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A Cold-Tolerant Cover
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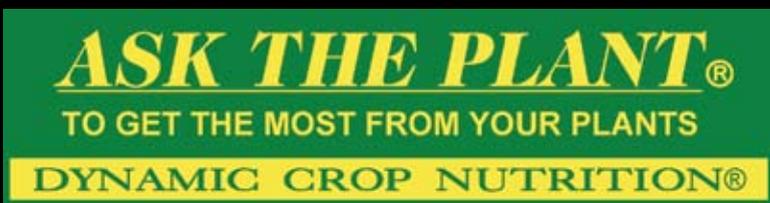


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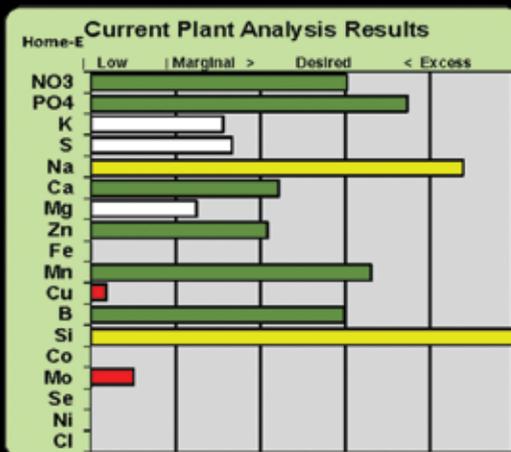


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agriculture



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RadiCoat Seed Treatment: A Radicle Approach to Supersizing Seed Germination

The radicle is the first part of the embryonic seed, the initial root growth, and has a substantial amount of production potential riding on its fate. But what do we need before the radicle can begin growing and absorbing nutrients for the plant to be? Germination. There are many factors that may have an effect on the germination of a plant and many companies spend a great deal of time and resources trying to figure it out. The major question is, will the seed have the resources it needs to germinate and flourish, or will it wither?



By introducing RadiCoat, we have answered this question. RadiCoat delivers several components directly to the surface of the seed waiting to build the ideal micro-environment when the radicle emerges. Imagine, if you can, that every seed in the field has the micro nutrients, trace minerals, organic acids, and beneficial microbes and fungi necessary to build a protective and nutritive microbiome. It would be an industry changer — and it is. It is no longer necessary to apply all nutrients in-furrow and hope that they still exist in an available form when the plant is ready to use them. How much more efficient can you get?

RadiCoat is a seed-coating polymer, but nothing like the majority of industry standard polymers. There are two types of polymers: natural and synthetic. Synthetic polymers make products like polystyrene, nylon, acrylic, polyethylene, polyester, and epoxy. They are typically not biodegradable or sympathetic to the environment, and use chemical solvents and wetting agents for manufacturing and/or forming films. Natural polymers are made from raw materials found in

nature and their uses are driven by a growing demand with mostly pharmaceutical and medical applications. RadiCoat Seed Treatment uses natural organic polymers formulated for growing vigorous plants compatible for use in agricultural soils from where they originated.



Panoramic view of treated vs untreated Treated on left – Untreated on right

Natural polymers are biodegradable with a direct nutritional benefit when combined in microbial populations, and can be used as a seed coating system for actually delivering microbes and nutrients to the exterior on all types of seeds. It has been proven that the best opportunities for successful microbe and seed germinations are created from placing the microbes “on the seed” along with nutrients. This also increases the overall efficacy for performance of the seed as opposed to treating soil proximities.

RadiCoat has been applied to all small grains, cotton, and high-value crops like potatoes and sugar beets. Many different application systems were tested to ensure that a producer with nothing more than a pump-up sprayer and a cement mixer can accurately apply RadiCoat. The ease of use and inclusion into almost any program are factors that make RadiCoat so valuable.

In one of our outstanding field trials coordinated through our distributor, Rocky Mountain Agronomics, RadiCoat Seed Treatment was applied to potato seed pieces through a liquid applicator system at standard rate. The RadiCoat treated half of the field emerged five days sooner than the control and total emergence was contained to a window of just 48 hours. Treated plants were more uniform and robust than the control. The RadiCoat treated portion of the field yielded more sacks per acre, and 71% of the treated yield was 10 oz. and above compared to the control where only 52% were 10 oz. and above. Such a large return for so small an investment, RadiCoat is a true economizer for your production system.

Don't let your production fall short in the coming seasons, contact Bio S.I. Technology today and redefine your average yield with RadiCoat.



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Frosty Berseem Clover: A Cold-Tolerant Cover Crop & Forage Option

You've probably heard about Frosty Berseem Clover (*Trifolium Alexandrinum*), the first cold-tolerant berseem clover. In early testing, Frosty withstood lows of 5° F without snow cover, thus earning its "frosty" claim to fame. It combines the best of berseem clover's Mediterranean genetics and adds a later maturity, cold tolerance, productivity, and nutritional forage value.



Frosty offers planting flexibility. Because of its quick establishment, Frosty can be incorporated into a cover cropping rotation to help suppress weeds. It can be underseeded in small grains in the spring because of its frost tolerance, and it can be used in a mixture for interseeding into standing row crops in summer or fall. Speaking of fall, Frosty will grow deeper into the fall than regular berseem.

With the potential for four tons of dry matter per acre in a two-cut system and a crude protein content of up to 21.5 percent, Frosty also is an excellent non-bloating option for direct grazing livestock. Another obvious appeal for a legume like Frosty is, of course, nitrogen fixation. Trials at Penn State showed that Frosty Berseem Clover fixed up to 150 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

Frosty is growing in popularity as an alfalfa-boosting companion. In fact, Frosty shares alfalfa's dry-down characteristics, remaining green for forage or hay. To make the most of Frosty's companionability with alfalfa, plant using a seed mixture ratio of 80 percent alfalfa to 20 percent Frosty; however, thanks to Frosty's cold tolerance, you can frost seed it directly on frozen ground before planting alfalfa. Frost seeding gives Frosty a headstart for rapid establishment in spots where alfalfa has winter killed.

Frosty prefers slightly alkaline loam alkaline, or "basic," soils, which is perfect for the western U.S., but really loves silty to medium-loam soils. It also produces more biomass than crimson clover on heavy soils. When planting with a drill, use a depth of 1/4 inch at a rate of 15 pounds per acre for monoculture and about six pounds per acre in mixes.

As a berseem clover, Frosty has a low hard-seed count, which means you're not likely to get overrun by unwanted Frosty, and you would need to replant for future plantings.

To learn more, contact Albert Lea Seed (800-352-5247) or visit our website at www.alseed.com



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Miracles of Balanced Plant Nutrition

Rising Costs, Falling Commodity Prices and Reduced Availability of Farm Loans Demand Smarter Farming Practices With Higher and More Efficient Production Per Acre.

