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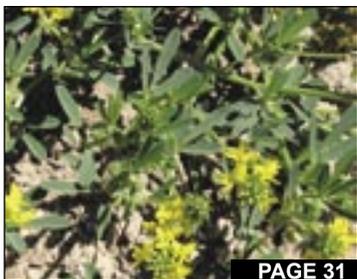
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On The Cover

Photo courtesy of Canadian Home Rotors. For more, see page 15. Inset photo courtesy of J.C. Ramsdell. For more, see page 20.

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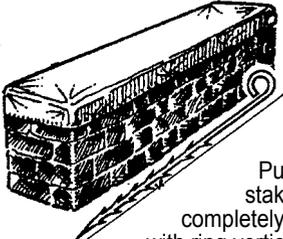
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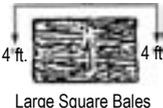
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C&R Supply, Inc. • Birth Of A Sprayer

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

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

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



Spray 30 feet wide with no boom

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. 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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Zapata Seed Company

Situated in the beautiful San Luis Valley in Hooper, CO at an altitude of 7,600 feet, Zapata Seed Company is dedicated exclusively to producing the highest quality potato seed stocks. Brian Brownell, his wife Deborah and 4 children, still live in the house where he was raised and farms much of the same land where he used to irrigate with a shovel and siphon tubes. Brian still carries his shovel, but now he uses it to check the moisture in fields that adorn 14 circles of sandy loam soil located in Northern Alamosa County. Brian has a BS degree in Agronomy from Colorado State University. He has served on numerous boards and committees involving agriculture. He currently serves as a member of the Colorado Certified Potato Growers Association.

In 1993, Michael K. Horton was employed as the General Manager of Zapata Seed Company bringing 19 years of seed production experience to the operation. Mike was previously employed for 12 of those years as a Research Farm Technician at the Colorado State University San Luis Valley Research Center. The Greenhouse Manager is Chris Padilla with seven years of greenhouse experience.

Now in its eleventh year of operation, Zapata Seed has changed considerably since its infancy. Originally started to produce seed for a commercial operation owned by Brownell Farms, Zapata Seed has grown to include its own micro-propagation laboratory, climatically controlled growth room, climatically controlled state-of-the-art greenhouse facility (7,250 square feet cropped three times yearly), modern storages with variable speed fans and separate bins for isolation of various seed lots, and 820+ acres of Nuclear to G4 seed production.

The mother plants for the greenhouse cuttings come from Colorado State University's clone bank to ensure that they are free of disease and genetically true. The cutting process seems endless, as over 110,600 plantlets are needed to fill the next greenhouse

crop. Two visual inspections are made on each greenhouse crop as well as an Elisa Test on tubers of each lot grown. Strict sanitation has and continues to be a key to Zapata's success in both the greenhouse and the field.

Zapata Seed maintains a strict IPM regime beginning with seed treatment, soil sampling, intense scouting and monitoring, strict scheduling of insecticides and pesticides, low fertilizer inputs to help with disease expression, adult supervised roguing crews and early kill of potatoes to prevent late season spread of insect borne diseases. For the last four years, Zapata has been adding beneficial fungal and bacterial micro-organisms to the soil with compost teas, which they brew in their six tea brewers. Zapata also uses a remote Agri-Link weather station, which constantly monitors the early generation seed circle that is located 70 miles away in an isolated area.

One of Zapata's most recent acqui-

sitions is a custom built Spudnik Seed Sizer custom built to allow for more accurate sizing of seed. We also use a custom built Milestone Seed Sizer built for seed. Both of these sizers improve uniformity of size of the seed. This is greatly appreciated by those who purchase seed and allows for more accurate seed cutting and uniformity.

Zapata Seed Company is a licensed grower of Colorado and Texas Norkotah Line Selections. In addition, Zapata grows many varieties of reds, yellows, russets and chippers. Zapata seed is the exclusive grower of the Golden Sunburst variety (a popular new variety with an intense yellow flesh). Zapata offers Custom Minituber Production and annually supplies other seed growers a portion of their initial seed stocks. Seed stocks are sold in Colorado, Texas, Arizona, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Wisconsin.



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can haul up to fourteen round bales or twenty-four square bales. Our trailers can also haul a combination of square and round bales at the same time. The HB10 and the HB14 are accompanied by their own loading ramps for heavy equipment hauling. These ramps are carried within the frame of the trailer. The loading ramps are detachable.

The HB14 includes 10,000 lb axles, dual wheels, steel leaf springs, electric brakes and drop sides for fast, easy equipment loading or large loads of hay that need additional support. The HB10 includes 8,000 lb axles, dual wheels, steel leaf springs, and electric brakes. Haulzitall's hydraulic controls are located at the neck of the trailer for safe and easy operator control. All operations can be performed safely with the hydraulic system from the neck of the trailer.

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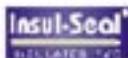
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In 1905, E.C. Loomis worked as a grain and hay broker on the Central Coast of California in the small town of Arroyo Grande. His sons later joined the business, creating E.C. Loomis & Sons Feed.

Over the years, their business progressed to a feed mill with several retail locations, the development of Loomix liquid feed supplements, and later, the manufacture of fiberglass troughs and tanks.

