", but he was pleased with a good greenup he found on his return. The tour participants have begun their A.I. breeding season utilizing the information they gleaned from their U.S. tour.

### Beef Exports Are Up This Year

The U.S. continues to be a net exporter of beef and veal products (on a tonnage basis). U.S. beef and veal export tonnage is three percent larger than 2002 levels. U.S. beef exports continue to substitute for Canadian products banned from world markets.

Of the major trading partners, only exports to Korea and Mexico showed significant year-to-year increases, up nineteen and three percent from a year ago.

Imports of beef and veal have been down from last year due to tight restrictions on Canadian beef. The U.S. imported more beef from New Zealand (up 33 percent)

and Mexico (25 percent).

On a tonnage basis, the U.S. was a net exporter of beef in June, July, and August. That trend could continue, but given the recent rise in wholesale beef prices, U.S. beef sales more than likely declined this past fall, leading to the U.S. being a net importer of beef during the remainder of 2003.

### New Cheeseburger Fries Introduced

Cheeseburger Fries are the new snack food item, developed using beef checkoff funds to sweep America. The product represents an untapped opportunity to provide beef lovers with another way to enjoy beef. Capitalizing on the huge cheeseburger market, and consumer demand for more portable food options, the industry has produced Cheeseburger Fries, a tasty combination of ground beef and cheese in a French-fry-shape with a crispy coating. It has been described as a cross between a chicken nugget and a cheese stick, capable of being served with a variety of menu applications in a variety of flavors and shapes.

### Beef Nutrition In Schools

During the 2002-2003 school year, 1.6 million U.S. students learned about beef nutrition, food safety, and environmental stewardship thanks to the widespread distribution of teachers' resource materials by Beef Checkoff Program. School materials were distributed to teachers, reaching the 1.6 million students. Promoted through the checkoff "Teach-free" website ([www.teachfree.com](http://www.teachfree.com)) and state beef councils, the kits are made available to teachers of students from kindergarten through high school. Many of the education kits are free of charge to working teachers and include everything needed to integrate beef education into a lesson plan.

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## NATURAL EXTRACTS FOUND TO PROVIDE ANTIOXIDANT QUALITIES TO BEEF

Two dietary supplements have been found to provide the same antioxidant qualities in meat as they would if taken directly into the human body.

"We know that antioxidants work in the body, but no one has looked at how they work in foods," said Ingolf Gruen, associate professor of food science at the University of Missouri. "Sure enough, they did a wonderful job." Researchers studied the grape seed extract ActiVin and pine bark extract Pycnogenol. Their performance was compared to that of rosemary and synthetic antioxidants BHA and BHT, which are placed in meats by commercial processors to prevent oxidation.

Mixing these natural extracts in powdered form with hamburger prevented oxidation during and after cooking when the meat was stored, he said. Oxidation

is what gives cooked meat so called "off flavors" when frozen or refrigerated.

Antioxidants are a classification of several organic substances thought to be effective in helping prevent cancer, heart disease and strokes.

They are said to deactivate certain particles called free radicals. When found in excess in the human body, free radicals can produce harmful oxidation that can damage cell membranes and cell contents.

The two extracts were also shown to have some abilities to combat bacterial growth such as E. coli and salmonella in meat, said Juhee Ahn, post-doctoral student in food science.

While the reduction of microorganisms was relatively small compared to that of strong antibacterial chemicals, the natural extracts did show a measurable antibacterial effect on the meat, he said.

## Wallowa Co. Hay Growers Form

The Wallowa County Hay Growers Association formed in March, 2003. The organization includes many members that will be producing different premium hay varieties such as orchard grass, timothy, alfalfa, alfalfa grass mixtures, as well as almost all bale sizes to choose from.

Wallowa County (Oregon) sits at an elevation of over 4,000 feet. This high altitude environment has a short growing season which seems to produce a very soft, palatable, and nutrient-rich hay, no matter the variety.

The area also has a large grower base that understands the process needed to go through to prepare and store hay for precise markets. Wallowa County also boasts the state's only certification program that guarantees hay to be weed-free from the NAWMA list. For more information, call Mark Butterfield, President, at 541-432-3735.

## MegaByte Computer Services & Cyber Cafe

Since its founding in 1994, MegaByte Computer Services has provided Douglas County with top quality computer hardware, repair services, and expert network integration. Our certified technicians give you the peace of mind in knowing that when a problem occurs, MegaByte will respond quickly and efficiently. Whether serving the needs of the private consumer, local business, or large corporation, we are constantly striving to provide the highest level of service possible. In 1999, MegaByte Computer Services separated from its home internet division to better concentrate on our core business; computer sales and services. We

also added Douglas County's only Cyber Cafe providing local residents, business travelers and tourists a high speed internet access as well as great espresso and smoothies. Since that time MegaByte Computer Services has seen its service area increase to include all of Southern Oregon. Our competent technicians may be found working in our area hospitals, manufacturing facilities, local businesses or in the home. Our motto says it all, "We come to you!" Christine Mackey states, "I've been an active member of this community for over thirty years and I've seen a lot of businesses come and go. As CEO, make sure that MegaByte

Computer Services not only provides a good product but great customer service. We never want to have a one size fits all mentality. When a customer comes to us with a need, we custom build a solution that answers that need." Megabyte Computer Services stays on the cutting edge of technology. Our technicians are required to possess Comptia A+ and Microsoft Certified Professional certifications. When you combine our knowledge with our philosophy of continued education and our goal to serve our customers well, you see why Megabyte Computer Services is the best choice for your computer needs.



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## Farmer, Rancher Pilot Loan Program Begins

The program, called the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Land Contract Guarantee Pilot Program, guarantees sellers that if a USDA-approved buyer misses payments, USDA will make them. The pilot program will be tested in Indiana, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Iowa during fiscal years 2003-2007. The 2002 Farm Bill created the pilot program. Every year, up to five land contracts in each of the six pilot states may be guaranteed.