Noel Garcia, CCA Technical Director, Texas Plant & Soil Lab

Typically, most growers have post-harvest or early spring soil tests performed then apply pre-plant fertilizer based upon the recommendations of the soil report and assume that the one application will pretty much supply the crop's nutritional requirements for the remainder of the season with perhaps supplementing Nitrogen sometime mid-season.

There are several problems with this approach:

1. Much can happen to your fertilizer after it hits the ground to make it unavailable to the crop:

- A. Your native soil chemistry can rapidly tie-up fertilizer components into chemical compounds which the plant can't absorb.
- B. Irrigation water high in mineral salts not only changes your soil's chemistry and damages its structure, but it also neutralizes plant-absorbability of many fertilizers by changing their chemistries into plant-unavailable compounds. Water quality is really critical in spray mixes or fertigation.

"What's In Your Water Becomes Part Of Your Soil."TM

- C. Chemical interactions between the fertilizer components themselves can render them unavailable to the plant.
- D. Loss due to the weather – leaching due to heavy rain, high soil temperatures, etc.
- E. Volatilization of Nitrogen into the atmosphere – especially true when next year's N is applied in the Fall.

The pre-season soil test provides a starting point for determining what the soil needs to get the crop off to a good start. The soil may have several issues that need to be dealt with in a coordinated manner to ensure the critical early part of the growing season is managed for the best results. But after that...

2. Nutritional demands of many crops vary widely throughout the growing season. ***The wrong fertilizer in the wrong form applied in the wrong place in the wrong amounts at the wrong time is simply wasted – along with your money*** – often leaching into nearby waterways.

But worse – your crop ends up being malnourished resulting in yields and quality often far below your crop's potential.

And even worse, crop malnourishment results in a stressed crop, making it vulnerable to diseases and insects (requiring insecticides and fungicides) – and requiring more water, making it more susceptible to drought and heat – and to hail damage and to cold (late frosts). "Nature always eats the weakest with bugs and disease." ***So, you end up spending a whole lot more to get a lot less.***

3. Popular soil testing methods used today (Mehlich III and others) by most labs extract nutrient compounds that are both plant-available and unavailable to be interpreted for subsequent recommendations to you.

(Sidebar: Reports on some soils often show Phosphorus, Potassium, Calcium or Magnesium as being consistently adequate or high, year-after-year. *How can that be?*)

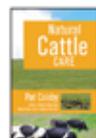
Most of those soil nutrients that are not lost due to the weather are either absorbed by the crop or are converted to plant-unavailable compounds by native soil chemistry or chemical reactions between themselves. Calcareous soils, particularly, are very efficient in tying-up most nutrients, making them water-insoluble and not immediately available to the plant. Accordingly, these insoluble compounds can build up in the soil over time.

By including at least some of these plant-unavailable compounds in the laboratory analyses, the proportions of what is, and what is not, available to the plant cannot be measured



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with the popular extraction methods.

This means that the lab has to estimate (guess) what is actually available to your crop, based upon its experience with your soil and render fertilization recommendations often based upon crop nutrition standards published in the early 1950s.

Because interpreting the analysis numbers from the soil testing methods used by most labs is highly-dependent upon the many variations in soil types its clients may have, it is not generally practical for the lab to attempt to calibrate lab numbers against actual plant uptake as can be done using an extraction method that duplicates the way plant roots take up nutrients in any soil.

And the problem with relying on 60+ year-old standards is that they do not reflect new varieties, new discoveries in plant nutrition and deteriorated soil quality (especially high soil salts, low organic matter content and collapsed structure).

All this explains why your soil test reports give you pretty much the same results and recommendations, year-after-year – even as your yields and quality stay flat or decline while your costs go up.

Balanced and Complete Plant Nutrition Goes Way Beyond N-P-K

About 18 elements have been identified so far as being necessary to plants – the number of which depends upon the plant. It has been only fairly recently that the importance of micronutrients (Iron, Copper, Zinc and Manganese) to plant health and quality started being promoted – and a few trace elements have been known for a while to be necessary for

certain crops or their consumers. With ongoing research, discoveries are being made regularly about the importance of heretofore ignored trace elements – most recently, SILICON.

A few years back, Silicon was acknowledged as being “beneficial” to mostly small grains, as it helps prevent lodging by hardening cell walls. However, ongoing research reveals that the benefits to very many crops and soils go far beyond that:

- Insects and disease are discouraged by hard cell walls.
- Research suggests that an extremely thin physical barrier forms on root hairs, thus discouraging nematodes and disease.
- Improves nutrient uptake.
- Improves drought resistance.
- Improves soil permeability.
- Many, many other benefits – and more to be discovered.

But there's more: A nutritionally-balanced crop is much better able to withstand stresses put upon it by adverse growing conditions (cold or hot, dark or bright, wet or dry, etc., weather). And – as we've experienced in the field, *maturation time can be shortened by as much as three weeks!*

When we encounter a field with disease or insect problems, the first thing we want to know about is the complete nutritional status of the crop, especially the secondary nutrients, micronutrients and trace elements – as these problems are typically only symptoms of plant stress brought on by nutritional imbalances.

But correcting nutritional problems alone won't necessarily fix a field already in distress – especially when there is disease

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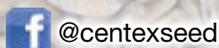
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or crop damage. Diseased or damaged plants require some intensive care.

A Lot More Than Just The Elements and Basic Chemistry

Biological Inoculants (microbes), sugars, hormones, humates, organic acids and more are game-changers and need to be an integral part of your season fertility program – but especially, **biological inoculants** because the populations and diversity of the native biology in many of today's soils have been decimated.

Biology – both soil and plant – **does a lot:**

- Converts plant-unavailable soil nutrients into plant-available.
- Controls soil and plant pathogens.
- Conditions soil, regenerating structure.
- Helps remediate salty soil.
- Transforms raw organic matter into humus – a material with complex physical and nutritional qualities – and releases plant-available nutrients during the process. Good levels of humus are essential for thriving plants.
- And a whole lot more...

Sugars stimulate biological activity to reduce excessive vegetative growth of plants caused by excess Nitrogen.

Hormones and Organic Acids are essential components of accelerating plant development – and are especially effective when dealing with crop damage (due to hail, etc.) and to assist in establishing crops in inclement springs.

We see many times a year, that these other things, in addition to basic nutrition, can restore a hailed-out crop within two or three weeks and very rapidly (often, in one season) turn bad

fields from disasters into successes!

Plant Tests

Plant tests provide you with “closed-loop feedback” about your crop's nutritional condition – because you really don't know about how much of your expensive fertilizer has been absorbed by the crop and you don't know what its immediate needs are for eventual end-of-season success.