Dan Loomis joined Loomix, Inc. in 1981, starting in service and, later, moving up to regional sales manager. When the business sold in 1991, Dan purchased the fiberglass division, which included polyethylene water and chemical storage tanks. The new company was named Loomis Tank Centers, which now has five retail locations, 70 nationwide distributors and over 40 manufacturing points.

"I'm very proud of the Loomis family history as we near our 100th year anniversary in business," said Dan Loomis. "I feel very privileged to carry on the longstanding tradition of serving our customers' needs. I've learned from my family's business philosophy that nothing is more important than customer service. I believe that our relationship with our customers is the key to our success."



Loomis Tank Centers is a wholesale and retail distributor of polyethylene and fiberglass tanks for the storage and transportation of water and the bulk storage and transportation of chemicals and fertilizers. They also feature fiberglass, two lines of polyethylene septic tanks and the Infiltrator leach field system. Open-top fiberglass and polyethylene water troughs are also available.

In addition to Loomis Tank Centers' five company-owned stores in California, they have a nationwide network of 70 independent distributors and over 40 manufacturing points. Delivery is available to any location.

For more information, call Loomis Tank Centers toll-free at 1-800-549-5514 or visit them online at www.loomistank.com.

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SAFARI Helicopter Kit

The SAFARI has evolved from designing, testing, modifying, and refining since 1962. The origin is the single seat Helicom, designed in 1953 and built by the capable hands of aerospace engineer, Harold "Pop" Emigh and his son. This model was successfully built and flown by many homebuilders. Many of these helicopters are still flying through support and parts manufactured by Canadian Home Rotors Inc. (CHR). Later, recognizing the need for a two place helicopter, Pop altered the design to accept a 150 HP Lycoming engine. Many of these were produced during the early seventies.

Mr. Emigh sold the rights and manufacturing jigs in 1970 to a new company, International Helicopters of Mayville, New York. They continued the evolution of the design naming it the Commuter

II A & B. It was basically the same sturdy airframe and drive components but with a beautiful new streamlined cabin. Quite a few of these were also produced and it was in 1979 that CHR got its start, when company president, Murray Sweet, bought his first kit and the Canadian rights to market the design. After completion of his Commuter IIB and successful flight tests, Murray began making modifications in an effort to save weight, lessen maintenance, increase safety and dependability, while at the same time, making the helicopter useful in allowing it to pay its own way.

This was the start of the long process of designing, engineering, and developing the details of manufacturing the components. New partners, investors, and employees joined in the project along the way, with

CHR incorporating in 1986.

In 1992, at the E.A.A. National Convention in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, CHR made its debut. Although CHR had never advertised prior to July of 1992, we have built a large clientele just by word of mouth. The quality of the product has improved due to computerized equipment and technological advances. CHR will always continue to strive for perfection well into the future.

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Chickweed Healing Salve is made by cold infusion and is wild crafted from Southern Indiana. It is never really cooked, only heated enough to accept the bees' wax.

Chickweed (we also call "Starlady") together with comfrey has exceptional healing and drawing properties. Chickweed is healing to the skin. Other ingredients include mint, rosemary, lavender and eucalyptus, which are beneficial for colds, and sore throats. Lavender adds a nice odor and is also a great pain reliever.

The base is olive oil and bees' wax, which are natural and healthy. Infused together we have a salve which is good for a variety of skin disorders such as eczema, psoriasis, fungal infections, rashes, sore throat, cuts, burns, poison ivy, colds, diaper rash, etc.

TESTIMONIALS

"Hi there: I wanted to keep you apprised of my progress since I received your salve four days ago. I have been to many dermatologists and have had many cortisone injections and still had dry scaly skin in patches on 10% of my body. It looked aw-

ful and was very noticeable. I have used very expensive medicines and have not had the results that your salve has given me in an almost immediate time frame. While I am not a doctor, I am an experienced patient who has suffered and can say to you that no other skin preparations have given me the immediate results that your Chickweed Healing Salve has. To say it simply, it's WONDERFUL...the scales and crusts and blemishes are going, going, GONE!" Saul Kaplan, West Palm Beach.

"I had a sore throat. After applying Chickweed Healing Salve to the outside of my throat it went away. It is great!" - Bob Schwagmeir

"Our baby had a painful diaper rash. Within minutes of applying the Chickweed Healing Salve he quit crying. By morning the rash was nearly all gone." - KC

"I had these dark spots on my leg of 15 years. I'm not sure what it was but it was growing! After two months of using the Chickweed Healing Salve the spots are almost gone. I also use it for dry skin on my heels and toes. Its amazing stuff!"

- Kirk Baron

"My Poodle has very bad allergies on her skin. She gets scales, sores and dry flaking skin. After using the Chickweed Healing Salve for one week, the condition was completely gone." - Dorothy Stale

"I burned myself real bad across the chest, arms and hands. I started using Chickweed Healing Salve on my third day in the burn unit at University of Louisville Hospital and had immediate results. The nurses were impressed at the results. Eight days later I was released." - Charles Mulligan, Athens TN
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TESTIMONIALS: - HOME -

- I had skin cancer removed 2 times from my face. The third time it came back, I decided to use Chickweed Healing Salve. Within 2 weeks it was gone. I also used it on my leg and ankle that was swollen. It went down and the soreness left also. Thank you for your help.- Raymond Davis, New Washington, IN 812-293-3555
- That stuff's like dynamite, one said now we'll never be without that salve. We use it for everything and suggest it to everybody. Then an older lady said as we left, "Just don't ever quit making the Chickweed Healing Salve." - Three ladies talking to us as we were eating our lunch in the hills of Ohio. Place called Thelma Jeans Pizza, 740-493-2711