The pilot program provides the seller of the land a 10-year "prompt payment" guarantee of the sale to the beginning farmer or rancher (buyer). In the event the buyer does not pay an annual installment due on the contract, or pays only part of an installment, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will provide the scheduled payment or the unpaid portion to the seller through an escrow agent. The defaulted amount then becomes a federal debt for which the buyer is liable. If the debt is not restructured into a repayment plan or otherwise satisfied, FSA will use other means to collect the debt from the buyer. The guarantee is limited to the total monetary amount of two installments. The guarantee will also cover the amount of two years' worth of unpaid taxes and insurance.

The following are some of the eligibility requirements prospective buyers must meet:

- (1) Be a beginning farmer or rancher, and the owner of a family farm after the contract is completed.
- (2) Have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least three years.
- (3) Have an acceptable credit history demonstrated by satisfactory debt repayment.
- (4) Be unable to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere without a guarantee to finance actual needs at reasonable rates and terms.

The purchase price of the farm or ranch, or its current market value as determined by FSA cannot exceed \$500,000. The interest rate charged to the buyer for the 10-year term of the guarantee cannot exceed FSA's direct farm ownership loan interest rate in effect at the time the guarantee is issued, plus three percentage points. Rates change monthly and can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) under Farm Loans, Direct Loans & Rates. Contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. During the term of the guarantee, balloon payments are prohibited, and payments of the contract must be of equal amounts.

FSA offers direct and guaranteed loans to producers to buy

farms, equipment, feed and other farming essentials. Special loan programs exist for beginning farmers and ranchers socially disadvantaged persons, and rural youth. Each year, FSA makes thousands of loans to farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain private, commercial credit. You can obtain more information about this and other FSA programs by visiting a local USDA Service Center or via the internet at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## NCBA's Tax Work Can Save You Money

Those of us who have not done our year end tax planning yet should start thinking about it. We should all probably do more year-end planning this year because the new tax law, in effect this year and known as the Jobs & Growth Tax Relief Act of 2003, allows farmers to write off additional amounts against income, thus substantially lowering the tax obligation. This is of particular benefit this year with cattle prices greatly improved.

Two areas of change that you could take advantage of immediately:

1. Before, you could expense the first \$25,000 as an expense for an item the year it was purchased. That has been raised to \$100,000. for the years 2003 through 2006.

2. The other new provision raised the first year depreciation deduction to 50 percent for this year.

These changes allow some of that extra profit to go toward upgrading your operation or paying off debt rather than paying it in taxes.



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**M**ade from 1/4" & 1/8" steel, the Miniature Hay Baler is powder coated for good looks and durability. The unit has a spring loaded control and it also has laminated hard Maple pusher blocks w/2 coats of polyurethane. The bale size is 8-1/2" x 4-1/2" x 3-5/8" and costs only three to four cents to make!

Make it a business in itself, or add it to your existing business. The miniature Hay Baler can pay for itself within two days! Dealer inquiries are invited. For more information, contact Clean and Green Corp. at 219-765-0500 or email: fox@netnico.net



## MINIATURE HAY BALER

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- The steel unit is powder coated
- Spring loaded tension control
- Bale size is 8 1/2" x 4 1/2" x 3 5/8"

**CAN PAY FOR  
ITSELF WITHIN  
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Dealer Inquiries Invited

**Make it a business in itself or add it to your existing business. Cost 3-4¢ to make a bale.**

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## Internet Changing the Way Agriculture Hires Employees

**T**hey say the success of an organization depends on the quality of its people. So what is the best way to attract, find and hire the finest employees? Finding specialized and experienced ag employees is a challenge because only 3 percent of the population actually comes from a farm. Often, finding the right candidate for the right job or vice versa is like looking for a needle in a haystack.

Kathryn Barkey, account manager of North America's leading agricultural employment website, AgCareers.com, suggests that many agribusinesses are now realizing the power of the Internet and that online employee searches are a great new way of finding a qualified workforce.

"Everything comes together in one spot - many companies with job opportunities and a great number of specialized employees; the result is better hiring. A wide range of businesses, DuPont, Cargill and independent farmers to name a few, have all successfully taken advantage of the employee search potential at AgCareers.com," she said.

Previously, the majority of agricultural jobs were advertised through word of mouth or in local newspapers. As a result, employers' friends and relatives often filled these positions internally. Failure to get the word out led to difficulties finding qualified employees as well as sustaining the jobseeker myth that interesting agricultural jobs are few and far between, thereby discouraging people from staying in the agriculture industry. While the agriculture industry was initially cautious to adopt the Internet, the continued success of companies like AgCareers.com proves that online job posting works. AgCareers.com, the first and largest ag employment site, has posted thousands of jobs each month with in its 6 year history and hosts over 10,000 jobseeker resumes. Companies have posted "Help Wanted" ads for positions such as general managers, scientists, veterinarians, and specialists to entry level sales positions and farm workers.

Every day, thousands of job seekers search jobs and many also subscribe to the free weekly AgCareers.com e-newsletter. For a small fee, employers can log on to the website and post jobs. They can also arrange to target qualified applicants by searching the resume database.

"We like how fast the AgCareers.com site is," says Lori Lith-erland, a regular user who posts job openings. "It is particularly efficient with immediate access to good quality applicants."

Barkey has firsthand experience of the ability of the Internet to bring jobs and employees together. In fact, about a year ago, she logged on to www.farms.com/agcareers, posted her resume, and landed her current position with the company. "I love working with ag employers to find the best staff, and provide them staffing solutions. The Internet is a very powerful tool for employers."

Kimberly Sharman, human resource manager with Syngenta Crop Protection, a regular AgCareers.com user, sums it up best: "This is the way of the future; web based recruitment that casts a wide net for talent. It is an effective and cost efficient method to attract agricultural candidates."

