

Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy Magazine

The vital resource of the Ag Industry

Rocky Mountain/Heartland • fall/winter edition 2010

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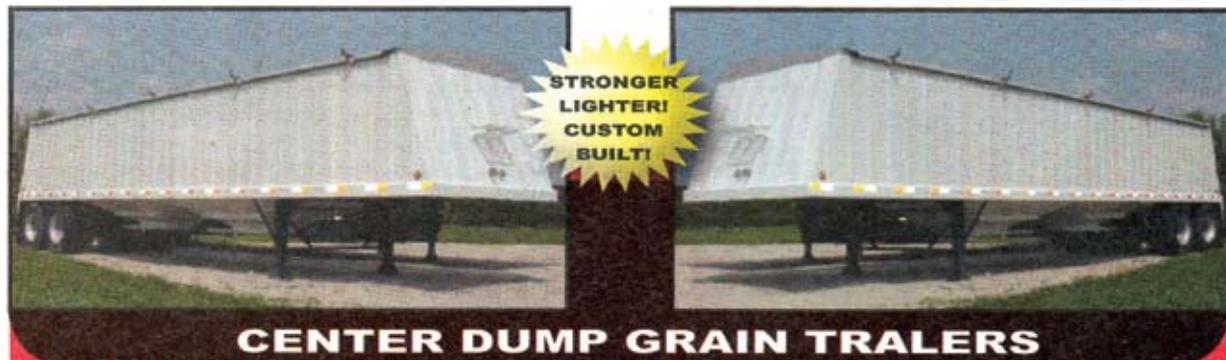


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ON THE COVER

Wheat harvest at the ARS Central Great Plains Research Station in Akron, Colorado. Photo by Scott Bauer, courtesy of USDA Agricultural Research Service.

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The advertisement features a collage of six images showing various pieces of green and red agricultural machinery, including a combine harvester, a tractor with a red trailer, a red trailer, a green tractor, and a red trailer. The background is a light green color with a white archway.

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Ron's Manufacturing

Vertical Tillage Coulter Kit Attachment Gets Even Stronger

Ron's Manufacturing has added two more bearings to their kits. This makes the kits even more heavy duty. Coulter kits from Ron's Manufacturing converts any chisel plow to a year-round tool to prepare your fields.

In the fall, it can be used to lightly till the soil, incorporate and size residue. It is also a practical way to dry out wet soils. The Vertical Tillage Coulter Kit Attachment works well in no-till conservation tillage, as well as conventional tillage operation, extending the growing season and creating better planting conditions. Vertical tillage prepares the soil to warm more quickly in early spring, energizing the seedbed for maximum growth and yield potential.

The Vertical Tillage Coulter Kit Attachment is a smart investment in that



it has multiple uses which will ultimately produce savings in terms of time

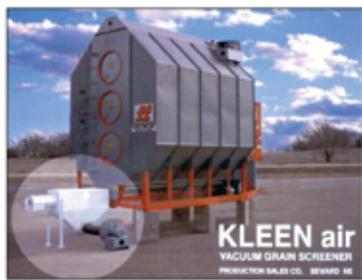
and money. It also has a low operating cost per acre and can be used in a wider range of conditions than most tillage tools. It operates at a relatively high speed of 6 to 12 MPH which saves time. The Vertical Tillage Coulter Kit Attachment allows for quick mixing of manure and soil to prevent loss of nutrients and control odor. It can also be used for very shallow incorporation of fertilizer and select herbicides.

The Vertical Tillage Coulter Kit Attachment is spaced on 6 inches.

For more information contact Ron's Manufacturing at 40582 187th St., Carpenter, SD 57322; phone 605-266-2177; E-mail info@ronsmfg.com. (Also, please see their ad in this issue). 



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(Please see press release in this issue)
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In 1925, Rue R. Elston, the founder of the Elston Company and his wife, Clara, and son, Wendell, moved to Sioux Falls, SD from Spencer, Iowa. Rue found employment with the Manchester Biscuit Company. The next



year his son Jack was born. In 1927 Rue, wife Clara, and two sons, Wendell and Jack moved to Minneapolis, MN where Rue found work as a bus driver for Twin City Motor Bus.

One snowy night, Rue saw a young man get hit by a car while spreading sand with a shovel at a bus stop. The man lost his leg in the accident. After seeing this accident, Rue thought a unit could be manufactured to mount in front of the drive wheels of a bus and be electrically controlled by the driver. Such a unit could help eliminate this type of accident by spreading sand in front of the drive wheels of the bus. After extensive testing and engineering, the first units were installed on Greyhound buses.

In 1938 a corporation was formed to manufacture the Elston Electric Sander. Today sanders are used on city buses such as those in Seattle, Washington and are mandatory on school buses in many Northern States. They are also used on fire trucks and a special design for railroad trains.

In 1952 Rue, and his son Jack, engineered and designed the Elston Cargo Space heater, a unit that controls the inside temperature of semi-trailers that transport products that cannot



be frozen. Through the years several models have been designed. These units are sold in the United States, Canada, and parts of Europe. 

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Grazing Grass On Irrigated Farms

By: Don Hijar – Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc.

Agriculture is changing and today's landowners are looking for a different way to enjoy the land and still make a profit. Growing grass in the arid west under irrigation can be profitable if done correctly. The first step is to study how grass grows to understand what it requires to stay healthy. Doing your homework by reading, attending range management seminars, and visiting an actual irrigated grass operation can be very beneficial. Once you have done all this research you need to determine what you want this irrigated grass to do for your operation. An experienced range scientist, agronomist or individual educated in land, grass and cattle can help you plan this second step.

You need to select the field you want to convert to irrigated grass and decide if spring or fall planting would be best for your operation. Now it is time to prepare a seedbed. The seedbed should be firm and weed free. The grass seed should be planted with a grass drill designed to handle all grass seed types and able to control the depth the grass seed is planted. Grass seed should be planted $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. Planting the grass seed deeper reduces emergence by 80%.

Planting a warm season cover crop in June will out compete weeds, firm up the seedbed and provide protection against soil erosion is a good investment. Harvest the cover crop in August, spray the regrowth with Roundup and drill the grass seed directly into the standing stubble.

Seed can also be planted March – May, or if planting in the fall it is the best to plant straight grass prior to October 1st. A grass/legume mix or straight legume should be planted at least 30 days prior to the average historical freeze date. Legumes are less tolerant of frost than grass, and any plant needs to have time to get big enough to survive the winter. You also want to ensure you have good soil moisture prior to winter.

The newly seeded grass needs water within the first seven days. If rain showers do not occur within 2-3 days after planting; begin irrigating.

Fertilizing to establish grass is not as important as it will be when the grass is more mature and you're expecting high forage production. Grass requires 150-200 lbs of nitrogen per acre per year applied in 2-6 applications. Phosphorus requirements range from 40-80 lbs/Ac/year. The best way to determine fertilizer requirements is to take a soil sample and ask the lab to make recommendations based on a desired yield of 5-7 tons of hay/acre.

Irrigated grass requires $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" of water per week for optimum to maximum production. The source of water can be precipitation or irrigation. Total annual requirements is 24-30"/year. Cool season grasses should be watered from March 1st to November 1st for maximum yield. Cool season grass under irrigation can produce more forage annually than warm season grass because the growing season for cool season grass is March 1st to November 1st as compared with May 15th to September 15th for warm season grass. Grass planted on irrigated ground should be watered adequately to recoup the benefits of irrigation. Grass watered less than adequately produces much less forage and may never pay for the investment.

A Grazing Management System accounts for 12 months of grazing with a cow-calf operation. If the operation is yearlings the operation needs to be flexible to allow for the peak periods of grass production, summer slump and increased weight of the stockers as time progresses. In other words, a stocking rate of 1500 lbs of beef per acre in April using three 500 lb yearlings may be correct but 60 days later assuming a rate of gain of 2 lbs/head/day would mean each animal is now weighing 620 and the stocking rate is now 620 lbs/animal x 3 head or 1860 lbs/acre.

The pasture is now overstocked and as day length increases and daytime temperatures increase the grass will produce less forage and the stocking rate should be reduced from 1500 lbs of beef/acre to as low as 1100 lbs of beef/acre depending how hot it is, amount of irrigation applied and amount of fertilizer and usage. The more a pasture is abused the less forage it produces.

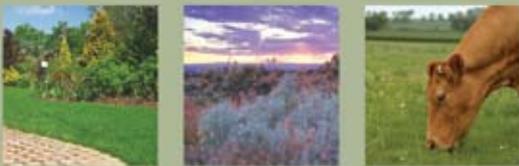
The key elements of a grazing plan are proper stocking rate, having at least 6 paddocks, six or less days of grazing per paddock and 25 – 35 days of rest between grazing periods. For example, eight paddocks grazed 4 days each would take 32 days to graze all paddocks and each paddock would receive 28 days of rest. The grass should not be grazed less than 4". Reserve is very important to the plant.

