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Rocky Mountain/Heartland • summer/fall edition 2009

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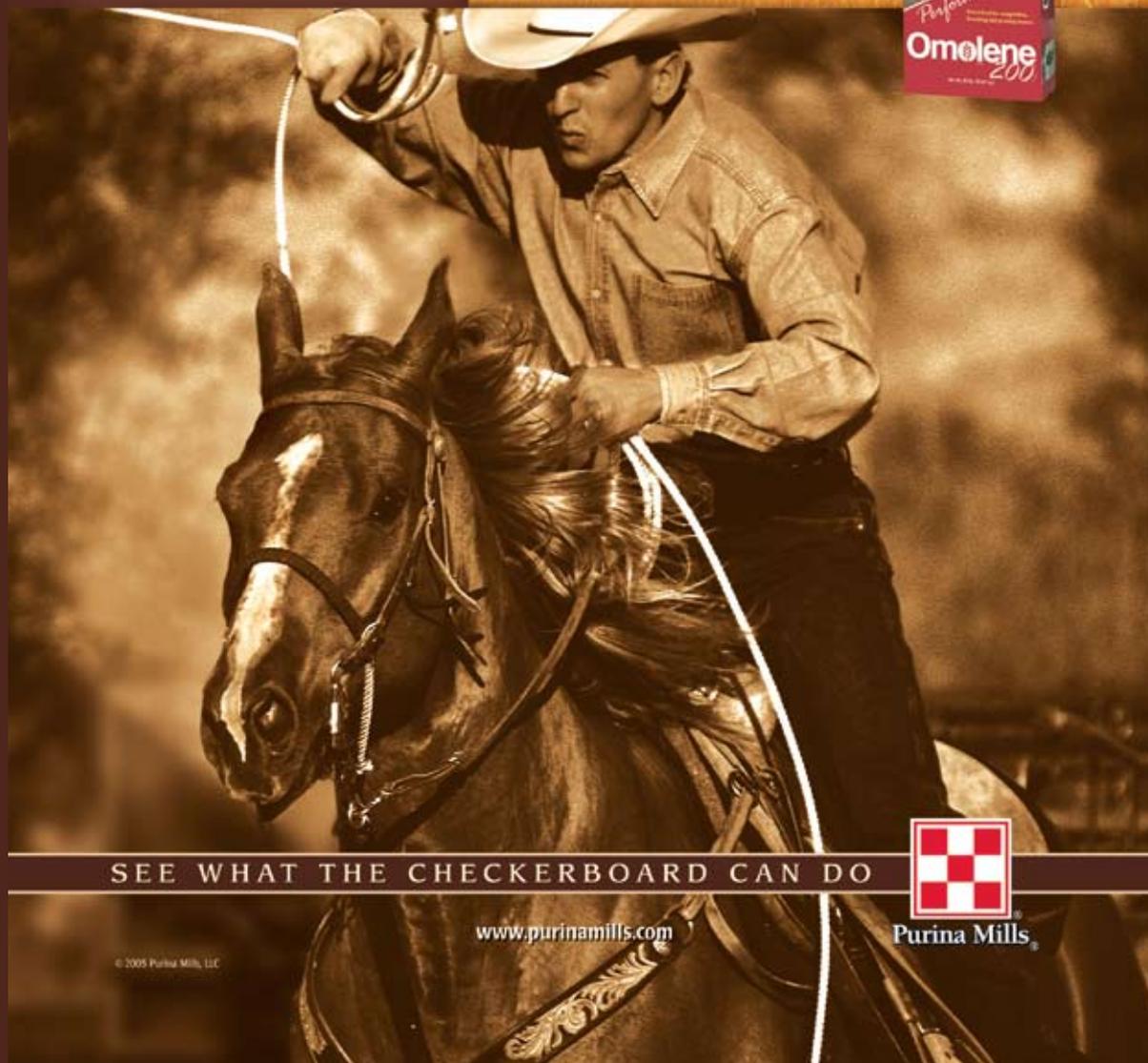
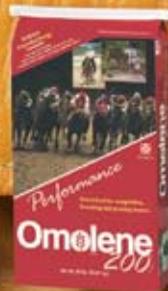
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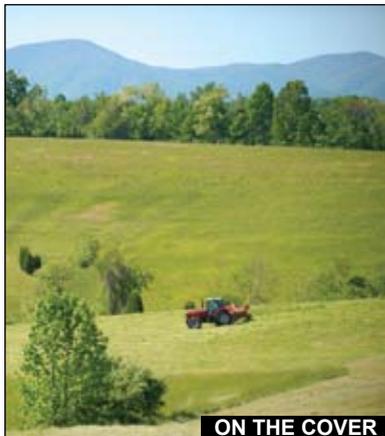