AgCareers.com is a member company of the Farms.com Ltd. Farms.com Ltd. is a leading information and marketing company providing innovative solutions to the North American agriculture and food industry. The www.farms.com website is one of the leading Internet destinations for agriculture with more than 8,000 users per day.

## Can't Find Your Ag Teacher? This Directory Can Help

**A**s National FFA Advisor Dr. Larry Case stated, "The use of information is power". Agricultural educators now have a wealth of information at their fingertips available in the 2004 Agricultural Educators Directory.

The 2004 Agricultural Educators Directory was created by Agricultural Resources and Communications Inc. in Belvue, KS. More than 12,000 listings, including addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of agricultural educators are included in the directory from all of the 50 states.

The directory is available in three formats, including an actual printed book, a CD and an online version that can be found at [www.agresources.com](http://www.agresources.com) in the near future. "Having three different versions of the directory causes it to be unique from similar direc-

tories created in the past," Wilson stated. "Advisors now have the option of how they would like to access the information".

National FFA Advisors and agricultural educators may stop by the Agricultural Resources and Communications Inc. display booth in the FFA Career Show to receive a free CD version of the directory. Approximately 20 businesses and organizations sponsored the directory to allow agricultural educators to receive a copy of the directory free of charge.

Wilson believes that the directory should prove invaluable for agricultural educators across the nation. "Not only will current agricultural educators be able to use the directory for networking, sharing ideas and traveling, it will aid prospective agricultural educators with their search for agricultural educator positions".

## Rio Hondo Livestock & Farrier Supply

**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.

The Brooks' thorough knowledge and experience in cattle ranching has prompted them to offer consumers Hi-Hog, "The Outstanding Brand" in farm and ranch livestock handling equipment. Rio Hondo will be the only provider of Hi-Hog equipment in Idaho. An "onsite" equipment display offers consumers a "no obligation" demonstration with the opportunity to check out the high quality and ease of handling this exclusive equipment offers.

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.

## Rio Hondo Livestock & Farrier Supply

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# Nick's Custom Boots, Now That's Value!

## What Makes These Boots So Unique?

Since the days of Nick Blahuczyn (Bla-hushun) until today, Nick's Boots has focused on one thing, and one thing alone . . . to hand-build top quality boots using only premium leathers, and time-tested, century-old craftsmanship techniques passed on from generation to generation. As thousands of Nick's customers nationwide, as well as around the world, can attest, once you've tried a pair Nick's handmade, one hundred percent leather boots, you'll never go back to mass-produced footwear again.

### The Legendary Arch

Many customers ask about the design of Nick's Boots, especially the strong arch support and heavy heel. Nick's Custom Boots are designed to closely simulate the natural form of the foot and to distribute body weight evenly among the heel, arch and ball of the foot. In a majority of people this feature helps minimize foot and leg fatigue as well as lower back pain attributable to inadequate foot support. Most mass-produced footwear does not have a true arch, thus, the body weight resides on the heel causing tiredness and pain in the middle to lower back, all the way down the legs including the feet. Your boots must be more than just foot covers. They must be strong enough to support your whole body, especially during strenuous work. When it comes to functionality, comfort and great looks, Nick's Boots has you covered!

### How Were You Fit

While reading this information, think back to the last time you purchased footwear. Did the store clerk merely ask you for your size or did they accurately measure both feet; not just one? A foot professional will recommend a certain style, height or sole based on the needs dictated by your particular lifestyle and environment. Too often a sale is based solely on current fashion trends and the customer simply tries on a number of sizes and styles until a 'cozy' feel is achieved, regardless of proper fit.

For years, people have suffered needless pain and endless frustration trying to fit mass-produced footwear around their bunions. Custom fitting remedies this condition by building a measured 'pocket' for the bunion to reside, effectively eliminating blisters, pain and inflammation.

### Fitting? Do I Need a Custom Fit?

Approximately 90% of Nick's customers are easily fit into a 'stock size'. Each pair of Nick's Boots is built to specific orthopedic measurements based on the length and width of

the foot. The hand-placed orthopedic shaped arch provides enormous benefit to the wearer.

Some folks however require a custom fit. This may include simple adjustments to the arch or require different sizes for each foot. In the retail store (and boot factory), Nick's professional fitters will actually make a drawing of each foot and measure both the feet and legs to create a uniquely customized pattern for the boot makers to follow. Most hard to fit foot problems such as heel spurs, bunions, a thick instep or a low or high arch can be remedied with a professional custom fit.

Prescriptions provided by a doctor or orthopedist, can usually be built into a pair of Nick's Custom Boots. A consultation is recommended with a Nick's representative.

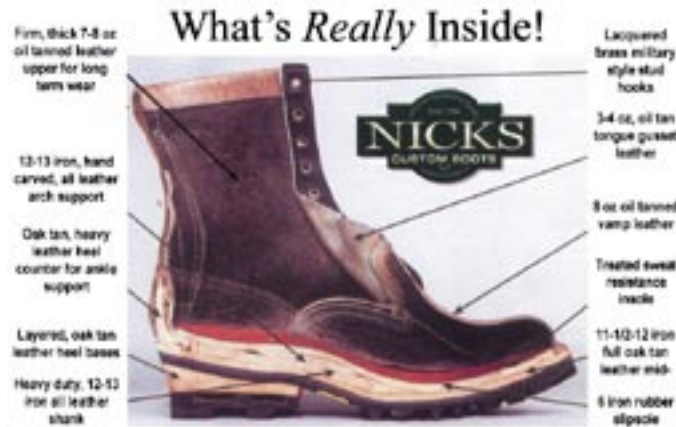
All measurements from stock sizes to custom fitting patterns are kept on file making future orders a breeze for adjustments that may need to be made.