With all of these elements in place, grazing on irrigated grass has much more of a chance of being successful and profitable. 🌾



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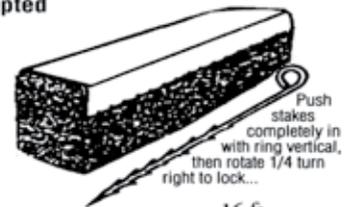
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Considerations for growth and success with Canela Russet

By: Robert Davidson, CSU Extension Seed Potato Specialist

Canela Russet has been grown by SLV growers for the past few years, sometimes with great success, but often with problems related to its **individual** cultivar characteristics. **This cultivar has the potential for producing a high percentage of US No 1 tubers in a very tight size profile**, but overall yields may be less than other cultivars. Even though yields may be less (380 cwt/a +) Canela Russet has the potential for long term storage and has been very profitable for many growers when sold late season (early May to late June). This cultivar, however, has seen its share of problems in the last couple of years. This article will help to put some of these issues into perspective and, hopefully, provide some insight into understanding the cultivar so that each grower will have a greater chance for success.

Late storage to early season: Canela Russet is a cultivar which has a long dormancy (147 days average from the time of harvest to sprouting) which translates



into a need to warm the tubers prior to planting (**50-550F for two weeks**) to assure proper germination. This is especially critical when deciding to cut the tubers to help promote growth of each eye. Cutting is problematic since the tubers are very smooth and have few eyes, with more eyes concentrated near the

bud end of the tuber. It is very easy to cut the seed too small producing seed pieces with no more than one eye. This in turn produces a crop with a high percentage of single stems. During the early trials for this cultivar, the number of stems per plant was 1.9. This is quite low, so efforts must be made to increase the number of stems per plants from 1.9 to near 3.0. **This requires the use of slightly larger seed pieces (3.0 to 3.5 oz) and cutting no larger than splitters when available.** Additionally, warming the seed prior to planting and avoiding fresh cutting the tubers can pay big dividends in terms of stem numbers.

Growing season: Nitrogen management is critical during the season. **Total N rates should not exceed 140 to 160 units total for the season including residual from soil and N from irrigation water.** These levels appear to be critical

LOOK **up**, LOOK **out**,
AND LOOK **around...**



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for proper growth during the season and also for the finishing of the vines during the late summer. We know that **excess N applied later in the season has a dramatic effect on the vine maturity and on tuber maturity coupled with skin set.** The past couple of years, late season environmental factors have delayed vine maturity on those fields with **excess N** present and made for very difficult tuber skin set conditions.

Harvest/Storage: It is crucial for this cultivar to have the appropriate length of time for good skin set, assuming that the vines are actually maturing and ready to go down. **Four weeks is not too long for skin set, so proper planning is essential in terms of N management and vine killing.** In the past two to three years many growers have experienced problems relating to Fusarium spp. and tuber dry rot. **After much investigation, we believe that these problems are related to harvesting immature tubers which bruise more easily and provide wound areas for the pathogen to enter.** Additionally, very cool late season harvest temperatures set the tu-

bers up for greater wounding and, thus, more potential for dry rot. While this cultivar is not resistant to dry rot, it is no more susceptible than many other common cultivars raised by growers in the San Luis Valley. There is one notable difference, however. It appears that Canela Russet takes slightly longer to heal than for example, Russet Norkotah, which can provide greater likelihood of Fusarium spp. becoming established in the tuber. Also, keeping early storage temperatures in the 500F range for longer than two to three weeks can have a very detrimental effect on the amount of dry rot seen in the crop, especially when dealing with immature tubers. Finally, growers should recognize that this cultivar will store for a very long period, but only if the crop has been properly managed during the season and the tubers are mature.

The use of Canela Russet as a long term storage alternative for producers can be very successful when following the appropriate management guidelines. Please keep in mind a few rules as you produce this cultivar. Larg-

er seed, more eyes/seed piece, warming seed prior to planting, N management, proper vine maturity and vine kill with plenty of time for skin set, good harvest practices and proper early storage management. Following some of these practices can help you become more successful with this cultivar and increase both yields and profits. 

Western Farm Ranch & Dairy Magazine's 2010 Special Potato Growers Seed Directory

Canada

Edmonton Potato Growers, LTD
12220 170th St., Edmonton, AB CN T5V1L7; Darcy Olson
(780) 447-1860

Varieties: Whites/Russets: Norkotah, Russet Burbank, Shepody, Amisk/Ranger, Calwhite; Reds: Dark Red Norland, Red LaSoda, Chieftain, NorDonna; Chippers: Atlantic, Snowden, Chipeta, Glacier Chip; Yellow: Yukkon Gold, Alpha, Bintje, Banana, Satina

Meyer Seed Potatoes

RR 2, Site 6 Box 8: Ponoka, AB T4J1R2
(403) 783-8311, (403) 358-0625 cell;
Varieties: Sangre, Shepody, Russet Burbank

Colorado

Colorado Certified Seed Potatoes
P.O. Box 151, Sanford, CO 81151
Preston Stanley (719) 274-5996

Idaho

Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Idaho
P.O. Box 4848, Pocatello, ID 83205
Mike Myers (208) 232-7914

Stukenholtz Laboratory, Inc.

P.O. Box 353, 2924 Addison Ave., Twin Falls, ID 83301
Barbie Stukenholtz (208) 734-3050

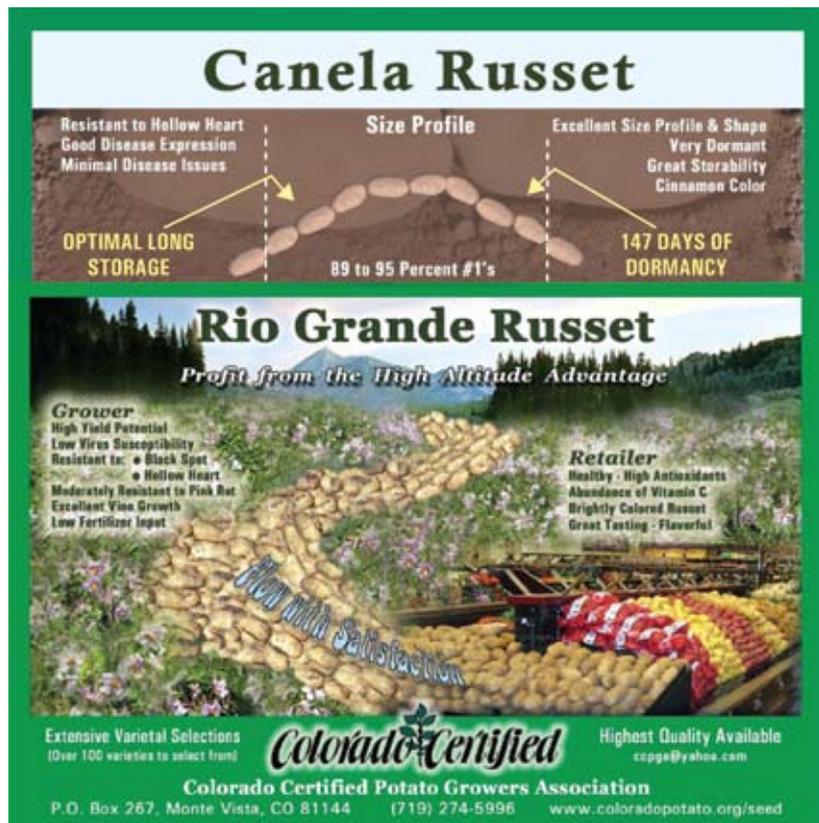
Teton Seed Marketing Association

P.O. Box 155, 111 West Main
Tetonia, ID 83452
Varieties: Alturas, Russet Burbank, Ranger Russet, Russet Norkotah Line Selections

Montana

Droge Farms

Trail, Manhattan, MT 59741
Glenn Droge (406) 282-7588
Varieties: Burbank, Norkotah, Alturas



Healthy Grown Still Growing

Wisconsin Potato Growers Make Strides in Conservation and Sustainability

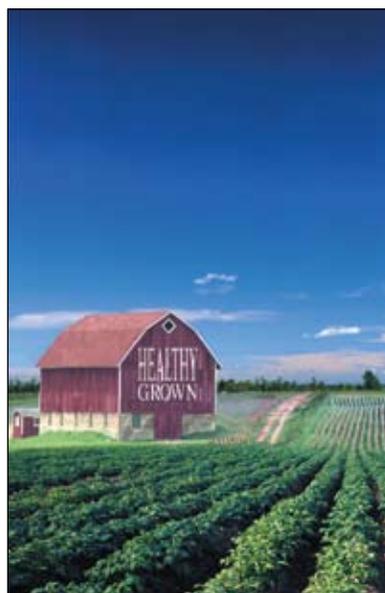
“Large-scale agriculture plays a critical role in the health of our ecosystem,” notes Deana Knuteson, BioIPM Field Coordinator for the Wisconsin Eco-Potato partnership. “A wide range of variables—tilling, pest- and weed-control, irrigation, crop rotation, remnant lands—impact the environment,” notes Deana Knuteson “Minimizing that impact was the motivation behind developing the Wisconsin Eco-Potato partnership and the Healthy Grown® eco-label.”