- BARN -

- My wife washed our milker claws in a heavy dose of washer acid which burned and blistered the cow teats. I put this salve on one cow, it almost completely healed up in 48 hrs. So tonight I put it on every blistered cow in my stable. - Daniel Stoltzfus, Loganton, PA
- I used this salve on sheep foot rot and they healed up nicely, where vet medicine didn't work. - Beth Johnson, Owasso, OK
- "I have had a contact dermatitis on both hands for over 1 year ever since I worked with some Walnut lumber "hobby". I thought it was dry skin, etc. Well, it got infected and has been a real problem so much so I had to take a leave from work. The dermatologist prescribed very expensive ointment and I used them. There was improvement but not complete healing and some breakouts. One of my co-workers went to Amish Country in Shipsewana, Indiana and saw Chickweed Healing Salve and thought of me. They purchased it and brought it to me. I had nothing to lose so I tried it. Within 4 days, and I mean 4 days-my hands had healed! I couldn't believe it. Every day I would show my co-workers the improvement. And as it progressed, their amazement grew. Of course they wanted to know what I was using-where they could get it. We all here at work have dry skin and this really helps. None of us here are herbal people. But this was the first demo of a natural/herbal product working so well. Oh-did I mention I am a critical care RN working in ICU and my co-workers are hospital staff? Well, this 10-container order is a combined order for several people at the hospital. Chickweed healing salve sure has helped me so far, and we'll see what time brings." Butch Witlock



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Super Fast Hay Drydown Meets Super Feedability New Super Conditioner Design Released for 2005 Season

Hermiston, Oregon - Circle C Equipment's new 2005 Super Conditioner features redesigned rubber rolls with raised, spiral lobes. This new model offers all the benefits of the previous model while greatly increasing feedability.

The 2005 Super Conditioner's newly patented rolls fully inter-mesh to create a powerful vortex effect that aggressively feed crops through the rolls without plugging or wrapping. The same vortex effect quickly ejects debris before causing serious damage.

Like the previous model, the 2005 Super Conditioner uses two air bags to generate pressure between specially formulated rubber rolls. The user-selectable pressure allows the farmer to dial in the desired conditioning effect. The rolls are precision machined and fully synchronized to crush crops along the full length of the stem without ripping or removing leaves.

Traditional conditioners crimp the stem in a few locations. The 2005 Super Conditioner crushes the full length of the stem. This speeds dry-down and reduces the chance of rain damage.

The 2005 Super Conditioner fits 85 models of new and older swathers. Existing Super Conditioner rolls can be recovered with the new design.

Circle C Equipment manufactures the Super Conditioner, as well as the American Eagle Balestacker and the Golden Eagle Wheel Rake. For more information about the company or any of its products call (800) 367-1847 or on the web at www.circlecequipment.com.



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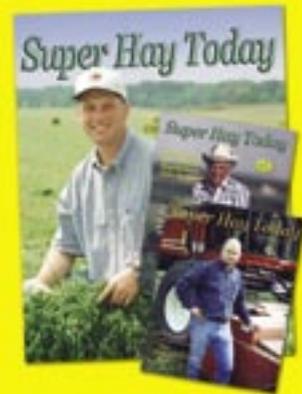
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Taking the Fight to Burrowing Pests

The Rodenator Pro blasts targeted pests and destroys their tunnels, eliminating the need for traditional pest control methods such as poisons or labor-intensive trapping

When battling the gopher in the classic movie *Caddyshack*, Bill Murray got it right when he said, “My enemy is a varmint, and a varmint will never quit...you have to fall back on superior firepower and superior intelligence.” The trouble was his efforts to kill the gopher - flooding its hole with a giant hose, spraying it with a fire extinguisher, and trying to blast it with explosives - were just too crude. While the dancing gopher made us laugh in *Caddyshack*, the economic havoc created by burrowing pests on farmers, growers, and others who work the soil is no laughing matter.

Fortunately, farmers, ranchers, nurseries, golf courses, water districts, even schools and park districts now have a sophisticated new weapon in their arsenal beyond poison, traps, and other traditional means. The weapon, the Rodenator Pro Pest Elimination System, is capable of delivering a precision underground shockwave to the targeted animals’ tunnels and dens. Not only does the Rodenator Pro exterminate the tenacious critters in short order, but also can collapse their tunnel systems to prevent re-infestation - without the use of chemicals or poisons, and the time-consuming tradition of baiting and trapping.

Asked about its effectiveness, Brett Johnson who farms 20 acres of hay in Hollister, Cal. says, “There’d be no dancing gopher left in *Caddyshack* had they used one in the movie. On a serious gopher infestation problem, I experienced a 95-98% kill rate my first pass through using the Rodenator Pro.”

Manufactured by Midvale, Idaho-based Meyer Industries, the Rodenator Pro injects a calibrated mix of propane and oxygen into the targeted rodent’s burrow. Since propane is heavier than air, the gaseous mix sinks to the lowest parts of the burrow where the nest usually is. When the operator electronically activates this mixture of blended gases from the end of the application wand, the oxygen mixture rapidly expands at

5,000 feet per second, creating a high pressure shockwave that kills the rodent and collapses the tunnel systems of many burrowing species.