### History

Nick Blahuczyn lived the American Dream when he established Nick's Custom Boots in Spokane, Washington in 1964. Nick was a Russian who escaped from Stalin's army during World War II. He immigrated to the United States after the war and made his way to Washington State where he mastered his skills as a boot craftsman from a famous North West bootmaker.

### Lifestyle Designs for Work and Play

Nick's offers a variety of work, casual and dress boots to meet most every lifestyle and occupation. Working in adverse conditions from farming to firefighting calls for heavy-duty oil tanned leathers available in various colors. The same comfort and fit







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made famous in Nick's sturdy work boots is also available in casual and dress styles from the lightweight softy buffalo or a finely trimmed two-tone, to the exotic stingray or shark. Transforming a day of hard work into a night of dining and dancing is as easy as changing your footwear. Because of its comfort and styling, Nick's dress boot is a popular choice in the business community. And, Nick's is proud to supply it's highly popular Wildland Firefighting Boots to those who fight to protect our forests and wildland areas.

#### Nick's Tips for Break-In and Care of Your Boots

A boot should fit snugly all the way around the foot like a firm handshake, because after break-in the boot will stretch about a quarter inch from side to side. A boot that starts out 'cozy' will end up too sloppy and require extra socks or aftermarket liners to snug up the fit after the break-in period. Break-in takes roughly 80-100 hours of wearing your boots for your feet to adjust to the transition.

During this period, keep the exterior of the boot wet by spraying with a 50/50 mixture of rubbing alcohol and water. When the boots get overly tight or stiff wet them down and friction-rub with your hands as if polishing them. The alcohol allows the water to penetrate and soften the leather.

Does it work to fill the boot with water to speed up the break-in? Sure, but it's detrimental to the long-term health of the boot. The nails in the bottom of the boot begin to rust and will ultimately weaken the structure of the boot.

Keep the boot snugly laced. Its important that the boot be laced tightly over the instep and around the ankle, which allows the leather behind the anklebones to seat properly. Snug is good, snugger is better.

To prevent the infamous 'bite' on top of your instep, lace your boots in the 2-1-3 method as shown in the photo.

Get through the 80-100 hours with the alcohol and water break-in technique and then grease your boots. Avoid greasing the area around the brass hooks and eyes where softening the leather may cause them to pull out. Nick's HD products are recommended because they have no damaging ingredients in them. The pine tars, petroleum, silicones and animal fat in other products clog the pores of the leather which must breathe to allow the acid and salts in sweat to dissipate.

Nick's HD Leather Preservative and HD Boot Oil are so pure it keeps your footwear from becoming crusty, mildewed or foul smelling. It contains a mixture of beeswax and propolis, a natural and waterproofing antibacterial tree resin which provides a high level of protection to the leather, keeping it soft and supple, while resisting water as well as chemicals.

Sweat will slowly corrode the inner part of the boot. If you have not oiled and greased your boots regularly, it is important to neutralize the acid and salt caused by sweat. This is accomplished by pouring a mixture of one heaping tablespoon of baking soda and twenty ounces of water into each boot. After sloshing it around, wetting the interior, pour it out and let the boot dry.

#### Why Nick's Boots Last

A lot of folks complain that their [mass-produced] boots last only six to eighteen months. Because Nick's Boots

are handcrafted with only the finest quality leathers and expertly fit by professionals, with proper care you should receive years of service and support from your boots.

Most customers are able to have their boots resoled two to three times before being rebuilt. When it's time to rebuild, Nick's expert boot makers will replace everything but the portion of the boot that has formed to your ankle and the upper; very little of the original boot remains. That's like getting a brand new pair of boots that are already broken in to fit your leg and ankle, and at about 50% of the cost of a new pair of boots. . .

Now that's value!

By Gary and Trudy Scott,

Contributions by Bill Rose and Tom Story



#### Testimonial:

*Thank you! I received my custom boots, of which I have worn every day since they arrived. The boots have been on a cattle roundup and helped process two fields of hay so far. I am very pleased at the quality, craftsmanship, and eye appeal of these boots. Thank you again.*

*Kevin Rood*

*Coos Bay, Oregon*

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## Has Organic Farming Become Bureaucratic?

If you are a homeowner and want to organically grow the very best vegetable or flower garden, then you need to use Sup'R Green Chicken Manure from Stutzman Farms. If you are a certified commercial organic crop farmer, then there are a few other things you will want to know about using manure products for fertilization. If you are looking to label your crops "100% Organic Certified", then certain fertilization planning will be necessary to meet the current National Organic Program (NOP) rules.

The intention of the US Department of Agriculture in creating and adopting rules and regulations defining organic farming was to protect consumers from goods that were misrepresented as organic. As the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) recommended and proposed various rules and standards, the USDA has revised and continues to revise the NOP rules. Compliance with some of the rules has become confusing and difficult for some farmers to implement. To make business even more challenging, the NOSB has new recommendations that the slow moving USDA train has yet to implement.

In addition, two certifying agencies might have a different interpretation of the same rule.

Based on the current rules, raw manure has a restricted use in that harvest intervals must be followed. If your crop is in direct contact with the soil, you must wait 120 days after the manure application before you can harvest. If your crop is not in direct contact with the soil, the interval is 90 days. The interval does not apply if your manure material has been composted and meets the criteria for compost. However, based on the current compost rules, any manure that meets the requirements of the compost carbon to nitrogen (C:N) ratio has little fertilizer value.

In particular with manure, either raw, composted, or processed, the intention was to avoid potential pathological contamination like E. Coli or Salmonella. In theory, the harvest intervals or the heat from proper composting would kill any pathological organisms that were present in the material. The problem is that under the NOP rules, all manure is lumped into the same category. Manure that has been

processed to kill pathological organisms has the same restricted usage as raw manure that may contain harmful bacteria.