Established in 1996, the Wisconsin Eco-Potato partnership is a collaboration between the Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association (WPVGA) and the University of Wisconsin. The International Crane Foundation, the Defenders of Wildlife and the World Wildlife Fund are also part of the partnership. The science-based team helps potato growers reduce the use of crop protection inputs such as nutrients, pesticides and other additives, by adopting integrated pest management (IPM) alternatives—biologically based pest management systems that do not harm the environment. The partnership also works to reduce impacts on water, conserve and restore biodiversity to natural ecosystems, and increase productivity without genetic modification of the produce. The partnership has resulted in the Healthy Grown® potato eco-label.

With over 350 eco-label products on the market, consumers and businesses are growing more wary of “greenwashing”—exaggerated or misleading claims about eco-friendliness—according to the World Resources Institute (WRI). WRI notes that in response, both the Federal Trade Commission and the Security Exchange Commission have begun paying attention to green claims, and Senator Dianne Feinstein has begun developing legislation focusing on eco-labeling.

As part of its transparent eco-labeling process, all Healthy Grown growers are certified and audited each year by Protected Harvest—an independent oversight organization that ensures strict adherence

to sustainable agricultural standards. Growers must pass annual field-by-field certification with a farm audit and pesticide, fertility, and bio IPM record requirements. All certification standards are documented as proof that Healthy Grown practices are taking place in the field. All packers and shippers are also certified by Protected Harvest. Unique to eco-label products, Healthy Grown has



compiled an eight-year database tracing IPM and pesticide use. In addition, farmers maintain on-farm statistics that record both the progress of, and challenges to, their sustainable whole-farm methods.

“Healthy Grown is a science-based, measurable, transparent label that provides a process that can ultimately examine the whole farm,” notes Jeb Barzen, International Crane Foundation Director of Field Ecology. “Though the Healthy Grown standard does not yet measure all resources that come from a farm, we’ve accomplished much in the past decade to bring us closer to that point.”

“Healthy Grown is also modular, which makes it easy to add components, or resources, as science allows,” says Barzen.

“This is a huge accomplishment, especially given the current nationwide efforts that are underway.”

One of the modules critical to the Healthy Grown whole-farm sustainable approach is the ecosystem restoration part of the standard. Growers work with various researchers from the University of Wisconsin and the International Crane Foundation to restore biodiversity to degraded natural areas within the farms. “Agriculture comprises the largest land-use in North America, and we have to realize that farms do more than simply provide produce. Large-scale agriculture impacts natural ecosystems. That’s why Healthy Grown uses a whole-farm approach, so we can address biodiversity, climate change, water use, and soil erosion simultaneously on the same farm that produces our food,” explains Barzen.

Adds AJ Bussan, Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, “One of Healthy Grown’s greatest strengths is the collaboration between researchers, conservationists and growers. Healthy Grown emerged from a targeted set of specific sustainability standards, but all of us continue to challenge those standards. The standards will continue to evolve as we find better ways to manage pests and invasive plants, restore natural ecosystems, support native animals, improve production and minimize impacts. It’s a work that’s always in progress because we use science as the basis for our certification of the Healthy Grown eco-label.”

Healthy Grown is anything but stagnant. Since its inception, the interest in and regard from international conservation groups has grown, as has the interdisciplinary participation of University of Wisconsin-Madison researchers, including production, soils, ecosystem and social science faculty. Other Healthy Grown highlights include:

Sustainable whole-farm agriculture

- Reduced pesticide risk to both human

and environmental health by 32 percent among certified fields.

- Banned 11 pesticides from Healthy Grown farms that are of particular concern, as well as established a list of “use with restriction” materials. This list goes above and beyond current legal requirements.

- Increased use of IPM and other preventative pest tactics by 50 percent.

- Managed fields with equal yields and quality of product to non-Healthy Grown farms with less impact on human and environmental health.

- Consistent annual expansion of research, education and software programs for growers.

- Successful use of cover cropping, mulching, organic soil amendments and experimental solarization to control soil borne diseases and improve soil and water quality.

Eco-label transparency

- Development of data management system to provide historical farm-level data of all whole-farm sustainability and conservation efforts, including data concerning pesticide use, fertility and water use, and biodiversity tracking.

- Database of documented research-based eco-label standards which illustrate whole-farm sustainability improvement trends and challenges over time.

Current biodiversity and conservation research

- Successful implementation of biodiversity conservation to restore endangered and rare ecosystems in Wisconsin. Healthy Grown farm land parcels (over 400 acres) now being restored to native prairie, savanna and wetland ecosystems.

- According to Emily Aker’s Master of Science thesis, “Monitoring Vegetation Response to Ecosystem Management in Agricultural Landscapes Under an Eco-label Scheme”:

- Positive trends were recorded in native plant diversity on nearly all of the endangered prairie and savanna ecosystems on Healthy Grown farms.

- Overall, the longer a unit was enrolled in the Natural Community Standard, the higher the site scored in terms of floristic quality—the presence of conservative plant species.

- Management activities have been implemented in the natural community

areas to control exotic or invasive species, and to promote the growth of native species. Activities such as prescribed burning, invasive species removal, and planting of native species have advanced restoration efforts.

- Large-scale ongoing research projects, funded by the USDA-NRI program, to gauge the importance of natural ecosystem restoration in relation to crop quality and production. The projects include research concerning:

- Scientific assessment of the biodiversity of plant, bird and insect species in both agricultural and non-agricultural adjacent lands.

- How agricultural and non-agricultural landscapes interact and what the optimal balance is between farmed and non-farmed lands.

- Examination of the distribution of bird species in non-agricultural portions of the Healthy Grown farms and potential benefits of preservation of these avian habitats.

- University of Wisconsin, Department of Entomology seed predation research project to assess effect of insect diversity on agricultural and non-agricultural lands.



Awards and honors

- USDA Secretary’s Honor Awards for Maintaining and Enhancing the Nation’s Natural Resources and Environment

- World Wildlife Fund Gift to the Earth Award

- International IPM Award of Achievement

- International Crane Foundation Good Egg Award for Excellence

Going forward, Healthy Grown is examining the possibility of expanding its eco-label and farm certification to other vegetable crops. Notes Knuteson, “Our data continues to illustrate that it’s economically feasible to grow in a sustainable manner. The more we learn about ecologically-sound alternatives and the

benefits of increasing biodiversity on non-agricultural plots of land located on the farms, the more everyone benefits. It’s a process of trial and error, but we have a comprehensive database to guide our course. We’ve certainly had our fair share of challenges over the past decade, but every one of us is committed to the research-based standard.”

Adds Ann MacGuidwin, Professor of Nematology and Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, “The on-farm research the Healthy Grown growers contribute is a constant motivator. The growers are so savvy when it comes to testing new biorational practices and products. They’re committed to research and will design and implement trials themselves, as well as partner with University researchers.”

Nick Somers, Healthy Grown grower agrees. “After all these years, there is still a commitment to move forward. As growers, we’re always asking ourselves what more we can do to improve sustainability. We have a science-based, transparent, certifiable product and we know that it’s good. We need to keep moving forward and tackle other sustainability issues to become better.”

Concludes Knuteson, “Everything in the Healthy Grown® standard is research-based. We document changes over time not only to see what we’ve accomplished, but as a means of improving standards in the future. We’re always looking beyond what we’re doing today—working to maintain, and then surpass, the high research bar we have set for ourselves.”

About Healthy Grown®

The Healthy Grown® eco-label, established in 2001, is a product of the Wisconsin Eco-Potato partnership between the Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association (WPVGA) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The International Crane Foundation, World Wildlife Fund and the Defenders of Wildlife are also part of the partnership. The Healthy Grown standard is designed to help growers reduce impacts on water, conserve natural ecosystems, increase biodiversity and improve productivity through researched-based sustainable and IPM processes. Healthy Grown sustainable farming practices are overseen by Protected Harvest, an independent oversight organization. 

Pressurized Exhaust Kills Burrowing Rodents

The H & M Gopher Control PERC system (Pressurized Exhaust Rodent Controller) uses carbon monoxide from pressurized engine exhaust to kill burrowing rodents such as gophers, ground squirrels, prairie dogs, moles & voles.

According to the company, exhaust gas has long been one of the most lethal and

least expensive methods to kill burrowing rodents. But until now there hasn't been an economical, efficient delivery system.

Company owners, Allen Hurlburt and Virginia Massey, said that the PERC system involves a narrow steel wand that is used to probe the burrow and inject pressurized exhaust that fills the burrow in two minutes with lethal con-

centrations of carbon monoxide before the rodent has a chance to either escape or block the burrow.

An internal combustion engine generates the carbon monoxide and drives a compressor pump that pressurizes the exhaust gas to 115 psi in a storage tank. An air hose and a hand held probe inject the gas directly into the

TSR Parts Inc.