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Crave Brothers to host Wisconsin Farm Technology Days

Food – Fuel – Future is the motto of the 2009 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days that will be held at Crave Brothers Farm LLC, located in southern Dodge County. Throughout the three-day event, July 21-23, visitors will have an opportunity to see the latest in technology, enjoy hands-on activities, view demonstrations, and learn about new ways for “going green.”

The hosts of the event are innovators in many areas of agriculture. They were among the first in the state to utilize free-stall barns, total mixed ration, and bunker silos. In their quest to stay ahead of the curve, they built a state-of-the-art cheese plant in 2002. They have now doubled the size of the plant to accommodate increasing sales of their popular cheeses and increasing milk production on their growing farm.

The Craves also formed a unique partnership with Clear Horizons of Milwaukee on two anaerobic manure digesters that create enough electricity to power 550 average Wisconsin homes – which is more than twice what the farm and cheese factory need. After operating the first digester successfully for two years, the company built the second digester to stay in pace with the herd that has now grown to 1,100 milking cows.

Heifers that the Craves moved back home from satellite farms to the new heifer barns on the home farm provide additional manure for the digester. Besides creating electricity that Clear Horizons sells to WE Energies, some of the solids are used as bedding for the livestock and the rest is the main ingredient in a potting mix product sold under the EnerGro brand name.

In addition to the traditional field demonstrations at the July show, the Dodge County farm technology days planners are working with the custom manure haulers organization to demonstrate environmentally safe methods of distributing manure on the farm. There will also be farm tours via trams to highlight all of the unique aspects of this modern dairy operation.

The show offers something for everyone. Youth activities will center around changes and the emphasis will be on healthy eating; Family living will feature a variety of entertainment and education. A “Family Farm Adventure” tent will feature educational, fun activities for the younger children. A crafts tent will feature unique, hand-made items. The University of Wisconsin’s Farm Progress Pavilion will feature a wide variety of educational topics including digesters, composting, cheese making and animal identification. More than 1,000 commercial exhibitors will also demonstrate or talk about the latest products and service offerings.

The show is presented in partnership with the Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Inc., UW Extension, and the host county. Countless volunteers have been working for the last three years with the executive committee from Dodge County on plans for the 2009 show.

Admission is \$5 person; 12 and under is free. Learn more about specific activities planned for the 2009 show on the Web site at <http://www.dodgefarmtech.com>. 

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Popularity of the tool is easy to under-

stand if you ever had to tighten a sagging fence, only to have it go loose again when the tool of choice is removed.

With the Texas Fence Fixer, no staples or tie wires are removed and with a little



practice, the job can be complete in 30 seconds to a minute and when the tool is removed, the fence remains completely tight. To tighten a wire, the arms are spread wide to catch the slack wire between the jaw slots. When the two arms

are pulled together and the chain fastened, a loop forms inside the tool area. A piece of spare wire is laid across the face of the tool and wrapped a few times on each side of the tool. Then the handle of the fence pliers or smooth pipe is inserted between the two wires and they are turned (not twisted) together until they almost become one wire and the fence is tight. The wire is not crimped or damaged in any way. The tool is totally American made with parts formed in a Texas foundry, shipped to a 5,000 Sq. Ft. shop in Sequin, Texas, ground to perfection and assembled and painted by the Evans'.

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LAFORGE Celebrates 20 Years In North America, Wins A Seventh AE50 Award

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Laforge Sarl., the parent company back in Europe, first entered the front hitch business in 1979. Laforge products have always been on the leading edge of technology. In fact, over 40 international patents and a multitude of engineering awards have been collected over the years, including seven (7) AE50 awards by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE, formerly ASAE).

This prestigious award honors fifty Outstanding Innovations in Product or Systems Technology every year.