Plant tests are actually tissue tests from leaves, petioles (leaf stems - plant sap) or the whole plant. What leaves/petioles are taken, the stage of growth, when they are taken and the crop nutritional standards used are critical as to how lab results are interpreted and reported. The primary difference between labs is in how the lab analyses are interpreted and the recommendations rendered.

Leaf or Petiole? Very generally speaking, leaves contain the historic nutrient content of the plant. Petioles contain the nutrients flowing (plant sap) within the plant as of the moment the sample was taken. With some crops, there are only leaves.

Many farmers act only after they see visual signs of crop nutritional problems in the field.

But the problem there is, by the time problems can be actually seen with the eye, *yields and quality have already been lost for the season.* The best that can be done by then is damage control – to hopefully prevent further loss. And “*Hidden Hunger*” is, by definition, invisible...

Plant analysis allows you to correct nutritional problems seven to 21 days *before* they can be seen in the field. Testing is done at specific stages of crop development, ranging from every week or two for fast-growing or high-value crops to two to five times a year for others. But it is critical that your lab reasonably knows what the nutrient content is supposed to be these days at the stage of growth when the samples are taken.

More To It Than Nitrogen

We have a number of clients who are interested only in plant Nitrogen content. Even though N-compound tests are cheap and certainly N is very important, from our perspective N-only tests are still a waste of money and effort, as there are so many more critical nutrients to be accounted for. Consider “von Liebig's Law of the Minimum”.

Do Your Plant Test Reports Include Everything That Is Important To Your Crop?

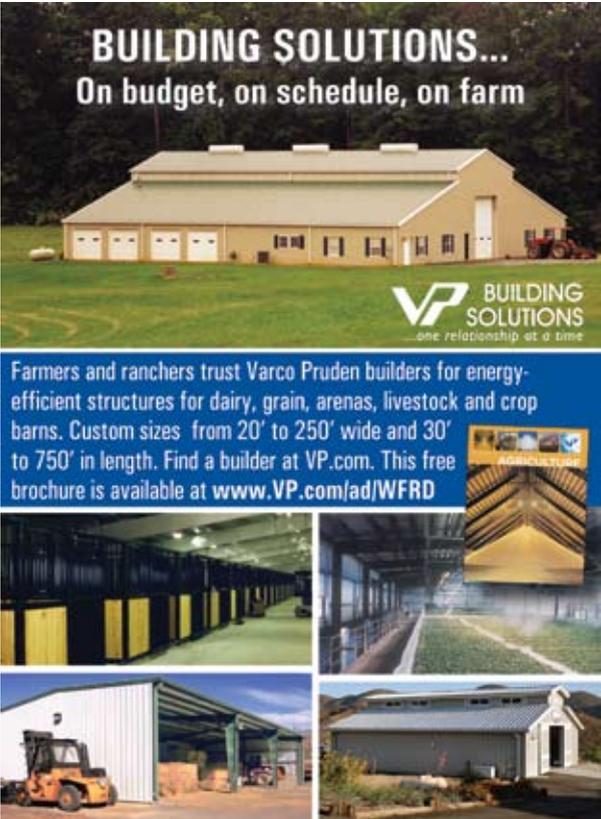
We've already seen that there are a lot of nutrients required for proper and balanced plant nutrition – only a few of which have been mentioned here – much more than just N-P-K. Accordingly, for you to get a complete picture of your crop's nutritional status, you need to know about the secondary nutrients, micronutrients and trace elements. Different crops have different nutritional needs and some crops have special nutritional requirements – especially for trace elements.

Does your lab include these in its reports? Does it have plant tests for your specific crop, including its special nutritional requirements? Does your lab have the capacity to interpret the data to provide you with good recommendations?

Crop Loss: Prevention and Cure –

Very often, crop loss due to late frosts can be avoided or minimized with a correct (and inexpensive) foliar spray applied even within hours of the expected event. Hailed-out

Continued on page 22



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Economize on Equipment Costs with a New Kit from Fehr Cab Interiors Co.

As new tractors continue to be offered in the ag-market, the cost of new equipment has soared, and it can be hard to budget for upgrading to the latest and the greatest. By installing a new cab interior, it gives you the feeling of having an updated tractor for the next growing season while providing a higher resale value in the future when you do decide to update your equipment line. Trim your spending budget by making a low cost investment on a new cab interior to keep your equipment in the best of shape and looking like new. If the time does come to update or trade in, you want to get top dollar out of your trade in. By installing a **Fehr Cab Interiors** kit, it gives the purchaser the assurance that you cared about your tractor. By freshening up the cab, the value of the tractor can increase up to 15%.

If you have a tractor over 15 years old, the interior has started to show its age and is falling apart. The vinyl gets saggy, and the foam lining in the cab loses all acoustical properties and starts to harden and deteriorate. **Fehr Cab** has done testing to prove a significant difference in decibels when comparing new and old acoustical foam panels. By replacing the acoustical foam, it silences the high pitched sound decibels that cause damage to your hearing.



JD 55/60 Srs on Plastic

Fehr Cab is excited to introduce the “Anyone Can Install” cab kits to their ever-expanding product line. The John Deere 2 wheel drive 30, 40, 50, 55/60 series Sound Guard cabs are available finished onto pre-formed plastic for much easier installation! Also, for the sound guard cabs, the replacement plastic fender fronts and air vent bezels are now available. The IH 86 & IH-88 headliners are also available as a pre-formed “Anyone Can Install” new kit. These new panels will save you up to 4 hours in installation time and you will no longer have the nuisance of having wrinkles develop and adhesive drying too quickly.

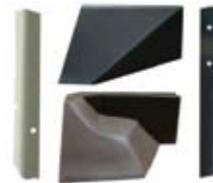
Most farmers can install these parts into his or her tractor, using **Fehr Cab** do-it-yourself kits for over 700 different model cabs. Fehr Cab kits are available with pre-cut, pre-sewn, pre-formed panels and complete instructions and whatever is necessary to install kits. **Fehr Cab** strives to replicate the original vinyl, foam thickness, quality custom fit and overall appearance in all interiors

offered. The new interior kits make the cab atmosphere so much more pleasant, clean, and quiet. **Fehr Cab** installs these interior kits in local customers’ cabs to insure that each part fits and every kit is easy to install. To see how easy our kits are to install, check out our “installation videos” at www.fehrcab.com. Quality materials and superior service is what makes a **Fehr Cab** kit the best value.

Currently, we are adding new items to our growing product line. Some of the newer items recently introduced are: Complete Seal Kits for Doors and Windows (pre-mitered and contoured to fit); Construction equipment interiors; Cat Challenger interior components, Case IH MX 100-270 interior components, John Deere 5200 srs, 6120-8530 model interiors and John Deere newer model S series Combine sound dampening kits. **Improvements are consistently introduced and customer comments are taken seriously.** Over the past 25 years, we have learned to listen to our customers’ requests and concerns to contribute to continued quality and affordability to stay competitive. To make a difference in sound control in your cab, contact **Fehr Cab Interiors Co.** anytime for information or to order.