TSR Parts Inc. is a family owned/operated business located in Colgate, ND. The TSR Straw Chopper developed from a need for service parts for John Deere combines. TSR takes great pride in their work and do their best to have complete satisfaction from all their customers. All their products are Made in the USA. TSR product adds both value and increased productivity to every farm operation. TSR has a complete line of replacement units and component parts that have evolved to now include the current line of John Deere STS combines.

TSR expanded line also includes complete units and component parts to fit Case IH Axial Flow combines and hydraulic cylinder depth stops. These lines are now available to the worldwide markets. If residue management has been an issue in the past, the addition of a complete TSR fine chop straw chopper or updating your factory straw chopper with TSR component parts, is the solution. If you had to purchase a separate piece of equipment to deal with residue that pulled behind your tractor, there would be additional passes over the fields. The TSR fine

chop straw chopper will minimize the need for additional tillage after harvest due to the chopper's ability to shred residue very fine, saving both time and money. Utilizing the fine chop straw chopper makes for an ideal planting bed for those farmers practicing no-till conservation planting methods. TSR works hard to make every part of their product top of the line in both function and workmanship. All TSR products carry a 1 year warranty on their parts against any defects. Take a look at their full line of products on-line at www.tsrparts.com 

Save Your Hearing With A New Fehr Cab Kit

After years of hard work, your tractor and combine cabs start showing their age (just like us farmers)! The foam starts sagging and deteriorating, making your cab dirty, dusty and noisy, but a new FEHR CAB INTERIOR can help your tractor environment become quieter and cleaner. The insulation really should be replaced when it starts to harden and crumble, because it loses all acoustical properties and the sound waves are no longer absorbed. Hours spent in a noisy cab can damage your hearing!

FEHR CAB INTERIORS began as an

upholstery service in 1988. As farmers began requesting new insulation for their tractors, we researched and found the original materials for all the different models, and went right to our customer's farms with our service: sewing machine, glue pots, and cutting tables. We replaced hundreds of tractor and combine cab interiors in farmers' machine sheds across the Midwest.

As our customer demand grew, we put together pre-cut, formed, and pre-sewed kits for the most popular models and started shipping the kits to farmers all over the country. FEHR CAB INTE-

RIOR kits are complete with detailed instructions, a diagram, and the best adhesives for applying our parts. Since we also install many cab kits, we know how they need to be made for the best fit.

In the last 15 years the ag-industry has shifted to pre-molded, thermoformed plastic components. We are now manufacturing the most popular parts, and add new models as demand requests.

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burrow without any digging.

Brand new to the PERC lineup is the PERC 620, a trailer-mounted unit with a 20 hp motor and six reels - each with a 50' hose and hand probe. The 620 features a tandem axle with turf tires. It sells for \$12,950 plus S&H.

The PERC 412 is a trailer-mounted unit with a 13 hp motor and four reels each with a 50' hose and the hand probe. The 412 features turf tires and is designed to be pulled behind an ATV. It sells for \$7,249 plus S&H.



The PERC 206 is a skid-mounted unit with a 6.5 hp engine, two reels with 50' hoses and hand probes. It sells for \$4,595 plus S&H.

The PERC 206T is the skid unit mounted on its own special trailer. It sells for \$4,995 plus S&H.

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A PERC system can treat moderately infested alfalfa fields at about 3.5 acres an hour with a single operator. Each probed location requires only about 1 to 2 minutes injection time.

Units have been shipped to customers from Southern California to central Canada and as far east as Florida. Though most of the market has been with alfalfa growers, orchard and specialty crop growers have also purchased units. The PERC system is the best solution anywhere burrowing rodents are a problem.

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• AC 8010-8070 Lower (tan)	\$215	• JD 30, 40, 50 3 part formed Headliner	\$219
• Ford 8600, 9500 (black)	\$315	• JD 30, 40, 55, 60, 70 2W & 4W headliner	\$219
• Ford 7700, TW10 Lwr. (black)	\$225	• JD 30, 40, 55, 60 2W Cow Unit	\$139
• Ford 7700, formed Headliner	\$261	• JD 6900, 7700 Combine	\$184
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• IH 86 & 88 Srs. Lower 2W (black)	\$129	• MF 1085-1155	\$165
• IH 86 & 88 Srs. Headliner	\$135	• MF 2675-2905	\$195
• IH 1420-1480 Combine	\$162	• MF 550, 760, 880 Combos	\$211-\$296, \$507
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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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- 1990 Balzer 4800 •2007 Jamesway 5700
- 1995 Houle 7300 w/Disc
- 2000 Houle 7300 w/ Dietrich and Flow Control

- 2001 Houle 7300 w/Dietrich, Flow Control, Self Load Option w/out Primer
- 2001 Houle 7300 w/Disc and Flow Control
- 2004 Houle 7300 w/Disc and Flow Control
- (3) 2008 Houle 7300 w/Disc and Flow Control

- 2009 Houle 7300 w/Disc
- New 2009 Houle 7300 w/Dietrich, Sealers, and Flow Control
- New 2009 Houle 6000 w/Disc, Flow Meter Ready
- 1999 Houle 9500 w/Disc and Flow Control
- 2000 Houle 9500 w/Disc

Transfer Pumps

- (3) Better Bilt 900 Pumps
- New 2009 Doda AFI 35 Pumps

Chopper Pumps

- 1993 Houle 8' x 6" Agi Trailer
- 1995 Houle 9.5' x 6" 3pt
- 2001 Houle 9' x 6" 3pt
- 2002 Houle 9' x 8" Trailer
- 2006 Balzer 10' x 6" 2pt
- Calumet 10' x 6" 2pt

Lagoon Pumps

- 2004 Dryhill Mfg 55' Multi Purpose Dual Wheels 6" 1000 RPM
- 2002 Houle 42' Multi Purpose w/Dual Wheels & 1000 RPM
- 2002 Houle 42' Multi Purpose w/Dual Wheels & 540 RPM
- 2004 Houle 42' Multi Purpose 8" w/Dual Wheels & 1000 RPM
- 2005 Houle 52' 8" w/Dual Wheels & 540 RPM
- 2008 Houle 52' 8" w/Multi Purpose Option, Dual Wheels, 540 RPM

Miscellaneous

- Houle Electric Agi Pump 12' x 4" 25 HP Motor

- Farmstar 8" x 30' Load Stand
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- New Thunder Creek Fuel Trailers—500 & 750 Gallons

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- Farmstar 20' Toolbar w/DMI Shanks
- 2007 Farmstar 30' High Mount Toolbar, 12 Dietrich Injector, Flow Meter
- 2010 Farmstar 10 Hose Reel w/Level Wind
- (2) Cornell Booster Pump 1000 RPM
- Farmstar 2 Hose Reel 540 RPM

Dairy

- (4) Houle 60" Scraper Drive Units
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1 Hobbs Engine 5" x 1300'	\$16,900
1 Hobbs Turbin 5" x 1300'	\$19,000
1 Cadman 2006 Engine 4" x 1000'	\$24,900
1 Ferbo 90S 3" x 985'	\$9,750
1 Ferbo 125 350 5" x 1200'	\$14,900
1 Cadman 2008 3" x 885'	\$12,500
1 Cadman 1996 25/8 x 900'	\$12,500
1 Bauer 1995 Turbine 4" x 1050'	\$16,750
2003 1 ABI 125 350 5" x 1200'	\$24,500

Delta-Tooth Harrow The Shape Of The Future

Invented in 1988 by a Colorado rancher, the Delta-Tooth Harrow brings new life to an old implement. Totally redesigned to eliminate the problems inherent in other flexible harrows, the Delta-Tooth consists of a series of cast triangles and connectors bolted together in a pattern. This unique design allows for very tight tine spacing, more weight per foot, and superior longevity, creating the most versatile

harrow ever built. A quick comparison between the Delta-Tooth harrow and others:

Will it tangle? No, regardless of how roughly it has been used or how old it is, it will never tangle. Is it easy to repair? Yes, if needed the harrow can be repaired right in the field with two small wrenches. Does it self clean? Yes, because it is heavier and travels with a shaking motion, trash will accumulate to a certain

point then the harrow will roll it out. Can it be pulled at high speeds? Yes, speeds up to 15mph are common.

Distributed by Hi-Valley Manufacturing in Kremmling Colorado, the Delta-Tooth Harrow is custom assembled to each customer's exact need. We offer three bolt patterns, and custom widths to fit every budget. For more information please contact Dave or Chris Sammons 970-724-9488.