Laforge received a 2009 AE50 award for their new FrontPower PTO systems. The FrontPower is using advanced technology derived from automotive and high-end tractor transmission designs to ensure durability, low maintenance, and minimal power loss. Front mounted mowing, shredding, and snow removal equipment is seen much more now and this product becomes an essential link in these systems.

In 2007 the FLEXIMASS® ballast management system received an AE50 award. The main purpose of this system is to replace the very cumbersome wheel weights with a quick-attach system that allows adding or removing thousands of pounds of ballast weights

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Laforge took another step in improving support for our dealers and customers in 2007 by acquiring manufacturing capability in North America through the purchase of Bruns Machine, Cedar Falls, IA.

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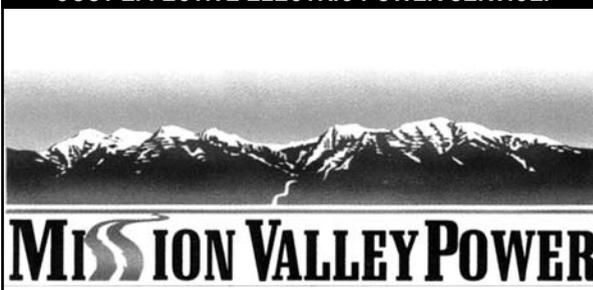
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Frank Faehner, Chairman of American Wood Fibers, has been involved with "total wood waste utilization" for

over 50 years. In 1966, he incorporated Eastern Wood Fibers in Jessup, Maryland and set out to become the nation's largest supplier of wood flour and wood by-products. In 1988, he achieved this objective and the name was changed to American Wood Fibers to more accurately reflect the depth of our resources and the national scope the company had achieved.

Today, there are American Wood Fiber plants and distribution centers near the majority of our nation's major tim-

ber processors from coast-to-coast. We are also rapidly expanding to include Canada, Mexico and other international markets.

Despite this significant growth and national scope, our focus still remains on family. American Wood Fibers embodies the culture of courtesy, respect and a commitment to customer service that originated with our company founder. Today that same commitment is sustained by the fourth generation of the Faehner family and all AWF employees. 🐾



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Farm Pond Water Quality Maintenance

By Jim A. Keeton, Fisheries Biologist

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

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

NUTRIENTS

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

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The key to a successful farm pond management and a beautiful pond are maintaining water quality through a variety of options. The best management approach is solutions that are biological and mechanical, without the use of chemicals. In many cases we cannot control sources of nutrient entering a pond, so in-pond methods can be used to reduce nutrients and maintain good water quality and clarity.



These methods include:

Subsurface aeration, consisting of fine bubble diffusers to increase oxygen, freshening water, reducing nutrients and creating a better aquatic habitat for beneficial organisms to return to the pond. Subsurface aeration is the best as these aerators can circulate large volumes of water from the bottom up with low power consumption when compared to fountains. There are even solar powered aerators for lake and ponds that are as good as an electric unit, with no power costs "ever", but will cost more up front.



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

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

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Thoughts on Dryland Range Improvement

By: Russell Holzhäuser, Wind River Seed

Just the other morning I overheard a crop manager talking to someone in the office about crops and costs. At one point he mentioned alfalfa longevity and replanting costs. I thought to myself, that wouldn't be an issue with Falcata alfalfa. I went out and visited with him a bit about trying some Falcata. We talked qualities and price and he seemed interested when he left. It's still January; we'll see.

I went back to my office where I was trying to come up with a requested article from Wind River Seed for this publication. Duh, big red truck. Let me visit with you a bit about Falcata and see if I can get you a little interested too.



The story has almost become a rural legend around here. Back in the early years of the 20th century a South Dakota University agronomist, N.E. Hansen, brought some seed back from Siberia up around the Arctic Circle. (Remember this, there'll be a test.) Around 1915 he brought a small package to a rancher named Gehriki and suggested he try planting it. This was up around Lodgepole in Northwest South Dakota; east of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

Bud Smith currently ranches there and Gehriki was his great uncle. The seed from the agronomist that was planted in 1915 was Falcata or yellow flowered alfalfa and that stand has spread in all directions and was still there in 2003. I haven't seen it but it might still be there today. Can you say that about any other alfalfa stands?