To some degree, though the intention was good, the current manure and compost rules are too restrictive and in some cases do not use common sense. If for example you want to plant bush beans the first of June and plan to harvest the end of July, you would need to put your fertilizer down sometime in March. Depending on the weather or location, you might not even be able to get on the field in March.

The NOSB has recommended modifications to the rules for compost and for a new category for "Processed Manure" that would not have the harvest interval restrictions, but so far the USDA has not fully implemented the changes. Some certifying agencies are accepting "Processed Manure" without harvest interval restrictions and some are lenient on compost C:N ratio rules, so talk to your inspector. If you have questions about the NOP rules or you want to use the very best organic fertilizer for maximum crop yields, give us a call.

Bryce Purtzer, Stutzman Farms

### D. Stutzman Farms *Not All Chicken Manure Is Created Equal*

For over 30 years D. Stutzman Farms (dba J&D Fertilizer) has had a history of turning "waste" products into useful and profitable ventures. At a time when many corporations are downsizing, the diversified organization is investing in the organic farming industry with a \$1 million expansion to their current fertilizer processing facility. Already supplying annually over 20,000 tons of processed poultry waste, the Canby, Oregon company, plans to add to that tonnage by manufacturing a unique pelleted and granular organic fertilizer derived from the by-products of poultry fryer and layer operations.

The company, owned and operated by Doug and Judy Stutzman, began in 1968 as an organic fertilizer business when the Stutzmans realized a need to dispose of the tons of waste generated by local area

chicken farms. At that time, the organic fertilizer market consisted mainly of steer manure. Over the years, the Stutzmans successfully marketed their Sup'R Green Chicken Manure through grocery and variety retailers, and a number of garden specialty distributors and retailers.

In 1986, the Stutzman's began their second "recycling" venture after discovering a use for the tons of waste paper fiber generated by area paper mills. This waste fiber had previously been landfilled, costing the mills thousands in disposal fees. From the waste fiber, they created a useful, environmentally friendly, paper-based cat litter and animal bedding product. The products, Good Mews Cat Litter, Crown Animal Bedding, and Pet's Preference, are sold through national pet chains, national and international pet product distributors, and every major grocery chain in the Pacific Northwest.

Recognizing the growing demand for organic and renewable resource farming techniques, the Stutzmans used the manufacturing experience and expertise from their cat litter operation to design a similar mill operation to process poultry waste and create a value added organic fertilizer. The operation will produce a pelleted and granular fertilizer that is not only organic, but will offer farmers and gardeners the benefits of a natural slow release of nutrients for optimum plant growth. In addition, the expansion will be able to accommodate custom blending and milling for customers with specific ingredient requirements. The expansion not only adds to the employment of the company and community, but brings to market competitively priced products that will add to the economic growth of organic farming both regionally and nationally.

Available for interview: Doug Stutzman, President; Shane Stutzman, General Manager; Bryce Purtzer, Sales Manager

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## FOOD IN THE MAIL - IS IT SAFE?

**S**urprise! You don't have to cook dinner tonight. No, it's not a pizza delivery. There's a gift package of food at your front door. Maybe it's smoked turkey or a ham from a friend. "Keep Refrigerated," the box reads. Uh, oh. It's been sitting in the sun. When did it arrive? Is it safe to eat?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Meat and Poultry Hotline cautions that the food gift you receive or send could give you an unwanted "surprise" foodborne illness, if it is not delivered promptly and handled properly. Mail order food companies take steps to produce a safe, high quality product and to maintain the safety and quality during shipping. "So it is important for consumers to handle the product safely once the perishable items are received," says Susan Conley, director of the Food Safety Education for the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

There's a lot of sending going on. The Direct Marketing Association (DMA) says Americans this year will spend more than \$6 billion on food purchases by mail. "Catalogues and Web sites are convenient for holiday gift-giving since you can place the order, and have it delivered with just one phone call or online order," says Amy Blankenship, director of The DMA's Shop-At-Home information Center.

When receiving or sending meat, poultry or other perishable foods, they should be shipped in an insulated box packed with frozen gel packs or dry ice. "Keep Refrigerated" should be on the package. Even if a product is smoked, cured and /or fully cooked, it is still perishable and must be kept cold. When received, the perishable food should either be frozen, have visible ice crystals, or feel refrigerated cold in the touch. If the food is not cold, notify the company. Do not eat it or even take a bite.

Homemade food gifts are often sent by mail during the holidays. Perishable foods should be shipped frozen gel packs or dry ice. Ideally the box should be wrapped in two layers of brown paper and mailed by the fastest shipping method possible.

For more information about the safety of food in the mail, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline toll free at 1-800-535-4555 or TTY - 800-256-7072, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern time, Monday-Friday. Recorded messages are also available 24 hours a day by calling the same number. Consumer information is also available at the FSIS Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov).

For sources of reputable catalog and Internet food retailers, check the DMA's consumer Web site at [www.shopthenet.org](http://www.shopthenet.org)

Food in the mail is a nice holiday surprise. Be sure its handled safely for gift-giving.

## Abare: GM Would Boost World Economy

**T**he world could see an economic gain of \$210 billion a year by 2015 if biotechnology in crop production was accepted in all countries, according to a study released by Australia's Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

"Worldwide adoption of biotechnology in crop production has the potential to generate substantial gains in global welfare," said Dr. Brian Fisher, ABARE executive director. "But conservative attitudes resulting in bans on production and trade in GM products could erode these gains." He added.

In the study, Agricultural Biotechnology Potential for Use in Developing Countries. ABARE studied the economic effects on different groups of countries of adopting GM technologies and pro-GM trade policies, according to a news release.

Potential restrictions on production and trade in GM crops in the European Union could reduce the estimated \$210 billion gain to \$167 billion. In addition, ABARE said, if poorer developing countries failed to adopt the technology, the world economic gain would decline to \$135 billion.

## Steffes Corporation

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

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

Contact us at 888-STEFFFES (783-3337) toll-free to have your custom bin system designed.