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Missouri Hay Tarps Poised For the Future

Missouri Hay Tarps has been protecting and covering round and square hay bales

under the principles of which it was built, offering a quality product at a reasonable price, backed by exceptional service.



They didn't stop there, in addition to beefing up the tarp perhaps the most critical and noticeable improvement was the additional UV coating. The tarps are white in color on both sides and come treated with a special UV coating on both sides; both are critical components in combating the sun's damaging UV Rays. With UV coating and white in color on both sides the tarps are fully reversible. Missouri Hay Tarps recommends reversing the tarp each hay season to prolong the life of the tarp. The UV coating and reversing of the tarp will combat the effects of the sun and Mother Nature's elements which make a tarp weak and brittle the longer it is exposed. The improvements of 2013 were a success and Missouri Hay Tarps looks poised for the future.

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.

Owners Jeff & Bobbi Limberg purchased the company in 2014. They are committed to continuing the business

In 2013 they improved the quality of an already popular and dependable product by increasing the weight to an even heavier tarp from 6.7 to 7.7 ounces. In addition to the increased weight they beefed up the rope reinforcement on the bottom edge of the tarp which helped to omit any tearing around the

Tarps will be offered in 22 different sizes guaranteed to cover just about any hay configuration you can dream up.

Order today and see for yourself what has made Missouri Hay Tarps the leader in engineered hay covering. 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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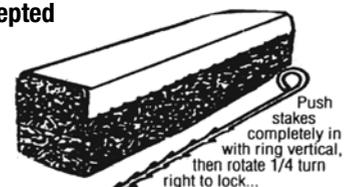
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INSECTO kills insects by cutting up the insects bodies, than absorbs their body fluids, which leads to their deaths by dehydration; a physical kill rather than a chemical kill. Insects don't build up a resistance to INSECTO, unlike chemical pesticides. INSECTO is labeled with the EPA "For Organic Production" and is listed with the Organic Material Review Institute (OMRI).



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There's a lot more to your irrigation water than just water

Larry Zibilske, Ph.D.

Vice-President of Research, Texas Plant & Soil Lab

What do you know about the water you use to irrigate your crops? One may ask, “What difference does it make? Water is water”. Well, it often isn't. Water that goes into the soil to nourish plants comes from somewhere else. The sky provides some, or all, of the water needed for crops in some regions, but many farmers must supplement that with water from wells, streams, or surface impoundments. Everyone using water from these sources should be concerned because irrigation water quality can vary greatly, and poor quality water can really harm crops. As water becomes scarcer, as in the current widespread drought, quality is often reduced, compounding the shortage problem. We have been seeing water quality generally decline for some years with the falling aquifers as mineral salts become more concentrated in the remaining water.

What's In Your Water Becomes Part Of Your Soil®

How can water harm crops? Water contains some amount of dissolved elements. These chemicals, most often natural constituents of rocks, are dissolved when water comes into contact with rocks and sediments around the natural environment of the water source. Problems arise when those rocks and sediments have a high content of elements that are easily dissolved and affect other nutrients that the plant needs. Regional soil and bedrock differences lead to large differences in the quality of the ground water derived from those sources.

Generally, waters west of the Mississippi River are more likely to contain larger amounts of sodium, calcium, magnesium, and carbonates. These reflect the generally higher pH of soils and sediments in the more arid west. By contrast, in more easterly regions,

iron, manganese, and zinc are common in ground waters, reflecting the more acidic nature of the soils. However, water from most all regions often contains a wide range of elements. Dissolved elements are not normally considered a problem, but how the water is used can lead to chronic problems with crop growth. The more we know about water quality, the better equipped we will be to manage it to minimize the problems. We can develop a feeling for water quality if we understand the effects of dissolved elements on plants and soils. To do this, it may be useful to review the fundamental relationships involved.

At the most basic level, plants (and all other living things) carry out their metabolic reactions in a soup of dissolved substances—dissolved in water within the cells. This part is easy to grasp—no water—no metabolic reactions—no life. Plants obviously acquire water through their roots, extracting it from the soil and transporting it up to the green parts to keep cell soup well supplied and the plant alive and active. Roots pull water out of the soil and away from soil particles by using energy provided by the photosynthesizing leaves. Water in the leaves is used for the cell soup, but it also evaporates to the stomata, taking with it heat from sun exposure on the leaves. This keeps the plant cooler, and helps in “wicking up” more water from the soil.

Thus, water uptake is an energy-intensive activity. As the soil dries out, the plant must use more and more energy to pull the water away from the soil particles. But plants have limits. They reach a breaking point when they can no longer generate enough energy to pull up the water. The result is a wilted plant. Water shortages tax the plant's ability to carry out proper metabolism and result in decreased vigor, or worse.

As a result of moving water from the soil to the roots, water soluble nutrients (including fertilizers) in the soil tend to move along with the water and into the plant. Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, along with the required minor and trace elements are carried along with the moving water into the plant root, providing the building materials to continue plant growth and development. The amounts of these nutrients moving into the plant depends two things: 1. How much of the nutrient is in the soil and, 2. What portion of that nutrient is soluble in the water at that time. If it is chemically inhibited from dissolving, it can't be moved to the root via water uptake. So what determines how much nutrient dissolves?

Properties of both the soil and water affect the nutrient solubility. For instance, in a high pH soil, the solubility of phosphorus is reduced because there are other chemicals, especially calcium and magnesium, which easily bond with phosphate and make it almost insoluble. The amount getting into the plant may be insufficient. Even if there is a large amount of phosphorus in the soil, the high pH severely limits how much can go into solution. This is why an appropriate soil test is so necessary.

If your test results are based on a very strong, acidic extractant you may see a large amount of the nutrient reported, but your high soil pH will not allow enough nutrient to get into the plant. It pays to know what tests are performed on your soil. No amount of water movement can get nutrients into the plant if they can't dissolve into the water first. Keeping just the right amount of nutrient in solution for the stage of growth of the plants results in the most efficient use by the plants. That calls for special attention to nutrient and water application practices and results in healthy, productive crops.

Of the elements leached from surrounding bedrock or from other sources, we are most interested in calcium, magnesium, sodium, chloride, carbonate, sulfate, iron, boron and manganese but there are also others. Excessive amounts of these elements can affect other nutrients' access to plants and can chemically react with soil particles resulting in conditions of poor soil structure, water infiltration rates, and generally a less hospitable environment for plant roots. Hard water characteristically contains high levels of calcium and magnesium, and soft water contains greater amounts of sodium.