“The concussive shockwave travels about a mile per second down the tunnels,” explains Johnson. “When it can’t expand any further, it takes the path of least resistance, pushes upward, and blows the tunnels apart, burying the critters underneath.”

Farmers, growers, ranchers, and others long frustrated with the relative ineffectiveness and drawbacks of traditional pest elimination methods, are rapidly turning to the Rodenator Pro. Starting this fall, John Deere Farm dealerships worldwide will showcase the Rodenator Pro in a new video battling a saber tooth gopher that’s taken over a small rural community in the film short “Gopher Busters II.” The video will be introduced as part of John Deere Days.

The Drawbacks of Traditional Pest Control

While traditional pest control measures such as traps, poison, shooting, and introducing natural predators continue to be used, they all face significant limits on their effectiveness.

Traps, for instance, are limited by the number of available traps, and are time-consuming to bait, set, and check. “We just couldn’t keep up with the gopher population by trapping them,” explains Gary Farwell, who manages over 300 acres of vineyard in the Lakeport, Cal. area for Kendall-Jackson. “We lost about 350 vines last year due to gophers chewing through them. We had only so many traps. So we’d go to the spots with most activity, bury them, come back a couple hours later, and dig them back up. Many times the traps would come up empty.”

The use of poison bait or fumigation may raise the possibility of getting residual chemicals on crops and potentially into groundwater as well as the extreme possibility of secondary poisoning to non-target animals and pets

such as dogs or cats, which may eat the poisoned rodents.

“Putting poison bait into holes is time-consuming and difficult when wet, especially in the rainy season, so it’s not ideal,” says Farwell. “Also, we don’t want poison too near our neighbor’s animals.”

Shooting offending rodents is workable only on a small scale, since pests spend the majority of their time underground, out of sight and out of range. Similarly, bringing natural predators such as cats and birds of prey into the picture may be a good idea, but can prove insufficient when the pests are mostly underground.

One glaring omission in all these traditional pest elimination methods, however, is they do nothing to remove the underground tunnel systems, which new pests can inhabit even if the original occupants are killed.

“If you leave the tunnels intact, it’s like an underground freeway system for pests,” explains Johnson. “New rodents will enter from the perimeter and penetrate to the middle of your field at the snap of a finger. Leave the tunnels, and depending on the lay of the land, they can become mini-aqueducts, channeling off water or causing flooding problems.”

The Biggest Bang for your Buck

For eliminating burrowing pests from gophers, ground squirrels, moles, voles, groundhogs, and prairie dogs to rats, fox, coyote, and woodchucks, a growing number of individuals are turning to the Rodenator Pro for relief. Registered with the Environmental Protection Agency, it’s providing fast, effective, environmentally safe burrowing pest control.

After trying trapping, poison, and the usual methods, Johnson turned to the Rodenator Pro to eradicate a plague of gophers so numerous in his hay field “that the ground looked rototilled though it hadn’t been touched for years.”

He drove out in his ATV looking for fresh mounds, dug with a shovel to find the gopher runs, inserted the application

wand, timed off the mix of propane and oxygen dispensed, and ignited it.

Because the system ignites the mixture of propane and oxygen immediately, it leaves no chemical residue behind. Since the resulting concussion will often collapse the tunnel system and bury the pest, there's also no need to handle or dispose of the carcass.

"There's no need to worry about leftover chemicals, or poisoning your neighbor's pets because the gas is dissipated at use," explains Johnson. "Anywhere the little buggers come up, I give them a welcome committee they won't forget."

"All methods are somewhat effective," continues Johnson, "but the Rodenator Pro is where you get the biggest bang for your buck. It not only destroys the targeted pest, but also the tunnel system to stop re-infestation. It's simple, direct, fast, with no need to set, bait, or check traps. Once I find the gopher mound, I could treat it in about 1-½ minutes, and be off to the next one. "It brings the fight to the pest, so you don't have to wait around."

Gary Farwell found that the Rodenator

not only got the job done, but also got it done quickly on the 300 plus acres he manages for Kendall-Jackson. "Our crew killed off about 80% of the gophers the first time through," he says. When you blow a tunnel, you know that whatever is in there isn't coming out. Two guys covered 25 acres a day using the system. That's four times as much ground as they did with other methods and at least 50% more efficient labor-wise."

Ground squirrels are a problem on the 200 production acres of orchard Gino Favagrossa manages for CSU Fresno. The squirrels are a particular problem on a 60-acre block of rangeland converted into an almond grove.

"The squirrels would kill young trees, eating the tree roots, and of course take the nuts from the mature trees," explains Favagrossa. "They like to bore under trees, reducing vigor, and cause some drip line damage from chewing. Because the orchard floor needs to be even for equipment to pick up the nuts, their dirt mounds can also disrupt the harvest."

While still using poison bait, Favagrossa has found the Rodenator Pro

very useful from spring to early summer when the squirrels are coming out of hibernation. "Because the females are tending their young then, they often won't come out of their holes. That's when the system works best. And when checking water, if we see a squirrel go down a hole, we'll blow the hole. The only drawback is the noise. We farm in an urban environment, so we must consider time of use and location."