Here are some talking points to consider:

- Alfalfa persistence in the Northern Great Plains requires good winterhardiness. - That original Falcata seed was collected in Siberia near the Arctic Circle. (See I told you there'd be a test.) It has shown superior survival in very cold places.
- In case you haven't heard, drought tolerance is getting to be more of a plus these years. - Falcata alfalfa or Medicago falcata has a fibrous spreading root system more like prairie grasses unlike the taproot commonly found in Medicago sativa, the purple flowered alfalfa species. This allows yellow flowered alfalfa to compete more successfully with other prairie species for the water from those short afternoon rain dumps that characterize our summer moisture.
- Besides persistence, bloat is another concern with grazing alfalfa. - Bud Smith reports that he's never had a bloat problem in his rotational grazing. There is some research out of Canada that suggests a reason for this. One study identified a protein group in falcata that may play a role in decreased bloat potential. Hear me when I say that the jury isn't in on this point so

I don't want to hear folks quoting me saying that Falcata is a bloat-free alfalfa. It isn't.

- There are a lot of alfalfa varieties out there. How does Falcata stack up to the rest? - The ideal place to plant Falcata is into established dry grassy rangelands. Assessments of the successful introduction of Falcata on these sites have shown increase in associated forage production, rough protein percentage as well as increased nitrogen and carbon levels. Most of you are familiar with some of Falcata's cousins. Most all of the "dryland" alfalfa types have some Falcata in them. These include Ranger, Vernal, Drylander, Rangelander, Travois, Ladak and Spredor types. The broad-crowned creeping rooted habit and many branched fine leaved character of the plants lend themselves well to grazing.

- How about the cost? - Back in 2003 seed stock totaled between 20 and 40 pounds and a pound ran around \$30.00. I am happy to say that in January 2008 supplies are much better and pricing is very competitive with other public varieties. It may take longer to firmly establish but, given a longevity of 20 years or more and observations of root tillering at about 2 feet from the parent, I'd have to say its worth having a look at the yellow flowered alfalfa.

Final thought - If you are already using dryland varieties or if you have dryland range that's looking a little tired and peaked, you owe it to yourself to give Falcata a try. 🍷

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are very popular because they are very versatile. They are great for livestock because they are cooler in summer because the heat does not come in through the roof like a metal building and it does not sweat in the winter. Hay storage is a popular use as there is good ventilation. And if it's not full of hay there is a lot of room to store machinery out of the weather. There are many reasons to install a Pro-Tec Building on your farm. It's versatile, it looks good, it will make you money, and it is AFFORDABLE. 📞

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Missouri Hay Tarps has been protecting and covering round and square bales across the US since 1996. The company's founder Earl Miller is responsible for many US patents but it's his unique "Stake and Wind Lockdown" system that has put Missouri Hay Tarps on the map. Grommets are spaced every 12 inches. Combined with the patent locking stake and webbing, when installed properly, this engineered hay covering system is virtually indestructible and is advertised to have 300% more holding power than the competition.

In addition to the unique lockdown system, the tarp boasts a rip-stop fabric that

is rope and fiber reinforced, waterproof, shrink-proof and is among the heaviest hay tarps sold. Tarps are white in color and come treated with a special coating,



both are critical components in combating the sun's damaging UV Rays. Tarps are offered in 27 different sizes guaran-

teed to cover just about any hay configuration you can dream up.

The founder Earl Miller passed away in 2004 and the company is now owned and operated by Owensville, Missouri, residents Bruce Paneitz and Randy Blaske. The two partners are committed to continuing the business under the principles of which it was built, offering a quality product at a reasonable price, backed by exceptional service.

Order today and see for yourself why Missouri Hay Tarps has "Gotcha Covered".

Call 800-514-0258 or visit them online at www.MoHayTarps.com to place an order or learn more about these tarps. All major credit cards are accepted. 📞

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24 x 48	\$352.00	\$229.00
25 x 54	\$431.00	\$283.00
30 x 40	\$373.00	\$245.00
30 x 60	\$552.00	\$365.00
30 x 75	\$707.00	\$459.00
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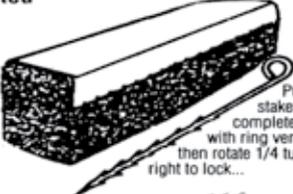
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C&R Supply, Inc. • Birth Of A Sprayer

After carefully listening to customers who were disappointed with the performance or lack of features in ATV sprayers available, C&R Supply set out to design a series of sprayer to meet their needs.