Cross Manufacturing CROSS PDH Position Cylinder

The 3000 psi PDH position cylinder is available in 2.5 to 5 inch bore. All sensor components (except electrical connector) are imbedded internally within the cylinder for superior durability and long field life. The internal electronic feedback senses cylinder rod position and provides out-

put (analog or digital) to allow constant monitoring of the cylinder rod position. Sensor voltage supply: 12/24 VDC. Applications include: steering control, levelling jacks, paver height, snow plow blade control, trash truck automation, etc. For more information, visit: www.crossmfg.com

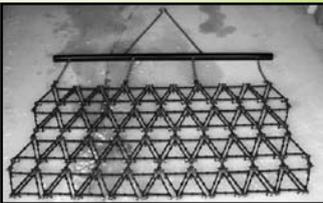


Delta-Tooth Harrow

THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE

Advantages of the Delta Tooth

- Will not fold over on itself, allowing tight turns. Travels at high speeds
- Will not tangle.
- Will fold up for easy transportation on Trailer or pickup.
- Can be pulled end-wise through small gates.
- Will wear longer because the material is considerably harder than steel rods yet it has great strength and good ductility.
- Will clean itself of trash.
- Won't require repeated passes over areas heavy manure concentrations because of much greater weight & number of tines.
- Produces smaller pieces and better distribution.
- The Hi-Valley Harrow won't ever cause you to regret you bought it!



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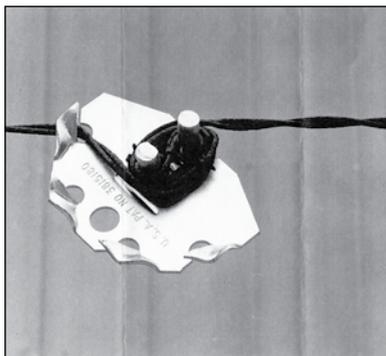


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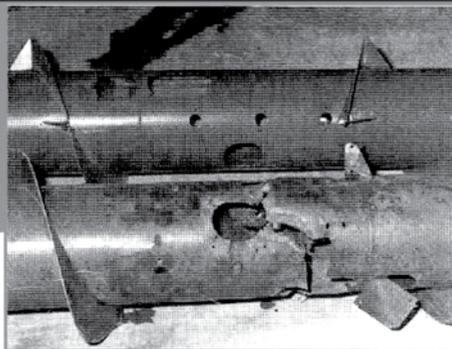
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GROWMARK Reports Estimated Year-End Financial Results

GROWMARK officials recently reported unaudited, estimated results for the fiscal year that ended August 31, 2010. Senior Vice President of Finance Jeff Solberg announced sales of \$6 billion for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. GROWMARK net income was estimated to be \$81 million.

“Fiscal 2010 was another good year in a series of good years,” he said. “The result of this strong performance is a very strong balance sheet with a sound equity base built on a substantial layer of retained earnings, which minimizes the stock investment required of members, which is supplemented by a prudent level of long-term debt.”

An estimated \$55 million in patronage refunds will be returned to GROWMARK member cooperatives

in the cooperative’s Plant Food, Crop Protection, Seed, Energy, and Facility Planning & Supply business units.

Agronomy/Seed Divisions

The Plant Food Division staged a strong comeback after a relatively weak prior year. Operating gross income is the second highest on record and volumes rebounded significantly from 2009, as prices declined and product became more affordable for farmers.

“The late harvest in 2009 prevented the majority of fall tillage and plant food applications,” Solberg said. “Fortunately, April provided a window of opportunity to complete the extra work. Our FS cooperatives proved their ability to move massive quantities of product to the field.”

The performance of the Crop Protection Division has been very strong

the last three years, and the outlook is positive.

The Seed Division generated another year of growth in seed corn units, while soybean seed sales units ended the year flat as compared to last year. However, the Seed Division has achieved solid profitability and will pay patronage for the fifth year in a row.

Energy Division

The Energy Division had a very strong year with volume increases in all products.

Propane volume reached nearly 310 million gallons, an all-time record for the GROWMARK System, due to the wet harvest conditions of 2009.

“The demand surge for grain drying stressed the industry’s distribution capabilities, but the GROWMARK Energy and Logistics Divisions per-

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formed exceedingly well to deliver the gallons,” Solberg said.

Grain Division

GROWMARK has made significant investments in its retail grain business segment, which produced \$800 million in sales and pretax income of \$16 million in 2010. All four retail grain units – Total Grain Marketing, WESTERN GRAIN MARKETING, NORTHERN GRAIN MARKETING, and Great Lakes Grain – were profitable.

Facility Planning and Supply Division

The cooperative’s Facility Planning and Supply Division expanded its scope and offerings in 2010 with heavy demand for bulk seed installation and many new farm and commercial grain dryers.

Grain bin sales and construction continues to be a strong business along with sales of facility equipment products. Sprayers, spreaders, and other equipment need regular replacing, and GROWMARK has relationships with major manufacturers to fill those needs.

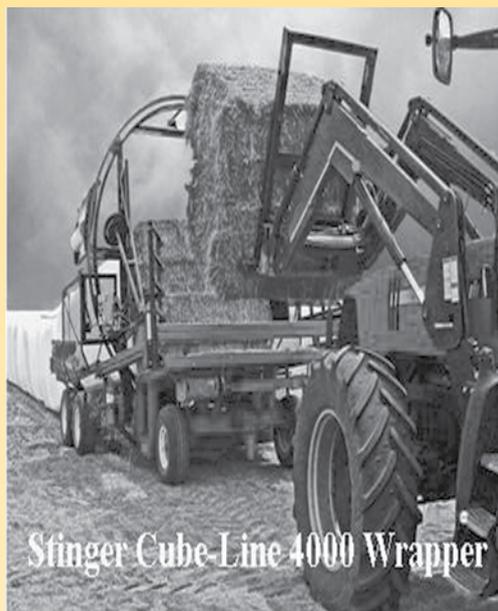
Retail Operations

GROWMARK’s retail supply business segment enjoyed another good year, producing \$1 billion in sales and \$18 million in pretax income.

“Change has been the strategic theme for this decade,” Solberg said. “More change has occurred in this decade than in any other in our history, and that change has produced record levels of success and profitability for the GROWMARK System.”

GROWMARK is a regional cooperative providing agriculture-related products and services, as well as grain marketing in 23 states and Ontario, Canada. GROWMARK owns the FS trademark, which is used by affiliated member cooperatives. The FS brand represents knowledgeable, experienced professionals acting with integrity and dedication to serve more than 100,000 customers. More information is available at www.growmark.com

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Burrows Enterprises, Inc. has been manufacturing the Roto Grind products since 1977, and are currently selling these products worldwide.

The Roto Grind Tub Grinders are a simple, low cost machine that can chop, or grind any feed products to the optimal size required by Dairy & Beef feeders. Use of this machine insures a consistent high quality feed. Grinding your feed to the correct size greatly reduces wear & tear on your feed mixers, and speeds up mixing / feeding time. They can grind any type forage in any baled form, from dry to 70% moisture. These Tub Grinders are also used by Dairy & Beef Feeders for improving feed conversions, eliminating wasted hay, and improving overall nutritional quality.

Multi-purpose, other uses include grinding all grains, and for chopping and spreading bedding.



The Grain Grinder Models are used for high production grain grinding. Many Nutritionists are recommending a fine grind for higher Milk Production. Our Customers using these machines

are realizing great cost savings over using roller mills, or purchasing steam flaked corn, and verify the increased milk production. These machines can achieve a fine grind in dry or high moisture conditions, at capacities unmatched from competitive machines. Easy – simple adjustments allow you to adjust from a coarse grind (cracked grain) to a very fine grind, without sacrificing capacity.

As with all our Roto Grind products, they are low cost, user friendly, versatile, high capacity machines.

For more information, contact: Burrows Enterprises, Inc., 2024, E. 8th St., Greeley, CO. 80631, Phone, 970-353-3769, Fax, 970-353-0839, www.rotogrind.com, Email: royal@rotogrind.com



PowerFlex Fence

PowerFlex Fence specializes in high quality, permanent and portable, electric fencing materials and livestock watering supplies. The company slogan “World Class Fencing at Affordable Prices” is proven through sourcing the best quality products for the money from around the globe. When we are not able to find the products that we are looking for, we have them custom manufactured to our specifications. PowerFlex PolyBraid and PowerFlex Hi-Tensile Woven Wire are good examples of that.

Unlike traditional twisted polywire products, PowerFlex PolyBraid is constructed in a tightly braided configuration giving it more strength, better conductivity and more longev-

ity. The 660’, 880’ and 1320’ lengths come with 9 stainless steel conductors. Lengths of 1320’ and 2640’ also come with mixed metal filaments consist-



ing of 6 strands of stainless steel and 3 strands of tinned copper. With the braided configuration, the filaments repeatedly overlap which assures a continuous flow of electricity.

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Visit www.powerflexfence.com to view informative articles, “how-to” tips, and general information, along with products and prices. The superior products at the best prices are why Professionals Prefer PowerFlex.



Tuesday, February 1, 2011 Is Deadline To Apply For Fred Stout Experience Awards

High school graduates who have a strong desire to pursue a career in managing and/or marketing Registered Jersey™ cattle are encouraged to apply for the 2011 Fred Stout Experience awards.

The awards are presented annually in memory of Fred J. Stout Jr., Mt. Carmel, Ill., a lifelong Jersey breeder and member of the Jersey Marketing Service staff from 1978 to 1997 who believed that the best learning experiences happen in the everyday world.

Two awards will be offered: (1) a minimum 10-week summer marketing internship with Jersey Marketing Service, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, and (2) a minimum 10-week on-farm, structured internship in Jersey herd management.