"The system has been very effective in helping control our squirrel infestation at Fresno State," concludes Favagrossa. "It's increased the efficiency of our eradication efforts. Anyone dealing with a burrowing pest problem should at least consider it as part of their arsenal."

The Rodenator Pro, with US and foreign patents pending, comes complete with hoses, regulators, safety equipment, applicator, stainless steel shovel, and a comprehensive instruction manual in English or Spanish.

For more info, call 877-RODENATOR; fax 208-355-0103; visit www.rodenator.com; email sales@rodenator.com; or write to Meyer Industries at PO Box 39, Midvale, ID 83645.

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J.C. Ramsdell Enviro Services, Inc.

J.C. Ramsdell Enviro Services, Inc. introduces a secondary containment system that is portable and takes the “common sense” approach. Shipped in kit form, the galvanized steel secondary containment system is easy to assemble. Kits are available for earthen floors or for concrete pads.

Three standard heights are available: 21”, 33”, and 44” tall. Taller panel heights are available upon request. Four shapes are available—round, oval, square, and rectangle. Panel lengths are either 56” or 112” long. Round secondary containment systems are available in various diameters from 12’ to 72’ in diameter. Square and rectangle shapes can be virtually any size to fit your available space.

With many fertilizer regulations now being enforced by numerous states and the Federal EPA Clean Water Act petroleum regulations now starting to be enforced, the galvanized steel secondary containment system makes sense. Across the Midwest, many insurance companies, to limit their potential liability, are requiring secondary containment systems for petroleum tanks. Federal EPA regulations state that all oil tanks over 1,320 gallons or a cumulative total of 1,320 gallons must have secondary containment. This includes gasoline, diesel, kerosene, ethanol, mineral oil, vegetable oil, animal fat, crop oil and any other type of oil.

If you have 1,320 gallons of oil products on your site and you have a 55-gallon drum of engine oil or crop oil, then this 55-gallon drum must also have secondary containment as all containers 55 gallons or larger fall under this regulation. All oil



tanks are included in this regulation, which includes farmers and ranchers.

Just one fertilizer or petroleum spill can pay for the secondary containment system by recovering the spilled product and reusing. Having the spilled product get into any water or having the soil cleanup costs can put a financial burden upon your operation. In today’s climate of “clean and green”, a galvanized steel secondary containment system is not only environmental friendly, it can save you money if you would have a spill.

If you have any questions about secondary containment, give J.C. Ramsdell Enviro Services a call at 605-997-3704.

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7010-7080	\$239	White 8700 & 8900	\$249
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Ruxton's Trading Post

Ruxton's Trading Post is located in the historic town of Manitou Springs, CO. Literally at the foot of Pikes Peak Ruxton Avenue leads to the Cog Railway that climbs to the summit, 14,110 feet above sea level.

Owners Gretchen and Mike Graham grew up surrounded by Western memorabilia and antiques.

"My father used to travel around the country buying Western antiques and bringing them home," Gretchen said. "I used to take Western items to school for show and tell. I thought it was cool stuff. Mike bought his first Navajo rug at age 13."

"My uncle was a collector," Mike said. "He had an old Colt single action pistol that came off a robber who routinely robbed Gallup (N.M.) payrolls. The last robbery wasn't successful and the local sheriff took the gun and later gave it to my uncle."

The trading post is filled with artifacts of the Western frontier. Antique spurs, saddles and Indian crafts hang



For more information, visit Ruxton's web site at www.ruxtons.com or call 719-685-9024. Our address is Ruxton's Trading Post, 22 Ruxton Avenue, Manitou Springs, CO 80829.



from the walls and ceiling. Nearly every square inch holds interesting relics.

Ruxton's also stocks new goods such as cowboy hats, Pendleton blankets and cowhide rugs. "We have over 400 cowboy hats both old and new" Mike said. "With the bright sun all year long and our large selection, we have become the place to buy your cowboy hat."

If you are lucky enough to visit around the end of July, you can also take in the Pikes Peak Western Collectible Show held in Colorado Springs. 100 dealers from all over the West gather to sell Western antiques and frontier goods.



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U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc.

Harvesting Crops That Feed The World

U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc. is an association of professional custom harvesters serving the needs of the American Farmer. The organization was established and chartered in 1983 in the State of Texas and serves as a link between the harvesters and the many groups of people they work with such as farmers, businesses, and the State and Federal Government. U.S. Custom Harvesters is a dues funded, membership organization with the Harvest News magazine as their primary means of communicating with members.

This organization also works to educate its membership concerning safety, quality of workmanship and information on equipment updates.

The input from their membership is channeled through designated committees that report to the elected board meeting annually the first weekend of March. The membership has benefited at these annual gatherings in such areas as exchanging ideas, helping one another in the placement of work, and establishing a scholarship fund that helps educate future leaders. Much of the information is updated in the Harvest News monthly magazine.

It has been a goal of USCHI to provide

funding for scholarships through various activities such as quilt sales and raffles, silent auctions, memorial donations, honorary and auction donations. To qualify for a scholarship, all applicants must have some direct family ties to a current USCHI regular member, or have been employed by a current regular member within the last year, or be making some direct contribution to the USCHI organization. In addition, applications are considered if the applicant is directly related to a deceased member (son or daughter) that was a regular member within the last two years of their death. The strength of this organization is in its membership, which consists of not only custom harvesters, but also related businesses such as implement dealers, insurance companies and farmers. It is their goal to continue to enhance and promote custom harvesting so that it is a viable industry available to future generations of producers.