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

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

without losing its prime. The pump, strainer, and main shut-off are mounted underneath the tank in a protected cavity, which also serves as a dual slosh baffle. The top of the tank is designed with a fill catch area to prevent chemical from getting on the operator. The EZ is fitted with a 4 gpm Shurflo Pump and a quality Tee-Jet trigger style handgun in the convenient control panel at your side. All brackets and boomless nozzle or boom accessories are attached to the tank for quick and easy mounting. The EZ ATV Sprayer has several different options and accessories to meet your requirements and needs.

C&R Supply, Inc. is a distributor and manufacturer of agricultural and roadside spray equipment located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. For over 25 years, C&R Supply, Inc. has been a leader in the distribution and servicing of many quality products from Raven Industries, Spraying Systems, Banjo, and more.



Spray 30 feet wide with no boom

They also lead the way in designing and manufacturing new and advanced products such as their C&R Foam Marker, Spot Sprayer, and the EZ ATV Sprayer featured in this ad. C&R is a provider for precision ag products such as GPS guidance systems, variable rate controllers, mapping, steering assist systems, and chemical injection units. C&R prides themselves on the knowledge and experience that is required to keep up with today's technology.

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Pro Plug developer, Karl Wagner, has connected and serviced his share of trailer plugs over the years and became increasingly frustrated with the difficulty of connecting wires to them, which is inherent to their designs. In addition, he noticed the mounting requirements for the towing vehicle plug have changed very little over time, not keeping up with new applications.



Currently, you either drill a big hole in the vehicle for the plug to mount into or hang it from a bracket that has the big hole in it, often placing the plug in a vulnerable location. Both of these options require considerable depth behind the mounting plane for the connector housing to protrude and for the routing of the wiring into the connector housing.

After owning a plethora of vehicles that needed trailer connectors for which the above mounting options did not work, he went to work on designing a connector system that would side-step convention with a focus on simplifying the installation and service aspects over current products. The result is Pro Plug, an easy to wire, easy to install, self-testing, surface mount 7 way RV electrical connector that makes it possible to install a connector where it couldn't be before.

The connector system can be in-

stalled rapidly and in most cases without drilling holes in the vehicle's mounting surface. High quality wire terminals are easily accessed for initial installation or service and connecting to them can be performed after the connector system has been mounted to the vehicle by simply removing a cover. Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs), are incorporated into the connector system to provide visual indication of the electrical signals from the towing vehicle. An optional mounting bracket is available for connector system installations not suited for surface mounting.



Pro Plug works great inside pickup beds for campers and 5th wheels as it can be mounted high on the inside of the bed wall protected under the top bed rail. It also works great as a replacement connector on the mid 90s GM pickups, Suburbans, Yukons and Tahoes with the factory receiver hitch that leaves little room to install a plug, on motor homes and trailers on the rear bumper where the sewer hose is stored, many aftermarket receiver hitches with a flat tube cross bar, and the list goes on.

For more information, go to their website at www.RVProPlug.com. (Pro Plug is made in USA, Patent No. 7,491,065.)

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- Identification of feed-wasting non producers.
- Confirmation of pregnancy in animals purchased or sold.
- Savings resulting from increase in overall operating efficiency, permitting more efficient use of expensive farrowing installations.

The patented PREG-TONE uses high frequency sound waves called ultrasound to detect amniotic fluid present during pregnancy. When this fluid is detected, the instrument produces a loud continuous tone. When used on an animal which is not pregnant, the instrument produces an intermittent tone. The intermittent tone also indicates that

good skin contact is being made.

No guessing and no question. Clinically proven 100% accurate on normal sows, 97% accurate on ewes.

The RENCO PREG-TONE has been tested against other ultrasound instruments by leading universities throughout the world. Their studies show the PREG-TONE as the superior instrument in both accuracy and ease of use (studies available upon request).

Testing may begin as early as 18 days with swine (large litters, 11-12 piglets). Open sows can be diagnosed as early as 30 days. Normal testing time in sows and gilts is 30-73 days.

Pregnancy testing in ewes can begin as early as 30 days, with positive diagnosis made by 45 days. Normal testing time in ewes is 30-120 days. Testing on large New Zealand White rabbits can begin at 10 days.

Loud, easy to hear tones.