To apply, specify which experience (marketing internship, on-farm internship) is preferred, or indicate if you are interested in both opportunities. Submit a one-page résumé listing previous work experience, skills and other qualifications, plus a separate cover letter stating your ambitions, goals and career aspirations, including plans for achieving them. The letter must also explain how and why the Fred Stout Experience will be of benefit in achieving future goals. A summary of involvement with and interest in Registered Jersey™ cattle is required.

Two letters of support are required, one from an active breeder of Registered Jersey™ cattle, excluding immediate family members; and the other from a teacher, mentor or past employer. These must be mailed directly by the supporters to the AJCA office.

Applications and letters of support must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2011 and addressed to Fred Stout Experience, American Jersey Cattle Association, 6486 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-2362. They may be sent by email to info@usjersey.com.

Previous recipients of the Fred Stout Experience Award are Tara Bohnert, Il-

linois (2003), Allison Waggoner, South Carolina (2004), Dan Bauer, Wisconsin (2005), Aaron Horst, Pennsylvania (2006), Jacob Pieper, Maryland (2007), Katie Albaugh, Maryland (2008), Brady Core, Kentucky (2009), and Kim Wilson, Oklahoma and Ivy Roberts, Florida (2010).

Financial support is provided by a permanent endowment created in 2001 by friends and colleagues of Fred Stout. For more information on the Fred Stout Experience, contact Dr. Cherie L. Bayer, AJCA Director of Development, at email cbayer@usjersey.com or phone (614) 322-4456.

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Expo's 2010 Virtual Farm Tours To Feature Clover Patch Dairy Of Millersburg, Ohio

Clover Patch, a Registered Jersey™ dairy owned by Alan and Sharon Kozak of Millersburg, Ohio will be one of eight North American dairy operations to be featured in World Dairy Expo's 2010 Virtual Farm Tour program.

The video tour, which will be narrated by Alan Kozak, will start at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 29 in Mendota 1 meeting room in the Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center, Madison, Wis. The American Jersey Cattle Association is the program sponsor.

Achieving long-term financial security and providing a high quality of life for family and employees have been Alan and Sharon Kozak's main focus in operating a successful dairy. Every aspect of their business reflects their attitude of working with what you have, thoroughly planning, carefully executing, and persevering in the face of setbacks.

Alan and Sharon started in the dairy business in 1991 by renting dairy facilities and focusing on ownership

efforts on cattle. While working on budgets and planning, they determined that management-intensive grazing was their best route to long-term success. They decided to go with Registered Jersey™ cattle because of their higher milk component levels, adaptability, and high fertility. Plus, the smaller body size of Jerseys made them the only breed able to fit in the existing facilities and stalls.

Today, the Kozaks' herd of 900 Jerseys—430 in milk—is managed on a 450-acre farm outside Millersburg, Ohio. The July rolling herd average was 17,816 lbs. milk, 843 lbs. fat and 668 lbs. protein per cow, and the herd ranks in the top 25% of Jersey herds ranked by herd average Jersey Performance Index™.

With superior calf management, a stringent Johne's disease control program and the use of sexed semen, Clover Patch has achieved tremendous internal herd growth since 2002. This has increased their revenue stream through the sale of excess cows and replacement heifers. In addition, they

have made numerous improvements to the farm through land and water conservation. Intensive management of grazing pastures and hay fields is supplemented by year-round TMR.

In late June of 2009, Clover Patch hosted the joint field day of the Ohio Forage Growers Council, Small Farm Institute and World Jersey Cattle Bureau.

Alan Kozak currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Dairy Policy Action Coalition (DPAC), the Advisory Committee to the State Veterinarian of Ohio, and the North Central Ohio Dairy Grazing Council. He is also a past-president of the Ohio Forage & Grassland Council.

Other Virtual Farm Tours feature dairy businesses located in Wisconsin, Idaho, Minnesota, and Kansas. They are being sponsored by Structures Unlimited LLC, Semex, AgSource Cooperative Services, Quality Liquid Feeds, Grow Wisconsin Dairy Team, Kansas Department of Commerce, and Land O' Lakes Purina Feed. There is no charge for these programs.

World Dairy Expo opens Tuesday, September 28 with the Central National Jersey Show starting at 1:00 p.m. in the Coliseum. The cow show continues on Wednesday morning and concludes with selection of the Grand Champion by judge Kelly Barbee, Concord, N.C.

The Top of the World Jersey Sale kicks off at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 28 in the sale pavilion. Jersey Marketing Service, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, is the sale manager.

The American Jersey Cattle Association and National All-Jersey Inc. will have an exhibit throughout Expo. It will be located in the Coliseum at Arena Level 101 and 102.

For the complete schedule of events at the 2010 World Dairy Expo, visit its web site at www.worlddairyexpo.com



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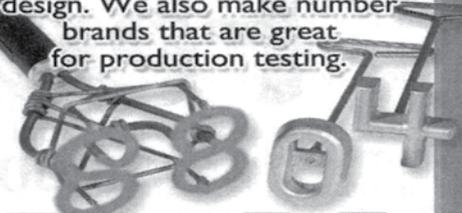
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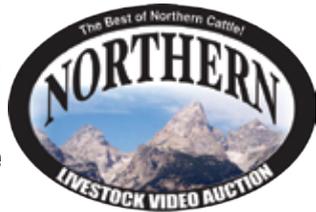
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Nov. 18, 2010	Nov. Internet Auction	Nov. 15, 2010
Jan. 10, 2010	Diamond Ring	Dec. 17, 2010
Feb. 10, 2011	Feb. Internet Auction	Feb. 7, 2011
March 10, 2011	Mar. Internet Auction	March 7, 2011
April 14, 2011	April Internet Auction	April 11, 2011
May 11, 2011	May Internet Auction	May 9, 2011

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Haven't You 'Herd'?

Ranchers are Raising Alpacas and Loving It!

Thousands of farms and ranches across America now raise alpacas as a successful livestock business.

Alpacas are beautiful, intelligent, and docile animals. Cousin to the llama, adult alpacas stand about 36 inches at the withers and weigh between 150 and 200 pounds. They do not have horns, hooves, claws or incisors. Social animals that seek companionship, alpacas communicate most commonly by humming, but neck posturing, ear and tail positioning, and head tilting are other communication methods.

Alpacas are native to the Andean Mountain range of South America, particularly Peru, Bolivia, and Chile. Once an Incan civilization treasure, alpacas provided clothing and transportation. Their fiber was reserved for royalty and was known as the "fiber of gods".

The United States first commercially imported alpacas in 1984. What began as a small, intimate alpaca community has blossomed into an official national organization, the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA). That was over twenty years ago. Today, AOBA is headquartered in Nashville, TN, and serves to facilitate the expansion of a strong and sustainable alpaca industry through the growth and development of the national herd and its products. Since AOBA's official formation in 1988, its membership has grown steadily to more than 4,000 members with over 150,000 registered alpacas throughout North America.

Many ranchers find that alone, or in addition to raising cows, horses, and other livestock, raising alpacas offers countless benefits – benefits that are hard to match. With their gentle personalities, alpacas are the perfect livestock to raise as a family business. They are easy to handle and raise, require minimal acreage and food, and can offer numerous financial benefits.

The complete package. That is how Barb Nuessle of Bay Springs Farm Alpacas, LLC in Cape May, NJ describes her alpaca business. Barb was a market research manager for a high profile company and her husband, Warren, ran his own head-hunter business, placing executives into major corporations. They both wanted to escape corporate America... they couldn't wait to retire! Together, the Nuessles decided to venture into farming.

The Nuessles researched a variety of livestock businesses. Barb liked llamas but felt they were a bit too big. Then, in 1993, Barb met her first alpaca. "I am a knitter," says Barb. "Their fine fiber was the clincher for me!"

There are two types of alpacas in the United States today. Although almost physically identical, what distinguishes the two types of alpacas is their fiber. The Huacaya (wa-Ki'-ah) is the more common of the two and has a fluffy, extremely fine coat. The Suri is the rarer of the two and has fiber that is silky and resembles pencil-locks.

Working outside, interacting with the alpacas, sharing her experience with farm visitors, and working in her on-site store are just some of the things that Barb loves about her new life. "This is a lifestyle as well as a business," says Barb. "Being able to work with such amazing animals is just the icing on the cake."

After 10 years in the alpaca business with 26 Huacaya alpacas and a successful store on their farm, the Nuessles no longer look forward to retirement. "I look forward to the future of this great business," says Barb. "I have no plans to retire!"

Another desirable aspect of the alpaca industry to many is the fact that alpacas don't have to be killed to be profitable. Alpacas are shorn, without harm, every twelve to eighteen months. They produce a luxurious fiber that is stronger, warmer, and lighter than wool and is

frequently compared to the softness of cashmere. Making it even more desirable, alpaca fiber is hypo-allergenic, contains no lanolin, and comes in 22 natural colors.