U.S. Harvesters will continue to support and be a vital part of American agriculture, which is the strongest and most effective producer of crops that feed the world.

For more information, phone (620) 664-6297 or e-mail: office@uschi.com.

Website: www.uschi.com.

Wind River Indian Reservation

The Shoshone

The vast territory belonging to the Shoshonean linguistic stock of the large Uto-Aztecan family once stretched from the rugged Cascades and Sierra Nevadas to the northern Plains, then southward almost into Mexico. With the exception of the Washos of California, it included all of the Indians in the Great Basin area—the Shoshonis, the Paiutes (Paviotsos), the Bannocks (Northern Paiutes), Comanches, and the Utes. There was a variety of dialects, but the natives had little difficulty understanding each other.

With their linguistic bond and cultural similarity, they were not readily distinguishable. Yet the Shoshoni (Snake) Indians, bearing the linguistic name and speaking the Shoshoni-Comanche dialect, are unique in that they show the influence of three distinct cultures—namely, the Basin, the Plateau, and the Plains. Their territory, separate from that of their kinsmen, the Paiutes and Utes, stretched continuously from the desert area of California, across the central and northwestern Nevada, then across Utah and Idaho into Wyoming, over the Rockies and on to the Plains, with the Comanche branch pushing southeastward through Colorado deep into Texas.

The Great Treaty Council, officially known as the Fort Bridger Treaty Council of 1868, was highly significant as it was the last treaty council called for the purpose of establishing a reservation. Thereafter, all reservations were created by executive order.

The Eastern Shoshone of the Wind River Reservation

The Eastern Shoshone are located on the Wind River Reservation, which is located in the central region of the state of Wyoming. The reservation is home to two tribes: the Northern Arapaho and the Eastern Shoshone. The tribes operate as two separate tribal governments. The reservation covers 2,268,008 acres. There are 2,650 Eastern Shoshone.

Wind River Indian Reservation



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JSC Engineering, Inc.

James Casey, President of JSC Engineering, Inc., loves pickup trucks and has been fascinated with them since he was a kid. The former building contractor from Calabasas, Calif., returned to college in mid-life and used his newly acquired engineering degree to invent and patent Droptail, a bolt-on and remote-controlled device that opens and closes a truck's tailgate.

"Being a truck owner and an enthusiast, it was brought to my attention that when driving with the tailgate down or having a net instead of a tailgate that it allows for less drag, especially when driving on the freeway," Casey said.

"I had nice trucks and wanted to retain their (original equipment) looks, yet wanted to be able to manipulate the tailgate," said Casey.

While in school, Casey stumbled upon the notion that a fully opened tailgate on a truck might not be the best way to eliminate some of the drag when driving.

Casey tested the tailgate at different positions and monitored the fuel mileage. He found that when partially open, the tailgate accommodated the best gas mileage. The trucks he tested got about 10% percent or 1.5 mpg better gas mileage with the tailgate partially open compared to when it was up.

Casey thought of a device which would be less than two square inches in size that would electronically lower the gate of a truck about halfway open when driving at freeway speeds and allow for better mpg.

"It transforms the tailgate into an aerodynamic improving spoiler on the freeway automatically," Casey said. "It's got a little microprocessor controller that deploys the tailgate halfway at highway speeds where the drag is most prevalent... And then it closes automatically before you come to a stop."

Droptail and Casey are already becoming the talk of the industry. Casey's tailgate device won one of three of the "best



new truck products of the year" awards at the prestigious SEMA (Specialty Equipment Manufacturers Association) convention in November 2002.

Droptail wasn't only noticed for improving gas mileage on a truck, Casey said, but also for the novelty and its other uses.

"No longer is the heavy tailgate lifted manually by hand," Casey said. The tailgate can now be lifted electronically. When you've got your arms full, you can use a remote to lower the tailgate, so you don't have to set everything on the ground and lower your tailgate physically. And the remote also locks and unlocks the gate as well. Droptail also makes it easier to attach a gooseneck trailer.

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TAX PLANNING

Tax planning involves reviewing various tax options in order to determine *when, whether, and how* to conduct business and personal transactions so that taxes are eliminated or reduced. You often have the option of completing a taxable transaction by more than one method, both individually and in your business. The courts and tax law have upheld your right to choose the course of action that will result in the lowest *legal* tax liability. In other words, *tax reduction, deferral or avoidance* is entirely proper.

Although tax avoidance planning is legal, *tax evasion*--is not. Tax evasion uses deceit, subterfuge, or concealment to evade tax. Generally, this boils down to some fraudulent intent on the part of the taxpayer. The common areas focused on by the IRS to locate possible fraud include the failure to report substantial amounts of income; a claim for fictitious or improper deductions on a return; accounting irregularities, such as a businesses failure to keep adequate

records; or improper allocation of income to a related taxpayers in a lower tax bracket.

A business owner may not reduce his or her income taxes by labeling a transaction as something it is not. Thus the substance and not the form of the transaction will determine its tax ability.