### Steffes Overhead Drive Through Bins

2 Sizes Available:

25 to cake - 1152 bu • 40 ton cake - 1575 bu

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# Sheep & Goat Industry Loans

**N**ational Livestock Producers Association (NLPA) Sheep and Goat Fund Committee recently announced the availability of loans at four percent interest projects aimed at improving the sheep and goat industries.

The fund is being used to benefit all sectors of the sheep and goat industries, with the sole exception of production loans which are outside the scope of

the loan program.

A 1999 agreement between the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center and NLPA enables the Sheep Center funds to be used in the sheep and goat industries. The agreement allows NLPA to maintain a revolving fund used exclusively for loans to the sheep and goat industries.

Currently, the NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund Committee has extended 32 loans

to 26 entities in 17 states and has received 53 applications. More than \$6.9 million has been loaned to sheep and goat businesses, leaving about \$7 million still available for new applications.

For more information, contact the NLPA at 1-800-237-7193 or go to: [www.nlpa.org](http://www.nlpa.org).

## Sub-Zero Heating • Stainless Steel Stoves - quality, efficiency, design

**T**he Sub-Zero stove is a unique heating system —built for the person who wants to burn wood, but who doesn't want the smoke, wood ashes and mess in the house. And, most of all, who doesn't want the worry of any fire danger in the home. This system can pay for itself in about two years or less!

The Sub-Zero stove is unique in the fact that it can heat your buildings from the outside in the yard. The Sub-Zero stove is a hot water system, which is capable of hooking up to either a hot water or hot air system in your home. By setting your furnace in a convenient area and" running water lines to your buildings, you only need to put wood in one stove

because the furnace is capable of heating more than one building. It can sit anywhere from 30 to 300 feet, from your buildings. The Sub-Zero stove ends the nuisance of baby sitting a wood stove. For most homes, you only have to wood the stove once a day. If you are going to be gone a couple days, fill the firebox full and it will keep things warm for you (length of time depends on heat load). The Sub-Zero stove also saves you money by heating all your domestic hot water free, with a unit that comes with your stove.

A very important feature of the Sub-Zero stove (especially to insurance companies) is that it has been laboratory tested and approved, which many on the market cannot say about themselves.

The Sub-Zero stove is built with safety as a main factor. Some of its features are: an all-steel unit with fiberglass insulation; a natural draft door that can maintain temperature without any blowers to cause problems, such as blowing sparks out the chimney that may start fires, blower freezing up in cold weather, and a high percentage of your heat being blown out the chimney; an insulated door so you don't need water on the door with hoses that can crack or break and spray you with hot water. The Sub-Zero stove is also a zero-pressure system, which eliminates any danger of blowups.

Environmentally Friendly:

Home: Although the concept of outdoor heating units goes back hundreds of years, the idea of "in the yard hot water heating systems" is comparatively new.

The Sub-Zero stove has met with favored approval from many who wish for the warmth and cost saving qualities of burning wood. And with no fire danger, smoke or wood mess in the home, your living environment is cleaner and safer.

Earth: With all the pollution problems in the world these days, we want to be helpful and friendly to our earthly environment. The Sub-Zero stove is actually a weapon against the green house effect. The wood burned by this unit releases no more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than if the trees had been allowed to rot — only this way you gain the energy benefits from it. If the trees burned in our stoves are replaced in equal quantities, the new trees will absorb 10 to 20 times as much carbon dioxide as they produced when burning. And, because of the design, the Sub-Zero stove burns less wood than others, so there is a lot less smoke in the atmosphere.

Nation: With all the current rules and regulations, it's nice to know that the Sub-Zero stove has been tested, approved, listed, and bears the PFS Seal of Distinction. Tested to U.L and CSA, this stove meets the recognized safety and quality control standards of the U.S. and Canada. It also meets requirements of HUD and WHEDA. This is a proven product line with thousands of stoves in service throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Oregon, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Alaska, Manitoba and Ontario, to mention a few. For more information call 1-866-591-2027.

### SUB-ZERO HEATING

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## Manage Farm Stress To Stay Safe

**F**armers cope with more job stress than the average worker. In fact, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health reports that farming is one of the 10 most stressful occupations and one of the most dangerous occupations - with an accident rate second only to mining.

The combination of stress and daily work around powerful machinery and/or large animals in varying and unpredictable situations can lead to accidents. The most effective way to counter farm stress is to recognize that some events can be stressful and to plan ways to deal with those stressors effectively - before symptoms become severe.

Stress can manifest itself as physical symptoms such as headaches or stomach problems, or as emotional symptoms through angry outbursts or depression. In most people, stress affects relationships with others and is often first noticed by someone other than the person experiencing it. Stress can also lead to action or behavior that results in a farm accident.

Research shows that even under similar circumstances, farmers react differently

to the amount of stress they experience, Slocombe said. This is because some farmers develop more effective coping strategies than others.

Stress levels among farmers may increase farm accidents.

Tips for managing stress:

- Recognize your personal symptoms and make a conscious decision to do something about them
- Eat nutritious foods daily. Just as machinery needs quality fuel, our bodies need nutritious food to function properly.
- Keep machinery and equipment in good working condition. Elimination potential breakdowns can minimize stressful events.
- Talk about your stress with family or a close friend.
- Do something relaxing every day - even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Exercise. Farmers get a lot of exercise, but it's not always vigorous enough. Try to do some type of aerobic exercise at least three times a week.

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**B**ailey Seed Company was founded in 1983 by R.H. Bailey. Lee and Linda Ralston purchased Bailey Seed and has owned and operated it for the last 10 years. Their son Troy came to work for the company in 1996, and is currently the sales manager. Bailey Seed has a strong affiliation with DLF Trifolium, an international seed company. Through DLF's extensive research program both locally and globally, we at Bailey Seed have an enormous source of seed to pull from. This allows us to offer our customers the best forage and turf products in our region, enabling us to be a one-stop shop for our customers. Bailey Seed Company offers custom blending to suit your individual needs and region, superior customer service, timely delivery, friendly and knowledgeable staff and a wide variety of top performing seed. Bailey Seed also offers a long list of Certified Organically grown seeds. We are truly a supplier of quality products. You can depend on us for all of your seed needs.