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

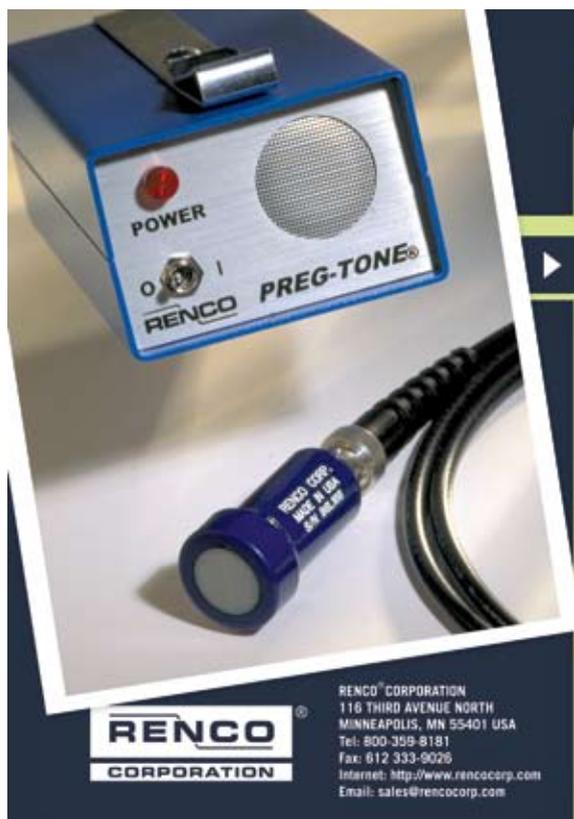
pregnancy. Since the PREG-TONE uses only loud easy to hear tones to indicate both pregnancy and non pregnancy, it can be clipped on the belt or kept in a pocket. The PREG-TONE does not need to be seen or held during testing.

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



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Van Beek Nutrition High Quality Mineral for Dairy & Beef Producers

Van Beek Nutrition, Inc. was established in 1997 in Twin Falls, Idaho. Their mineral mill was completed in 2000 and produces custom blended mixes and pre-mixes for the dairy and beef industries. The mill is capable of producing 24 tons of bulk products per hour. The mineral can also be bagged in 1-ton totes and 50-lb. bags for smaller batches.

Every farm and every group of cattle require different minerals and vitamins to balance their ration. Van Beek Nutrition custom mineral is designed to meet the specific needs for your farm. The company's stated mission is to "enhance herd health and production through nutrition by providing high quality pre-mixes, custom mineral blends and technical advice with attention to the specific needs" of their clients. Each product of the company is custom formulated to specific animal requirements by the company nutritionists and veterinarians.

They use the highest quality ingredients to create custom mineral blends for dairy or beef operations. The formula is adapted to specific animal nutritional requirements by the dairy's nutritional consultant or by their own in-house nutritionist/D.V.N. Their custom blends are formulated to increase production and boost feed conversion. A well-bred animal should be a well-fed animal. Breeding determines what an animal can do. Feeding and management determine what an animal will do.

Van Beek Nutrition offers custom trace minerals, vitamin blends, specialized formulas, base mixes, vitamin trace minerals, and water soluble vitamins. If your needs also include all-natural health care products for your livestock, check out their sister company, Van Beek Scientific.

Today's successful livestock producers get the most out of their animals, and it takes a resourceful consultant with the expertise and programs to put it all together. Van Beek Nutrition's nutritional consultants are committed to the goals of maximum milk production, optimum herd health and increased profitability for their clients. Their partnership (Dairyman/Consultant) approach utilizes nutrition and management programs based upon observation of performance, and their satisfaction comes from achieving the goals of their partners - the American dairy-men.

For more information, visit their website at www.VanBeekNutrition.com.