There are numerous tax planning strategies available, particularly if you own a small business, farm or ranch. Some are aimed at your individual tax situation, some at the business itself. Regardless of how simple or complex a tax plan is, it will focus on reducing the amount of taxable income; reducing your tax rate; controlling the time when the tax must be paid; claiming any available tax credits; controlling the effects of the Alternative Minimum Tax, and/or avoiding the most common tax planning mistakes.

As suggested by this list, the basic way to save on taxes is to shift income and deductions between two tax years, especially if your tax bracket will be higher in one of them. Usually you will want to shift income out of, and deductions into, the higher-bracket year. You should always consider the effect on your adjusted gross income, a benchmark for deductions of IRA and retirement-plan contributions, medical expenses, and itemized deductions.

If you want to shift income into next year or deductions into this year you may defer the sale of grain or cattle until the next year or purchase feed, seed or supplies just prior to year end. You may also be able to bunch ex-

penses such as itemized deductions and medical expenses into a high-bracket year. Bunching works best when itemized deductions are close to the amount of your standard deduction. If your income will be about the same in this and the next few years, work out the effect of alternating between the standard deduction and itemizing.

Contribute as much as you can to retirement plans. By lowering your adjusted gross income, this can also increase the amount of your allowable itemized deductions. If you have net self-employment income, set up a Keogh plan by the end of the year. You might amend your 401(k) plan to increase late-in-the-year pay-ins. If retired, you might juggle your IRA payouts.

You can delay, or reduce tax on investment gains by delaying sales of appreciated assets until next year and/or by selling loss assets now to offset gains you take. Don't delay selling an asset for tax reasons if its value may drop sharply in the interval. If possible, hold on to an appreciated asset for 12 months so as to qualify for the low 15% rate on long-term gains.

Review your records for deductible items. Go over credit card statements, cancelled checks, and sales receipts. Inspect your annual statements for items you delayed paying until this year. If you haven't already done so, begin keeping meticulous records on the tax basis of all assets.

To plan effectively, you need to estimate your personal and business income for a several year period. This is necessary as many tax strategies will save tax dollars in one year but create a larger tax bill in others. Be aware that the "right" tax plan can be made "wrong" by erroneous income projections. Once you know what your approximate income will be, you can take the next step: estimating your tax bracket.

The effort to come up with crystal-ball estimates may be difficult and by its nature will be inexact. On the other hand, the better your estimates, the better the odds that your tax planning efforts will succeed.

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In the summer fire season, several of the turbine powered aircraft are used for forest fire suppression providing aircraft, pilots, and maintenance for the Forest Service and BLM. This mission provides support to fight wild fires in the Rocky Mountain West and Alaska by transporting personnel and equipment to where the fires are blazing. Bighorn Airways also provides passenger and cargo charter services. There are

eight aircraft that are dedicated to the mission of providing safe and efficient passenger travel. In addition to charter services, Bighorn Airways has a substantial maintenance operation that provides maintenance to our fleet of aircraft as well as to private and corporate aircraft owners. Our maintenance personnel have decades of combined experience providing engine over haul, to structural repair, to avionics installation and repair. We also offer fuel and ground support services for aircraft operators that stop in Sheridan.

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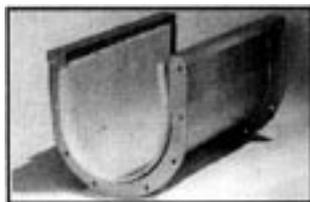
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New Technology Protects America's Corn Crop

(NAPSI)-Farmers are increasingly depending on new biotech products as important weapons in the battle against two of the corn crop's biggest enemies—the rootworm and the corn borer.

An independent study, which included interviews with more than 350 growers across the corn belt, found that nine out of ten growers who planted YieldGard® Rootworm or new YieldGard® Plus Corn were highly satisfied with the results. These biotech corn products from Monsanto provide in-plant insect protection that enables roots to reach full potential and stalks to stay healthy and strong.

YieldGard Plus combines YieldGard Rootworm and YieldGard Corn Borer protection in one seed. In all cases where growers conducted their own on-farm trial of YieldGard Plus or YieldGard Rootworm

their satisfaction levels were at least ten percentage points higher with YieldGard protected corn versus seed treatments or soil-applied insecticides.

Some growers indicated that rootworm pressure levels were higher than previous years. To protect against rootworm pressure, 43 percent of growers surveyed

corn-on-corn acres, while 63 percent said they were using soil or seed-applied treatments.

Growers who were not satisfied with soil-applied or seed treatments for rootworm control most often cited poor control and length of control. "One of the advantages of YieldGard Rootworm



corn is that the insect control is in the seed," says Todd DeGooyer, Monsanto Trait Technical Manager. "This approach can provide growers with excellent protection and consistent performance under varying rootworm pressures and environmental conditions."

For more information on Monsanto's biotech products, visit www.monsanto.com.

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Foresight into Seed Potato Farming

By Carrie K. Snider

ASHTON, Idaho—If anyone has the secret for seeing into the future, Jared Baum would like to know. He says the future of seed potato management will depend on making educated guesses about the market to come.

He's a little bit worried about being able to farm until retirement age. These days, the uncertainty of the market has many farmers worried. So what is the next generation of farmers like Baum, 29, to do?

During harvest in early October, a visiting family stopped about a mile off the highway in Ashton at a field where the Baums were running their equipment. The mother had grown up in the area and her children wanted to see what harvesting potatoes look like. Baum says visitors stop by all the time. Even people all the way from Florida ask him for some genuine Idaho potatoes straight from the field to take home.