For Janet and Mike Wilkins of Wilkins Livestock LLC in Geneva, Nebraska adding alpacas to their cattle ranch made sense. The Wilkins' know cattle. For them, it has been a lifelong business. They've raised Angus cattle, registered quarter horses, and hogs as well as feeding cattle commercially. For 40 years, they ran a cow-calf operation. They then began a livestock insurance business that included alpacas. Seeing the many benefits of raising alpacas, expanding their herd was logical. Says Janet, "Our initial investment was with seven open females, who we bred right away."

While cattle graze on several barrels of hay, alpacas need only a small amount of grass and hay daily. In fact, a single, 60-pound bale of hay can generally feed a group of about 20 alpacas for one day. Cattle are significantly larger and often damage the land, whereas alpacas, with their soft-padded feet, are more environmentally friendly. Clean-up is easy since alpacas deposit droppings in communal piles.

The average lifespan of an alpaca is 20 years, with a gestation of 11.5 months. Female alpacas normally give birth, without assistance, in the daylight hours and typically have single births. Twins, although extremely rare, are possible. The most recent figure notes that 1 in 2000 is a twin.

Janet continues, "We're reaping the benefits now. By the time the crias or baby alpacas were six-months old, we were showing and selling for a profit."

Where is the alpaca market headed? Janet says, "The alpaca market is here to stay." The best way to learn more about alpacas is to visit an alpaca farm or ranch. To find one near you, visit www.AlpacaInfo.com



Dry Creek Alpacas

Focusing On Quality

When people think of Colorado most people think of the Rocky Mountains, big horn sheep and skiing. On the plains of Colorado travelers will see wheat, corn and cattle grazing on the pastures. Visit Holyoke, Colorado and you will find a family owned and operated alpaca farm.

Why alpacas? This is the first question people ask us when they find out we breed alpacas. The answer is exactly their question. Why not alpacas? We owned 6 acres of land with a big red 100 year old barn. It just seemed a shame to see the barn not being used. We both had jobs and we both missed not having some sort of livestock around. Alpacas seemed to be answer.

It was about 5 years ago and we were traveling through Nebraska to go fishing and saw these beautiful alpacas gracing by the edge of the highway. At the same time we looked at each other without saying a word and thought the same thought. Alpacas. Could these animals fill the void we were looking for? What an investment opportunity for our retirement.

We searched the internet to find out more about them. It was 3 weeks later Dry Creek Alpacas was born. We purchased our first pregnant females and two fiber males. Our herd was on its way. It wasn't long before we bought another bred female. It was surprising how our herd has grown. It was more of diction, passion, and wanting to learn more. The experience and joy of alpacas is unbelievable.

Unlike other livestock, alpacas are not slaughtered in the United States. They are strictly bred and raised for their fiber. Every spring our family shears, skirts, washes, cards and spins the fleece into yarn. When asked what we would be doing for the summer. Simply, we are working with fleece. The more a person learns about alpaca fleece the more a person has to won-

der why the secret isn't out. The benefits of alpaca fleece are amazing. It's no wonder they were considered the gold of the Aztecs. Some of the yarn is either sold as skeins or knitted into scarves, hats or socks for our customers. You'll find Dry Creek Alpacas at area craft shows selling socks, sweaters, hats, gloves and yarn.

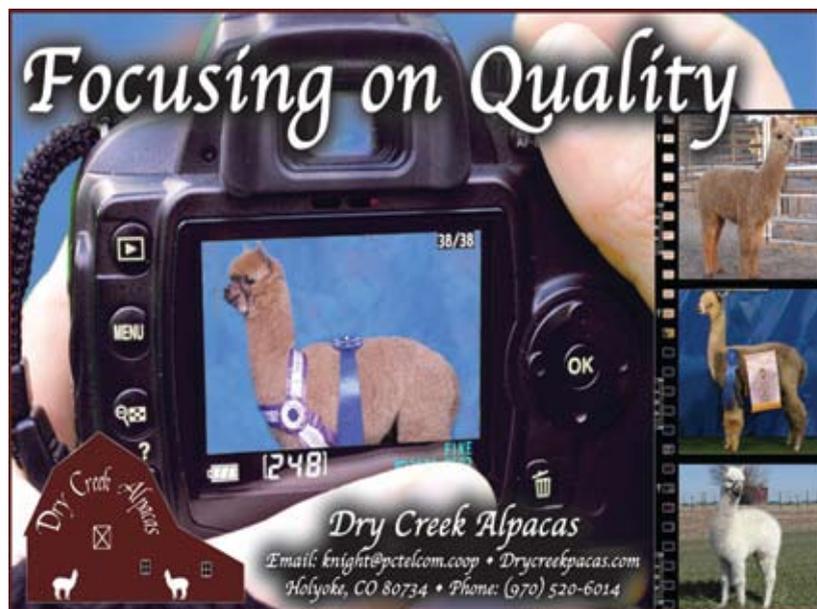
We give talks to area groups about alpacas and the benefits of owning alpacas or alpaca products. Don't be



surprised to find one of our alpacas walking down the hall of the school or at the library. A reservation isn't needed to have a tour of our farm. Our alpacas love visitors and give paca kisses to anyone willing to give

one back. You'll also find us on line at drycreekpacas.com. Follow the adventures of our alpacas and keep up with the latest news on facebook.

Because we are small family operated farm, we know the concerns alpaca breeders have. We have been there done that. Sharing experiences, knowledge and giving a helping hand is what it's all about. Our breeding goals are strictly for breeding for quality not quantity. Having alpacas has produced great opportunity for us. The life lessons it teaches our 14 and 11 year old daughters. Every spring we still look forward to our first cria being born. Watching as it tries to stand up. Running so fast and barely missing every ones legs within inches. We are saddened when the last cria is born and having to wait until next spring for the next one to be born. We still enjoy hearing everyone's triumphs and success. Ohhing and ahhing over other alpaca pictures. Ever wondered if owning alpacas is for you? Visit an alpaca farm. Look deep into those big, soft and loving eyes and then ask the question. ✪



Rocky I

A true story about a very brave little alpaca

Story by Mary C. King
Photographs by Lindsey R. Annan



hopeful and thought that if I stayed to keep him stimulated and breathing long enough to give the treatments time to work he may have a chance. Larry went home and told me he would pick me up when I was ready to come home.

That night, I visited with Dr. Bohnhoff and asked questions until after midnight. I told him that Rocky had a very strong will to live. I believe he got this strong



Rocky's first night in the hospital

Editor's Note:

This is part 2 of 2 taken from the book *Alpaca King's Rocky I*. Part 1 appeared in our Summer/Fall edition of the *Western Farm Ranch and Dairy Magazine*.

Rocky was dehydrated, his body was eating its own proteins, his body temperature was 94°, he was suffering from malnutrition, and the doctor thought he had pulmonary

edema. Dr. Bohnhoff inserted a tube for oxygen, a tube for fluids, and another tube for meds.

It was heart breaking to see our frail little Rocky suffering this way.

I felt very sad for Rocky because he had tried so hard to live and now he was dying. I told Larry that I wanted to stay at the hospital with him for the night. I decided that if he was going to die, I didn't want him to be alone. I tried to be

will from his sire, Denver Rio Grande. I also believe that a strong desire to live is the critical medicine that cannot be prescribed, cannot be bought, and cannot be ignored. That spirit must be honored and not cut off with hasty intervention.

Dr. Bohnhoff decided to run several tests but gave me little hope. At 1:00 am he announced that he was going home and suggested I do the same. At this time I was laying in a stall on a bed of straw

with Rocky. I asked the vet assistant if I was breaking any rules by staying. She told me I wasn't, so I told her I wanted to stay. Through the night the assistant checked on Rocky every 30 minutes. He was the only patient in the hospital so they gave him special care. It was cold in the stall. I laid Rocky's head on my chest so he could hear my heart beating and feel me breathe and I wrapped my coat around both of us. Several times through the night Rocky gasped for air and twisted his head around in contortions in the manner of dying animals. I pulled his head forward, stroked him a few times, and he became relaxed and quieted. Part of the night I sang a lullaby to him and sometimes I just talked to him and tried to stimulate good feelings. A couple times when I thought he stopped breathing, I rubbed his head and back and he seemed to feel comforted.

The next morning, December 26th, at 8:00 am, Dr. Bohnhoff returned and was surprised to find me there with Rocky—still alive. Even though Rocky was alive the doctor still didn't give me much hope. Dr. Bohnhoff agreed to perform one last test to check his oxygen levels



Rocky with tubes in his nose

but said if the test shows a bad result he would suggest we put Rocky down. I decided to go home and get some sleep. When I left CSU, I fully expected them to call by midmorning for permission to euthanize Rocky. His temp was 96.5° (up from 94°), his eyes were glazed, and he was unable to even lift his head. They had already opened the euthanasia conversation, so I was prepared for the worse.

After a short nap I got a call from CSU. I was nervous about the call, but I listened carefully. The oxygen tests showed that Rocky was utilizing his oxygen much better than they thought. They decided that he did not have pul-

monary edema. This was good news! Since he had a good oxygen level, they decided to move forward with a packet of high powered nutrition and electrolytes, which the tests showed he needed. More good news! They cautioned me



Rocky with head held high

not to get my hopes up, but I couldn't help but be optimistic.