Because all these elements are ions (atoms or molecules of elements that carry an electrical charge), the water containing them conducts electricity better than pure water. This can be measured by a test called electrical conductivity, abbreviated EC. This number is high where many ions are dissolved in water, and low where not. A high number indicates that many ions are there, but not what ions are present. That takes a chemical analysis of the water to determine. But why do we need to know the EC and elemental content of our water?

Understanding the information on a water test report can be confusing. The performing laboratory should provide some interpretation of the results. Recommendation for action should also be included. If you've provided information to the lab about cropping plans, water usage and history, you should be provided enough actionable information to manage any problem that appears on the test report. We often get frantic calls from growers who have results from another lab that indicates a problem with their water, but nothing in the way of what to do about it. For instance, you received a lab report on your water that indicates it is very high in sodium. What now? What do I do? Will it harm my plants? Let's examine the effects of some of these ions to address some of these questions.

Sodium (Na)

Excessive sodium causes problems with plant water relations because it can interfere with plant metabolism. High sodium around plant roots

tends to kill leaves when absorbed in excessive amounts. It can also dry out the root cells enough to stop root activity. High sodium also causes soil problems. Soil structure is often negatively impacted, rendering the soil highly erodible or as hard as concrete and virtually impervious to water—conditions that are hardly conducive to good plant growth. Sodium is often accompanied by high levels of chloride, and together produce one kind of soil salinity.

Calcium (Ca)

Calcium is a strongly reactive element in the soil. When hard water is used on plants, the calcium will begin to react mainly with phosphate and sulfate in the soil, forming insoluble compounds that rob the plant of necessary nutrients. Excessive calcium also causes soil structure problems, collapsing a well structured soil into a hard mass that roots can't penetrate or from which little water can be absorbed.



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Magnesium (Mg)

Magnesium is another hard water element that causes soil and plant problems similar to calcium. Affected soils can become unmanageable when wet, clodding terribly and exhibiting the same hardening and sealing effects seen for calcium when soil dries out. Tilling these soils is maddeningly difficult, requiring a lot of horsepower, tractive effort and fuel to accomplish.

Carbonate (CO32-)

Carbonate dissolves out of rocks in many areas, but it is mainly problematic in soils west of the Mississippi. Limestone-based soils often carry carbonate into solution, as well as calcium. Carbonate reacts with calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc and other essential plant nutrients, reducing the availability of those essential nutrients to the plants. Carbonate compounds formed affect long term availability of several nutrients because they tend to accumulate in soils where high carbonate water has been used for irrigation. As they accumulate, direct detrimental effects on plants begin to appear. Plants

can't take up enough trace metals to meet their needs, so deficiencies appear in the leaves.

However, by the time deficiencies become visible, the plant has already been stressed for some time. This stress manifests as reduced yield and quality, often accompanied by increased disease and insect pressures.

What can be done if I have too much of these elements in my water? There are treatments for all of these problems, and which treatment is right for you depends on the specific problem and on your use of the affected water. For instance, high calcium and magnesium in hard irrigation water can be treated with sulfur addition. This acidifies the water and the soil so that calcium and magnesium are less prone to form insoluble chemical compounds.

Adding humates to such water also helps buffer the system to reduce their tendency to become plant-unavailable once in the root zone. An important treatment component for many of these problems is soil biology. It might be a bit counterintuitive, but an active soil

microbiota keeps the soil open and draining, facilitating the downward movement of ions through the soil, reducing their retention in the plant root zone. In addition, during microbial activity, many organic molecules that provide some additional buffering are released into soil water. Sometimes, however, just strong leaching is the answer. High sodium problems can often be fixed by just leaching the soil with better quality water. If better water is not available, other things can be done. Sodium moves very easily in a moving water front, so leaching it beyond the root zone is often helpful.

Some of these problems arise from improper irrigation practices. Using water of marginal quality can be successful as long as enough is used to wash out salts retained in the soil from the previous watering. This prevents a process called "wicking" in which salts added with minimal watering remain near the soil surface. As the soil dries out by evaporation, the salts move to the soil surface with the evaporating water and accumulate there, making a white sheet or row at the highest point from where water evaporates. Growing plants in such affected soil is difficult.

Living with water of marginal quality is difficult but it can be managed. By treating the water according to recommendations, you can reduce at least some of the adverse affects of having to use lower quality water. In addition, managing the soil can make a remarkable difference in plant productivity. Further, studies have shown that plants with good nutrition can require often considerably less water.

Soil organic matter is a marvelous buffer. The presence of organic molecules can moderate some of the directly harmful effects of excessive elements. This is another role that spotlights the importance of maintaining soil organic matter levels. By promoting soil structure, organic matter promotes good drainage through the soil. This facilitates moving the excessive ions out of the root zone while maintaining good moisture retention for plants.

Drought continues in many parts of the country. Many growers are being forced to figure out ways to reduce

Continued on page 22

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Kaler Farms will be attending several farm shows in the Corn Belt area this summer. The Kalers encourage you to stop and visit with them. If interested in the Corn Stalk Guide, contact Kaler Farms at kalerfarms@gmail.com or visit their website, www.kalerfarms.com 

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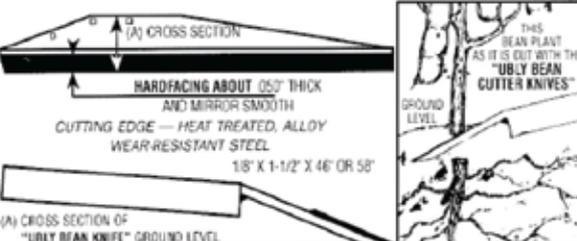
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Miracles of Balanced Plant Nutrition

Continued from page 12

crops can also often be quickly recovered with foliar sprays of hormones, sugars, microbial inoculants, amino acids, micro-nutrients, trace elements and other things.

Comprehensive Plant Tests Are The Cornerstone...

...for maximizing your crop's potential under the prevailing growing conditions and solving serious crop problems – especially when there are diseases and insects. Your lab should be able to provide you with recommendations for each stage of plant development for a successful season-long crop nutrition program. Providing your crop with balanced nutrition throughout the season is the biggest factor in field performance – and your bottom-line!

What To Take Away From This Article:

- If your lab's soil reports and recommendations are pretty much the same, year-after-year, there's something wrong, someplace.
- If you follow your lab's plant test recommendations and things haven't much improved, there's something wrong, someplace.
- If your fields have disease or insect problems, there's something wrong, someplace.
- If your yields and quality are flat, mediocre or are generally declining and you're not doing very well, there's something wrong, someplace.
- If the quality of your soil isn't improving with each year, there's something wrong, someplace.
- The Devil is always in the details – especially the smallest ones. 