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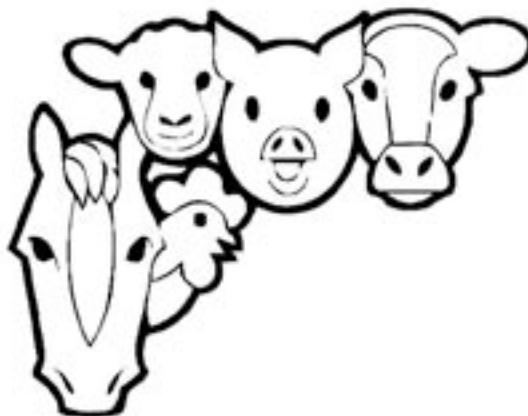
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# Farm Safety

## Machinery

- Observe a “no riders” policy for all machinery.
- Make sure your slow-moving vehicles are properly marked and those signs are clearly visible.
- Install the proper shields and guards.
- Always shut off power before working on machinery.
- Inspect tires regularly and keep them properly inflated.
- Remove keys from cars, trucks and machinery when not in use.
- Visually check equipment before operating.
- Make sure people, animals and other equipment are at a safe distance from operating machinery.
- Check overhead power lines to make sure high or wide loads will clear them.

## Animals

- Keep all gates, corrals, pens and fences in good condition.
- Use care in handling newborns and mothers of newborns.

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## Personal

- Have a complete physical exam annually.
- Take a hearing test every two years.
- Make sure all adults in your family are trained in CPR and first aid.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows emergency phone numbers.
- Provide first aid kits and fire extinguishers for your home, barn, workshop and all major machinery.

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

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

Along with their many stock items, Egbers accommodates their customers by shipping complete augers. "We have a lot of talent in our company, and we like the variety of projects that we do," says Doug Egbers. "We've worked on augers as small as 2" in diameter for corn burners and 24" in diameter for a rock quarry.

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# SCIENTISTS: KLAMATH BASIN RESTORATION NEEDS TO FOCUS ON HABITAT

Voluntary steps to restore habitat, including dam removal, would be a more effective way to save Klamath Basin salmon and suckers than taking water from farmers, a National Research Council panel suggests.

The long-awaited report commissioned by Interior Secretary Gale Norton, builds on earlier findings that the 2001 shut-off of irrigation water to most of the 250,000 acre Klamath Reclamation project to conserve water for fish was not scientifically justified.

After the water was shut off, federal marshals guarded irrigation headgates from farmers and antigovernment protesters trying to open them. The confrontation made the Klamath Basin a focus of national debate over sharing scarce water between growing numbers of people and dwindling numbers of fish.

Among the report's findings was that restoring irrigation water to farmers in 2002, resulting in lower Klamath River flows, was not clearly responsible for the deaths of 33,000 Chinook salmon that September. However, low flows and warm temperatures cause harmful stress on salmon, the report said. If changes to the river channel from flooding in the winter of 1997-1998 are blocking fish passage during low

flows, future kills are possible.

Recommendations offered pluses and minuses for farmers, Indian tribes, commercial fishermen and environmentalists, who have battled the Brush administration over water allocations under the demands of the Endangered Species Act. For example, scientists suggested no more gains for endangered suckers in Upper Klamath Lake, the primary reservoir for the Klamath Project can be won by further limitations on irrigation. But they also urged creation of a new sucker populations in Tule Lake and Lower Klamath Lake, in the middle of the Klamath Project, which could require thousands of acres of farmland back into marsh and lake.

The report raised the possibility of removing Irongate Dam on the Klamath River to restore salmon spawning in tributaries, but also urged a three-year moratorium on hatchery releases, to see if that would help wild fish rebound. Hatchery fish make up the bulk of the salmon harvested by tribal, commercial and sport fishermen. "We were told not to think about politics and economic issues, but think about what species need for recovery, and that is what we did," said William Lewis, a professor of environmental science at the University of Colorado at Boulder and chairman of the National Research

Council Committee on Endangered and Threatened Fishes in the Klamath River Basin. The report estimated the cost of following its recommendations for restoring suckers and salmon would be \$25 million to \$35 million over five years.

The scientists praised the Bush administration's creation of a water for fish by paying farmers not to irrigate and suggested similar voluntary programs work better and faster than the legal hammer of the Endangered Species Act. Voluntary efforts fit well with the Bush administration's approach, said Sue Ellen Wooldridge, deputy chief of staff and counselor to the secretary of Interior. "We all - all the stakeholders - need to look at this thing very carefully to see if there are things in there we can take from it and help us to target our resources," she said.

The report said the greatest threat to coho salmon comes from warm water temperatures in tributaries, such as the Scott and Shasta Rivers, not flows in the mainstream Klamath River. The quickest way to cool tributary water would be buying or leasing groundwater to turn into the streams. For a long-range solution would be restoring streamside trees and brush destroyed by grazing, logging and road construction.

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# “Think Big!”

Spokane Ag Expo January 13, 14 & 15

This year’s Spokane Ag Expo and Pacific Northwest Farm Forum are BIGGER and better than ever! January 13, 14 and 15, in Spokane, Wash., over 8,000 farmers and ranchers are expected to attend this three-day event. Highlights of the 2004 Expo include:

The Inland Northwest’s Largest Farm Equipment Show - Over 250 exhibitors fill the Veteran’s Memorial Arena, Ag Trade and Convention Centers in beautiful downtown Spokane.