I went back to CSU that afternoon. As soon as I began talking with Dr. Bohnhoff, Rocky moved his head and his ears went up. The doctor and his assistant said they had not seen a response from him like that, so they were pretty excited. I knelt down and held his head in my hands and rubbed his back and he continued to respond in a positive way. Several times while I was there, he picked his head up for a few seconds and his eyes followed me. Sue Johnson was with me and he also responded to her. His progress began moving up on a very slow curve. We wanted to give him every chance possible, so I brought my Photonic red light for this visit. (This is called red light therapy; it's like acupuncture without the needles.) I gave him red light treatments at every visit and asked the vet tech to give him treatments as well. We have had good results with red light therapy in other situations and were hopeful that it would help Rocky through this difficult time.

Once again, Rocky was all alone. This is hard for alpacas because they are herding animals. Without companions they don't do well. We wanted to comfort him as much as possible and decided to make his stall at the hospital more like our barn at home. Sue suggested that I take a radio for him on my next visit so he would have something to listen to. I always play Country Western music in my barn, but Sue and Ellen have told me that my alpacas would be much happier

if I would switch to Rock'n Roll!

Larry and I went back to CSU in the evening and took our granddaughters for a visit. They had played with Rocky in the barnyard and wanted to see him. We set up the radio for him. When he heard our voices, he raised his head and held it up for more than a minute.

The girls hugged him and he continued to hold his head up on his own and even tried to move around. At this time his body temperature was up to 102.8°. Dr. Bohnhoff was very pleased with this because it showed Rocky's body was finally beginning to fight and function properly.

During this visit, the vet tech tried to draw blood for a test but Rocky jumped up on his front legs and spit. Alpacas spit when they don't like what is going on or if they feel threatened. The tech was shocked and very pleased with another positive response, even though it was a messy one. We stayed for an hour; during that time he was very alert with good eye contact, in a cushed position, with his head up on occasion. We now became cautiously optimistic.



Rocky able to stand on his own

At 10:00 pm, I received a phone call from the vet tech at CSU, who said Rocky had made great improvements since I had left. He had been humming and he jumped up on all four legs and used the poop pile. His body temperature was 102.1°. She said that if he kept improving, they would start him on milk in the morning. By this time, we were given a 50% chance of survival. I knew things could still turn bad; however, we continued to hope and pray for more improvement.

On December 27th, Larry and I were sick all day. We both had bronchitis and flu symptoms, probably from stress and lack of sleep — not to mention the night I slept in the barn. We were miserable but we both wanted to check on Rocky. We made a visit to CSU and took Rocky his organic whole milk and organic whole milk yogurt that he was accustomed to eating at feeding time. When we got there, he was standing and humming and spitting because they were putting a feeding tube up his nose. He now had four tubes in his little body. The doctors were amazed at his progress.

I talked with Dr. Bohnhoff in the afternoon and he told me that Rocky was continuing to move forward. A chest x-ray showed that he had mild pneumonia. However, because of his improvement, they decided to start the process of taking him off oxygen, which he handled well. They started to feed him forage and told me that they would try a bottle the next day. The doctors now believed that he would make a full recovery.

December 28th was Rocky's fourth day at the hospital. He continued to improve and beat the odds. Dr. Bohnhoff told us that Rocky was our Christmas miracle. His oxygen and feeding tubes were removed but they were having a difficult time reducing his glucose to a level within normal limits and getting him to eat and chew up his forage.

I consulted Dr. Wheeler about Rocky's glucose levels. He supported the theory that elevated glucose in camelids is part of the healing process. He thought we shouldn't be concerned about the glucose. They were now calling Rocky a mystery.

Although he was doing well, he had to be able to eat on his own if he was going to survive. He was just so young to be without his mother and to be eating forage for all of his nourishment. I knew we still had a lot of work ahead of us.

The next day, Dr. Bohnhoff called and said that Rocky was still not eating normally. He chewed his forage but didn't swallow. This was not normal. We began to wonder if Rocky's ordeal had caused a retardation or a disorder that was preventing his swallow. Dr. Bohnhoff said that Rocky was much improved but to survive he would have to learn how to eat. Quality of life was always a concern

of mine. What would we have accomplished by saving Rocky if he had brain damage from all the trauma and stress? If Rocky didn't have quality of life, we hadn't done him any favor.

In the course of talking with other breeders and doing some internet research I came across information about dehydration. I learned of a female alpaca that displayed the same eating disorder due to being partially dehydrated. Rocky was dehydrated. When they hydrated her, she ate normally — it took two to three days. We really started to push the electrolytes and hoped that Rocky would begin to eat like a normal alpaca; we soon saw positive results.

Dr. Bohnhoff called on the morning of December 29th and said that if Rocky continued to improve, we would be able to bring him home the next day. We went to CSU and spoke with Dr. Bohnhoff. He told us that Rocky's glucose was back to normal and he was eating and chewing his cud. Dr. Bohnhoff had not seen him chew his cud until now, so he was very pleased. They also decided to wean Rocky off milk since he wouldn't take a bottle without a fight. They encouraged solid food instead.

Dr. Wheeler dropped by CSU to get an update on Rocky on December 29th. After reading his chart Dr. Wheeler could not believe that Rocky was still alive. He told us that Rocky "was definitely a miracle cria."

On December 30th, CSU called and told us that they decided to keep Rocky one more day. His glucose was now a little low and he had dropped .2 of a pound. They just wanted to watch him a little longer.

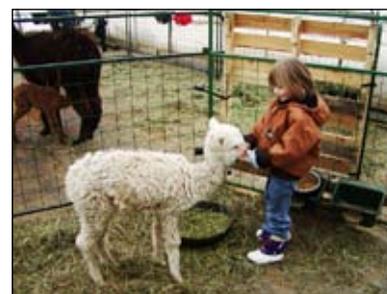
He really liked the mix of pellets they were giving him and was eating well. We hoped to bring him home soon. We decided that when he came home we would take him back to Sue and Ellen's because they had the heated greenhouse for him, and May was there.

They set up creep pens (one inside and one outside) so that only he could enter. If Rocky tried to feed outside a creep pen, he would be forced to compete with older and bigger alpacas, but ultimately he would have lost.

Now that he was able to eat, Rocky was finally gaining weight after four weeks of uncertainty. Rocky weighed 26

pounds when we took him to the hospital and in very poor condition. The day we brought him home Rocky weighed 29 pounds. He had gained three pounds in five days and amazed the hospital staff at CSU. Emerging from this at his young age with no mother showed his heart and determination.

This has been a lesson for us. It is important for those of us who care for animals to give them every chance to survive, especially when they exhibit such determination to live. We do not want them to suffer needlessly, and should end their suffering at the right time, but we must know our animals well enough to accurately determine that time. It cannot always be left to professionals; you need to know your animals better than anyone.



Sydni feeding Rocky

On January 1, 2008, New Years Day, we took Rocky from CSU to the greenhouse where he settled in very well. He was looking good and eating well. Sue and Ellen had to train Rocky how to use his creep pen. They had a young cria named Choco for Rocky to play with and they became fast friends. We were optimistic that we would have a normal alpaca very soon. He was totally weaned off milk and was eating hay, alfalfa, and pellets. Sue and Ellen were very committed to giving him the best care possible. They were in the pen six to eight times a day to encourage Rocky to eat.

Rocky was doing very well, but, he was only eleven weeks old. Cria usually nurse from their mothers for six months, so he still had a tough road ahead unless he found another miracle, and that is exactly what happened.

On January 3, 2008, May, our bay black female, had her baby. We named him Samson. As soon as Rocky saw that she had milk he started to nurse, and May allowed him.

We had to remove Rocky for 24 hours so Samson could get the first colostrum. Then we returned Rocky, and May took him as her own. Rocky finally had a family that loved him and gave him companionship. Rocky was no longer alone, a result of very ironic circumstances. May had never been accepted in this herd where Marcella was head, yet she saved the life of Rocky, Marcella's exceptional cria. Marcella seemed to think he had no value; May accepted

him without hesitation.

This is a life lesson for everyone. We all know someone who has experienced circumstances, similar to Rocky's, that they cannot control. Something deep within him cried out for survival because he knew living was worth the fight. He seized every opportunity and made the most of it. Ultimately he found his reward with renewed health and acceptance in a new family. May's example for us is obvious.

Watch for Rocky II. See how Rocky progresses with May and Samson; how a sweet, mentally challenged alpaca became his companion and contributed to his rehabilitation; how reuniting with his mother and the herd goes; his first shearing, etc.

Note: In January of 2009, the very first year that Alpacas were allowed in the National Western Stock Show in Denver, CO, Rocky took home the blue ribbon for Alpacas. 

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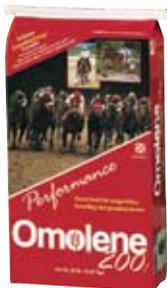
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