There's a lot more to your irrigation water

Continued from page 18

water use and how to manage agricultural production with marginal quantities and qualities of water. Awareness of the issues and attention to the effects on soil and crops are necessary to keep soils functioning and agricultural enterprises in business. Achievement of these goals depends on how much we know about the condition of our soil and water, and on how we manage those resources.

But all these considerations aside, water chemistry can seriously impact the effectiveness of many fertilizers and herbicides. Additionally, hard water can plug drip irrigation emitters and change the geometry of spray nozzle patterns. Salty water can be corrosive to pumps and piping. 

Pressurized Exhaust Kills Burrowing Rodents

Continued from page 19

about 2 to 3 minute injection times.

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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Under Water Mounting

Some farmers prefer mounting water valves under water to keep animals from playing with them and also to prevent them from freezing. We have two options to mount our valves under water. First is an arm that goes up instead of down. We have these available for the three largest valves.

The other is a hybrid valve. We put a steel weight on the arm to turn the valve into a naturally open valve and then use a chain attached to a float to close it. With this option, the valve can be placed near the bottom of the trough.

For more information, call 801-602-9910 or visit www.brownweightvalve.com

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I don't have bent-up copper or brass rods anymore to stop the float from working. The valve might not be the cheapest out there, but it's the last one you're ever going to buy.

Pete DeGroot
Lakeshore Dairy
Visalia, California

UNDER WATER MOUNTING

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Often imitated, innovation begins at Jones Manufacturing! Jones Manufacturing was the first with a hydraulic opening tub (we built our first unit in 1960), the first with an electronic governor, and the first with a hydrafork. From the single discharge auger, to the rubber lagged top-drive elevator no other grinder has the features, capacity and durability of the Jones Mighty Giant.

New products and new features can sometimes lead to new problems. At Jones Manufacturing, we maintain a relationship with local operators to be sure that all features and designs are field-tested in the same environment our customers face. This same relationship gives us important feedback so that new designs and innovations are the result of experience, not marketing hype.

All Jones Mighty Giant Hay and Wood Grinders are of commercial, heavy-duty quality, designed for the high capacity grinding at a low cost per ton. With a Mighty Giant, you not only get a host of operator friendly features, but also the security of years of durability. We're not the first tub grinder company in the world, but we're confident that we are the last one you'll need.

For more information on the Mighty Giant Line by Jones Manufacturing Co., please visit us online at www.mightygiant.com, or call us at 402-528-3861. If you're in the neighborhood, stop in and visit us at 1486 12th Road, Beemer, NE 68716.



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From concept, design and through production, Walinga meets the customer's needs at every step. Creating outstanding products that are innovative and durable, with some client's vehicles being passed from generation to generation.

Walinga is a leading North American manufacturer of transportation equipment and portable pneumatic conveying systems for grain, feed, seed... virtually any dry bulk material. Walinga is still a family owned and operated company. The total commitment to quality is not only our inheritance - it's our foundation for the future.

Walinga products represent the best in manufacturing excellence. Our in-house engineering and design teams utilize the most current computer technology available. State of the art equipment, combined with over 60 years of experience, ensures that our customers receive unsurpassed quality.

Comprehensive engineering capabilities allow us to offer sizes, capacities, features and options that are specifically job-matched according to individual requirements. The services of our Engineering Department are available to our customers to assist in the selection of the properly specified chassis. Every Walinga vehicle is designed and produced to best fulfill its designated function.

Custom-built aluminum feed bodies and trailers, pneumatic conveying systems, recycling trucks and bodies, aluminum and steel dump bodies... each built according to exact standards. Every stage of the manufacturing process from design to completion is performed by Walinga. The result - a cost effective, durable product line that responds to any challenge with premium.

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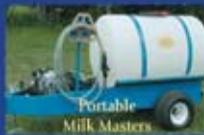
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C & R Supply, Inc.

Birth of a Sprayer...the Family Expands

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, or family of sprayers to meet their needs. The family began with the EZ ATV Sprayer which features a unique tank design that was created with input from customers and ATV manufacturers. Using this input, and keeping the operator in mind the EZ ATV Sprayer was designed for ease of operation, functional ability and safety. The design was a success! This unit has been in demand since 1998 and continues to hold a strong presence in the market today.

The EZ ATV Sprayer has a sleek design which 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 sprayers dual sumps 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 Sprayer 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 needs.

As time went on customers began seeing a need in their operation for UTV's. C & R Supply responded by expanding their family of sprayers. The UTV sprayer was born and it was named the C & R Slide In after its ability to be easily slid on and off the bed of the UTV as needed. The sprayer is mounted on a powder coated frame which allows the unit to be transferred as a single piece of equipment. This sprayer, like its elder sibling, was built with only the highest of quality components. The Slide In features a 60 gal tank, left and right electric controls with wiring harness, a Shurflo 4gm by pass pump, and Boominator nozzles which can spray a width of up to 30 feet. An 8 inch handgun from Tee Jet with adjustable tip for hand spraying is also included. The Slide In sprayer has options and accessories available to meet the needs of your operation including a convenient retractable hose reel add on and additional boom options.

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C & R Supply, Inc. is a distributor and manufacturer of agricultural and roadside spray equipment located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. For over 40 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. They also lead the way in designing and manufacturing new and advanced products as their customer needs change. This family of quality sprayers began with the introduction of the C & R Foam Marker and Spot Sprayer which progressed to the units we are featuring here today. C & R is a provider of precision ag products such as GPS guidance systems, variable rate controllers, mapping, steering assist systems, and chemical injection units. C & R Supply prides themselves on having the knowledge and experience to continually advance their product line to keep up with ever changing technology in a way that helps producers maximize their output.

Sunny D Mfg., Co. Inc – *The Oregon Roadrunner*

The Oregon Roadrunner, manufactured by Sunny D Manufacturing Company, Inc., is the all purpose machine when it comes to loading and unloading blocks of hay, everything from a stack of bales in the field to a six-pack of 3x4 bales. What used to take several people hours to buck the hay, whether loading trucks, unloading trucks, or moving the hay from one truck to another, now takes one person just minutes to accomplish. There is no other machine that can match it.



Humble Beginnings

In 1971, Art Davina – then a rancher in Bonanza Oregon – saw the need, designed and built the first Oregon Roadrunner.

That machine is still being used today.

While struggling through the hard times, redesigning to incorporate new ideas and improving on old ones, and building a strong customer base one customer at a time, Art managed to build his back-yard business to a point where he was able to open his first shop. By 1985 the business was large enough that he began the process of incorporating it. Later, needing more space to meet customer demand, he bought a larger property, and moved the business to its current location in Klamath Falls.