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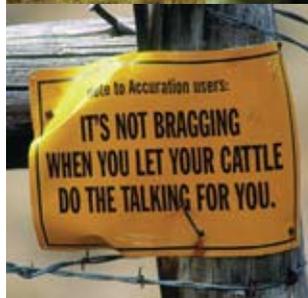
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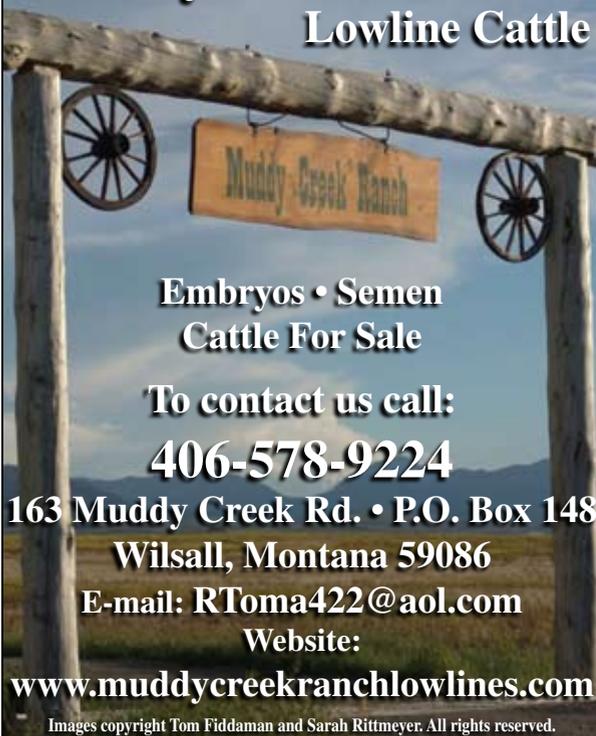
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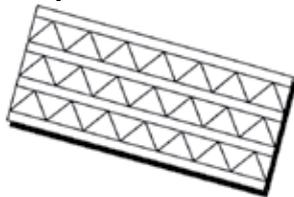
The steel cables keep the rubber from stretching and buckling caused by constant livestock traffic and skidsteer scraper machines. The belt stays in place and will last indefinitely as compared to the shorter life of some new manufactured rubber products available today. Unlike these newer manufactured products, the steel cabled rubber belting has a much greater toughness. This provides for a solid rubber floor effect that is a safe, popular alternative to concrete in the industry.

Once the belt is reclaimed from the mine, it is shipped to their processing yard in Chaffee, NY. With machines developed by Bob Gabel in Chaffee, the belts are processed and prepared. The belts are passed through a grooving machine which highly improved the footing for your animals once it is installed in the typically wet environment of free stall operations. The belt is ready for a custom made fit once it arrives at the farm for a custom fit in the feeder alleys and milk holding area.

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SCHAFFER FARMS

It is not always easy to raise goats in West Texas. The pastures are often sparse, with an annual rainfall of 13 inches. Schafer Farms runs an average herd of 400 goats on their 160 acre farm and about 900 acres of native pasture. This is accomplished through a rotational grazing system using drip irrigation and conservative use of pasture. The drip irrigation conserves water because it is installed 15-18 inches beneath the ground and feeds the root system of the plants. Schafer Farms plants a mixture of beardless wheat and oats in the fall of the year which provides excellent grazing for recip does and their



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

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

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

Schafer Farms has produced a National Reserve Champion Buck in 1998, and a National Reserve Champion Doe in 2003. They have also sold many champions. In the last few years, the wether competition for 4-H and FFA has become phenomenal, and Schafer Farms is dedicated to producing some of the best wethers in Texas. In 2006, they produced the Grand Champion Wether at The Arizona National Livestock Show in Phoenix, Az. Schafer Farms' schedule for 2009 includes the following:

- California Gold Rush Sale on April 25, 2009, in Oakdale, Ca. which is a production sale (breeding stock).
- We will have our wether sale at the farm on June 1, 2009, at 7:00 PM.
- June 6, 2009, we will be in Goldthwaite, Texas, for the Lone Star Elite Wether Sale, at 1:00 PM.
- Private Treaty wether sales will begin on June 7th, at Schafer Farms.
- All wethers sold by Schafer Farms will be eligible for the Lone Star Elite Jackpot held annually at Snyder, Tx. on November 21, 2009.

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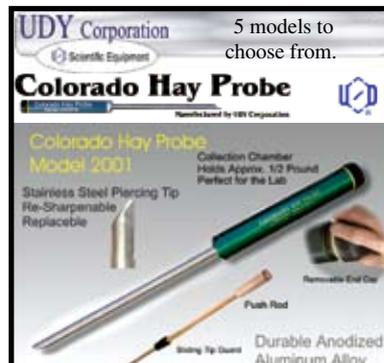
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