50th Annual Pacific Northwest Farm Forum - The 2004 show is the 50th Golden Anniversary for the Pacific Northwest Farm Forum, which produces all the seminars and main speaker events at Ag Expo. Celebration plans are in the works for the golden anniversary!

Over 80 Pacific Northwest Farm Forum Seminars – Including seminars on marketing, crop production, transition planning, and farm management. Pesticide re-certification credits can be earned at selected seminars. This is the region’s most comprehensive workshop forum.

Health, Safety and Security Section – Spokane Ag Expo is devoting an entire section to farm health, safety and security. For the past several years, the show has featured a variety of farm safety programs but the 2004 show will devote a full section pertaining to health, safety and security. Located at the east end of the Spokane Ag Trade Center, it will feature a wide variety of farm family health-related exhibits that will have value to virtually everyone who comes to the show.

Ag Technology Showcase by SIRTI – Featuring the latest in cutting edge technologies, 5:00 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel ballroom. The intention of SIRTI (Spokane Intercollegiate Research & Technology Institute) is to provide a good overview of paradigm-changing research in the Inland Northwest. On a quarterly basis SIRTI presents these breakthrough technologies to the public.

Bioenergy Pavilion - Ag Expo for 2004 includes the “Bioenergy Pavilion at Ag Expo”. Bioenergy is renewable energy produced from organic material. Organic matter is either used directly as a fuel or processed into liquids and gases. An area within the Ag Expo show will be dedicated for agencies, associations, and private entities to present information to show attendees. The goal is to provide the latest information to attendees. Areas covered include biodiesel, dedicated crops, anaerobic digestion, ethanol, co-generation, and gasification. Other renewable energy topics include solar, fuel cells, geothermal, water, and wind.

Idaho Gem, U of I’s Cloned Mule – Tuesday Only - The first cloned equine was born on May 5, 2003 at the University of Idaho. The mule, which is named Idaho Gem, will appear at Ag Expo on Tuesday, January 13. A team from University of Idaho and Utah State University produced three mule clones that were born in 2003. Dr. Dirk Vanderwall, a member of the research team, will also make a seminar presentation in the Les Schwab room on Tuesday.

– Continued On Page 31

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

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

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to manufacture and market a full line of branded milk replacers for calves, baby pigs, foals, lambs and kids. Over the years we have developed innovative supplements, additives and electrolytes for all species.



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### Research and Product Formulations

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

### Commitment

Merrick's is committed to develop, manufacture and market quality products. We maintain a high level of commitment to the individual needs and success of our customers and pro-

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

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## Spokane Ag From Page 28

Beef Cattle Demonstrations & Seminars – Back by popular demand, the Expo features live beef cattle equipment demonstrations and numerous seminars. Demonstrations of livestock equipment will be featured in the Spokane Arena.

Keynote Speakers - Tuesday, Jan. 13, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., DoubleTree City Center Hotel. "Northwest Weather," an annual Farm Forum favorite with Dr. Art Douglas. "The Australian Wheat Marketing System," Nathan Brown, Australian Wheat Board, Ltd. Sponsored by the Washington Wheat Commission. Cost for main session speakers: \$8.00.

Congressman George Nethercutt - Wednesday, Jan. 14, 9:00 a.m., Ag Trade Center Theater, "Federal Farm Issues." Cost is included in the Ag Expo ticket.

Panel Discussion: "The Global Marketplace – Issues Impacting NW Cattle Producers" - Thursday, Jan. 15, 9:00 a.m., Les Schwab Room, Spokane Arena. This panel will address issues affecting cattle producers, including BSE, COOL, free trade, and animal ID programs. The panel participants will provide many different perspectives. This is an opportunity to have an interactive discussion about issues you are dealing with in your operation. Cost is included in the Ag Expo ticket.

Panel Discussion: "Rural Economic Development" - Thursday, Jan. 15, 1:00 pm, Ag Trade Center Theater. A panel discussion will focus on shrinking rural communities in our area and the economic hardship that these communities face. Panel participants will provide information about resources available, strategies for growth, and anecdotes about what has been successful for other small communities. Cost is included in the Ag Expo ticket.

Show hours - January 13, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, January 14, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and January 15, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Cost - SPOKANE AG EXPO: \$9.00 for adults (includes free parking at the Arena), \$6.00 for youth (12-18 yrs) and children under 11 years are free. The Ag Expo pass is good for all three days of the show. FARM FORUM: \$8.00 for adults. Farm Forum tickets are for admission to the Tuesday events at the DoubleTree Hotel. All tickets can be purchased through the G&B ticket outlets at the Arena and Convention Center the week of the show.

For more information: [www.agshow.org](http://www.agshow.org)

## Senate Bans Downed Animals for Food

Recently, the Senate moved to ban the human consumption of "downed" animals, which are livestock too sick to stand or walk unassisted.

Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-HI, who offered the amendment to an agriculture spending bill, said many of these animals are dying from infectious diseases and present a significant pathway for the spread of disease.

"My amendment prevents downed animals from being approved for consumption at our dinner tables," he said.

The Agriculture Department estimates that 130,000 such downed animals are slaughtered every year. Farmers usually sell their sick and injured animals to meat renderers who grind them up into pet food and animal feed.

But Akaka said that meat and meat products from downed livestock can still be used for human consumption if the animals pass the inspection process. His amendment would bar the U.S. Department of Agriculture from spending money to approve downed animals for human consumption.

Beef producers have expressed concerns that prohibiting the sale of downed animals will result in having to find other ways to dispose of sick livestock, most likely by burying them on their farms. They say this could threaten the health of other animals if the carcasses are infected with a contagious disease.

But Wayne Pacelle, senior vice president of the Humane Society of the United States, said the amendment was "an important animal protection and food safety measure." He noted that the recent case of mad cow disease in Canada involved a downed cow.

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MT855	450	374	C15
MT865	500	416	C16

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