When health problems forced Art to take a step back and de-stress his life, he wanted to find the perfect person to take the reins. Ed Majors took over as GM in 1998 and in 2003, began the process of buying the company from Art. Today, Ed officially owns it.

Sunny D Today

From those humble beginnings in 1971 to the 21st century, Sunny D Manufacturing Company Inc. has grown to a business totaling 15 employees. Welders, fabricators, mechanics, a painter, and various support personnel create from bare metal the machine that called “The Oregon Roadrunner.” What used to be only available in white with your choice of stripe, a customer can now choose their color and design. For more information, call 1-541-884-2361, or write 4343 Highway 39, Klamath Falls, OR 97603. 

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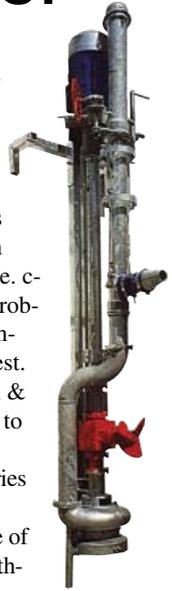
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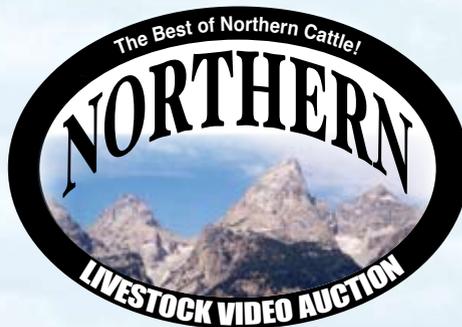


Northern Livestock Video

Northern Livestock Video, headquartered at Billings Livestock Commission, Billings, MT is engaged in the livestock auction business through Video Satellite & Internet Marketing and is produced by a capable Northern Livestock staff. Pat Goggins introduced the video concept of selling livestock to the industry years ago and conducted the first in the world sales during the mid-1970s. Video & Internet marketing has since become a viable, legitimate tool for merchandising feeder cattle and breeding cattle. The most important factor is to receive national competitive bidding on your livestock. The Northern Livestock Video Sales are broadcast on Satellite and Internet. In addition, the sales are aggressively promoted nationwide in the best read livestock publications around the country and nationally recognized auctioneers' will sell the sale. As a consignor, being involved in one of our Video events affords your herd more exposure than you could possibly gain on your own efforts. This is buying power.



Northern has on staff the best group of knowledgeable Representatives of any video sales company in America. They come with excellent qualifications and have firsthand knowledge of cattle breeding, feeding & carcass quality. You can work knowing they will personally represent you from the moment you sign the consignment form until the day your cattle are delivered. They are bonded, reputable, conscientious cattlemen with many years of experience in the industry. But most important they understand marketing at all levels. They will become your best friend! The sale is conducted just like an ordinary auction sale only the livestock are not on the premises. Most of the sales will be physically held at the Billings Livestock Commission in Billings, MT where television monitors will be set of for viewing, or you can view the sale in the comfort of your home or office. Buyers will be on the seats to bid and a bank of phones will be manned to take the call-in bids from the video broadcast. They are fast paced auctions with nationwide bidding. Keep in mind when you consign your livestock to a Northern Livestock Sale, it will be broadcast across the North America continent on Satellite as well as on the Internet. Anyone who has a "dish" or computer at home, in the office or feedlot can view the sale and bid on the livestock in "real time." Remember, we started the video way of selling livestock, the first in the world, back in the 1970s. We know what we are doing and we would like to prove it to you. When you make the important decision to consign to Northern, call us at 1-866-616-5035.



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Rawhide Portable Corral to blend the Old with the New

John McDonald knows a thing or two about livestock equipment after working with cattle and rodeo livestock most of his life. Knowing there had to be a better portable corral design out there; he came up with it himself.

In 2003 the public was introduced to his original Rawhide Portable Corral. It could be set up by one person without any lifting and it could be done quickly; yet it could also be pulled down the road at highway speeds, ensuring that no time would be wasted while catching cattle.

Fast forward to 2018 and now customers have two different corrals to choose from; the Rawhide Original, throwback to the first design, or the Rawhide Processor.

Even though the Processor's design is viewed as the superior portable corral on the market, John believes that there are still those who will want a smaller, more affordable system. Enter the Rawhide Original, which is a blend between the two designs he has offered throughout the years and has a bumper hitch with permanent transport wheels. The Original is only offered in the Standard and Large sizes.

The Processor is offered in three sizes for the convenience of ranchers and cattle producers throughout the world and the main difference with this design is the ability to customize the corral upon ordering by including a hydraulic alley, head gate or loading chute. Whether you simply want to catch your cattle or process them on site and load them into a trailer from the pasture, you are able to do so with the Processor.

The design of the Processor continues to impress cattle producers with its versatility and ease of use. The permanent sheeted adjustable alley aids with working your livestock, whether it is done on site or in the field. The adjustable alley can be sized from thirty (30) inches down to sixteen (16) inches; either manually or hydraulically.

The most notable features of the Rawhide corrals are that they are easy to set up and they are easy to transport. We mean it when we say that one person can open up the corral without lifting a panel. This will continue to be the model as we move forward with our newer designs.

The key is one person can handle it all by themselves. Customers can manipulate the panels so it is not just one big pen, but two, three or even four pens for sorting, as one can never have enough pens when it comes to working cattle.

John's design was the first portable corral on the market to offer the hydraulic lift option. This has been so popular that we now offer customers the option to buy the Hydraulic Lift Kit with or without the battery so that they may upgrade existing equipment of their own. A lift kit includes the jack, power unit, solar panel and of course the option of including a battery at time of purchase.

John and his wife Mary run the family business at their manufacturing plant in Abilene, Kansas, which is the only place where a Rawhide may be purchased outside of South Texas, where we now have a dealer in Hempstead.

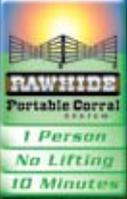
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BCF Technology has been a pioneer in veterinary ultrasound for over 30 years. We believe in helping our customers improve animal care by ensuring that they gain the most from their veterinary ultrasound technology. At BCF, we are our customers' partner from start to finish. We not only provide the ultrasound machine, but also the initial training as well as a free library of learning materials such as case studies, articles and videos. In the unlikely event of a breakdown, we have a wide range of loan equipment available to keep you up and running and our knowledgeable service engineers continue to maintain a one-day turnaround on repairs. We offer a range of ultrasound products for bovine, ovine, caprine and swine. The Easi-Scan curve machine (pictured) provides a quick and accurate

pregnancy test to determine if a cow is open, and can also be used for fetal aging and sexing. It also provides you a wide field of view with phenomenal depth due to the curved probe. This ultrasound machine for cattle helps you make more accurate bovine pregnancy diagnosis between 30 and 60 days. Additionally, the Easi-Scan machine is lightweight and can be worn on your hip comfortably for hours of scanning without strain. Interested? Contact us to schedule your free demo! 





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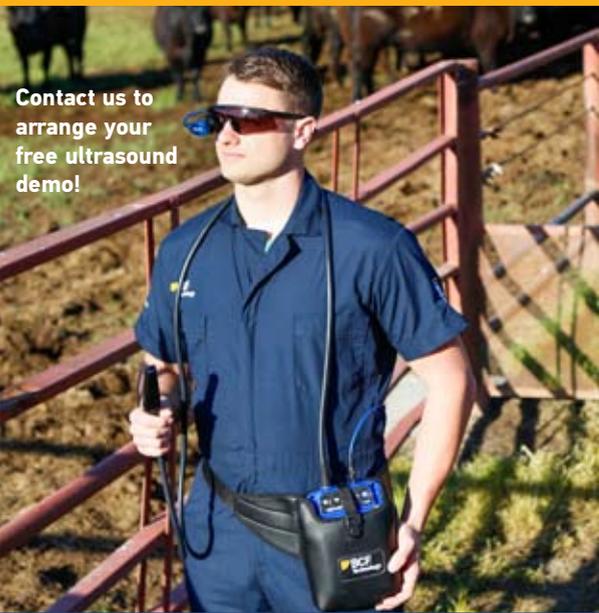


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Expansion in the Diamond W Corral Family

Check out our newest units today! The new additions to the Diamond W Corral family, manufactured by Burlington Welding, LLC, have just arrived.



The rectangular tube unit is our stoutest unit yet, weighing an average of 7,300 pounds. This unit is made out of 3" x 2" 14 gauge rectangle tubing. Multiple gates add to the ease of movement in and around the unit while working your cattle.

All rectangular tubing corrals have (3) 4' walk through gates with spring latches and 2 divide gates, (1) 12' gate and (1) 9' gate in a 12' gate frame. This unit is equipped with lights, a 2" ball hitch, and a hitch jack for easy backing and hooking. The dual wheel axle helps ensure a smooth pull of the unit up to highway speeds.

The Diamond W Cattle Box has been designed to work in conjunction with our other Diamond W Corral products by connecting to 1 of 3 places on the Box. The Cattle box measures 8' 6" wide by 32' long with a gooseneck hitch for a total transport length of 48' long. All panels and gates are 6' tall. Each unit has double 5' 6" wide rear gates and double 7' wide front gates along with (2) 3' wide alleyway gates. Adding to the ease of use are (2) 4' walk through gates. The center divide gate is 12' long and is covered with 4' of 14 gauge sheet metal. All Diamond W Cattle Boxes are equipped with walking I-Beam suspension, electric brakes, 235x16 radial tires, and transport lights.

These products can be set up as quickly and efficiently as our other corral tubing types, making your cattle handling tasks quick and easy.

Contact us to find your perfect cattle handling fit and start to head out within minutes with our quality Diamond W Portable Products! Call 580-596-3381 or visit diamondwcorrals.com





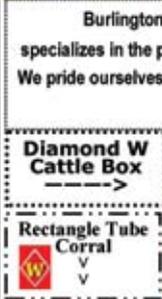
Diamond W Corral



Sorting System

Patents 08-534-230 and 9-226-476

Burlington Welding, LLC, home of the Diamond W Corral specializes in the production of innovative livestock handling equipment. We pride ourselves in our quality equipment being designed to make your everyday tasks, just a little easier.



Diamond W Cattle Box



Rectangle Tube Corral

Patent pending



6' x 12' hog trap



6' x 12' hog trap

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Model 30TW Headgate

Height: Gate Opening 66" • Overall 85"
Width: Gate Opening Top 31.5" • Gate Opening Middle 29"
 Gate Bottom 26.25" • Overall width w/handle open 67"
 Overall width w/handle open 67"
Step Over: 5.5"
Closes To: 4"
Weight: 290 lbs.

- Parallel opening doors and a low step over help prevent a downed animal from choking.
- Gate closes down to 3" to hold small calves and latches up to 18". Model 30TW closes to 4" to 20" to hold your largest bulls.
- A unique hinging system and slides push dirt and manure to the outside with each opening eliminating build-up and door jams.
- Improved positive ratchet lock not affected by weather conditions.
- Fully opening doors provide a wide exit and prevent animals from stumbling or jumping when exiting.
- The model 30TW has 6 more inches of gate clearance height and 31.5" in width. Specify left or right handle control (from rear of chute) when ordering.



Model 34M Headgate

Height: Gate Opening 66" • Overall 87"
Width: Gate Opening 33.125" • Overall including handle 102"
Step Over: 1.5"
Closes To: Top - 4" • Bottom - 2.75"
Weight: 317 lbs.

- Parallel doors with a 1 1/2 step over.
- Gate closes from 4" and opens to stunning 34" in width.
- Friction latch designed by For-Most.
- Neck bars are an option that work with 34M.
- Doors do lock independently, but work together to maintain an even width.

Model 450 Chute



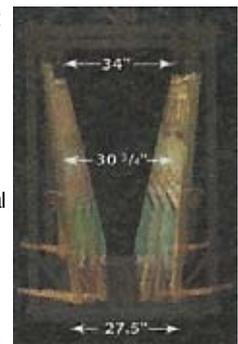
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ProMow® reel mowers are mowers that have blades which spin vertically (or north to south). This allows the grass to be cut in a scissor-like action rather than a whipping-like cut from a rotary mower that results in jagged edges. Typically mowers also leave piles of grass clippings that need to be raked and bagged afterwards. ProMow® reel mowers, however, evenly disperse the grass clippings, which contain essential nutrients needed for your yard. These combined effects result in greener grass and healthier turf.

"What normally took me over 7 hours, now takes me about one hour," said Joe Saggars of Indiana. "Thanks to ProMow® I now have one of the best looking lawns in Noble County."



With the national and international success of the ProMow® reel mowers, we are always striving to help our customers achieve a cleaner cut in a fraction of the time. "Our mission is to allow people to save time and money, while providing the best product for a beautiful lawn," said Jared Davis, President of ProMow®, Inc.

This year, ProMow® turns 23 years old and has a long life ahead. "We are bringing new products to the market that we know our customers are going to love based on their comments and suggestions," says Davis. "This year, we created a whole new reel, which will help cut Bermuda and Zoysia grass better. We are also offering a bolt on sprayer kit so that our customers can now spray pesky weeds at the same time." ProMow® has also added a ball hitch adaptor to the lineup for an easier hookup. "Money-Saving Mowers: A Quicker Cut with less Gas & Emissions."

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