It's customers like these who ultimately determine the potato market. What do they want? And what will they want five, 10, 15 years from now?

Up until just six years ago, the Baums grew straight Russet Burbanks.

"They always found a home," he says. That was then. The tastes of consumers, and therefore the market, have since changed.

In addition to Burbanks, they now grow Russet Norkotah, Norkotah Selection 8 and Altura varieties, in total about 550 acres of seed potatoes.

"We've tried to grow what buyers want, and some years we have guessed wrong and have been burned," says Baum. "So we try to keep up with what we think the market will do and try not to plant anything that won't have a home."

Baum's grandfather Clark started farming in the area years ago, and Jared still farms with his father, Rex. Growing up, Jared remembers always helping on the farm.

"In high school, I swore I'd never come back," he says. He did leave for a short time, but somehow decided to return to farm with his dad.

In some ways, farming is easier these



days. Luckily, Baum doesn't have to ride in a cab-less tractor too much anymore.

"We're a little bit spoiled nowadays," Jared admits, adding that previous generations of farmers were physically harder working. Not that today's world of agriculture is without its own challenges. Those physically demanding days have turned into mentally demanding days—forward thinking days.

Since the market is so volatile now, Baum believes conservative, multiple-year contracts are the way to go. But that's just his educated guess.

Editor's Note: This article was originally published in the November 2003 issue of Potato Country magazine. For more information, email the author at carrie@freshcut.com.

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Falcata Alfalfa

Successful regeneration of western rangelands

Successful revegetation of western rangelands has suffered from a lack of affordable, drought tolerant legumes. Alfalfa and yellow sweet clover have long been favored as additions to grass seed mixes but each have weaknesses which often lead to unsatisfactory long term results. Scientists believe Falcata alfalfa, found growing in eighty-year old stands in western South Dakota may have superior drought resistance and longevity qualities compared to alfalfa varieties now commonly available.

Why are legumes important?

Legumes such alfalfa, yellow sweet clover, lupine, prairie clover and loco weed all fix nitrogen in the soil. This nitrogen is available for other plants to use, and studies show that grasses planted with legumes yield more forage than grasses without legumes. Some legumes can add 50-90 lbs of nitrogen to the soil per acre, each year. Many of our arid soils are naturally nitrogen deficient and this can retard the growth of range grasses even in years of adequate moisture. Native legumes used in seed mixes tend to fall into two categories: Those legumes like loco weed are often toxic to livestock and those such as prairie clover are too expensive and finicky to use for most land managers. Consequently, yellow sweet clover and alfalfa have become the legumes of choice for revegetation because of their reliability, vigor and low cost.

Alfalfa and yellow sweet clover

Yellow sweet clover is often the first choice of expense con-

scious ranchers, but many have discovered that it can be a false economy. Yellow sweet clover has two major drawbacks which have caused land managers to back away. First, yellow sweet clover can become very aggressive under favorable conditions, spread to adjacent range and put serious competitive pressure on existing native grasses and forbs. Additionally, forage production can cycle dramatically over time, making it an unreliable rangeland asset.

Alfalfa is a more steady producer than sweet clover but tends to lack persistence in areas below 15" of precipitation, and may die out during extended drought. Attempts to overcome drought vulnerability in alfalfa have focused on creating rhizomatous varieties with fibrous root mass such as Travois and Spreador, the theory being that new, vigorous plants sprouting off of older mother plants will be able to endure drought better than their older relatives. These desirable characteristics have been achieved by introducing *Medicago sativa* ssp. *falcata*, falcata alfalfa, into established alfalfa lines. Some falcata lineage is present in most American varieties of alfalfa, but because breeders have favored the development of high forage, disease resistant varieties, from which large amounts of inexpensive seed can be harvested, interest in falcata has been low...until now.

What do we know about falcata alfalfa?

In 1915, N.E. Hansen, professor at Brookings, South Dakota, sent seeds he had collected in Siberia to several farmers and ranchers to try. Over the decades, these patches of falcata alfalfa went unheralded until in the 1950's, when Norman Smith recognized the potential of the falcata alfalfa thriving untended on land his great uncle had planted near Lodgepole, South Dakota. Smith began interseeding the seed from these pioneer stands into his rangeland, with considerable success. While other alfalfa varieties have met with poor success in establishing into rangelands, falcata readily establishes in native range grasses.

In 2000, while conducting research on carbon sequestration of rangelands, Dr. Gerald Schuman, research scientist from the USDA Agricultural Research Service became fascinated by

by the success and longevity of Smith falcata alfalfa. Schuman determined that soil nitrogen was significantly higher in old grass stands with falcata than stands without falcata. Additionally, falcata increased the overall biomass of grass stands from 42% to 143% and lead to increases of up to 30% in plant protein in the study areas. Falcata alfalfa had added as much as 5 tons of organic carbon per acre on some of the fields.

Falcata alfalfa's endurance appears to be due to its fibrous roots which compete well for limited surface moisture. The fibrous, creeping root mass may also help defend against invasion by weedy annual brome such as cheatgrass, *Bromus tectorum*.

Some have expressed concern about falcata alfalfa's ability to spread across the range. In eighty years, it has moved two miles into adjacent land at the Smith ranch. How falcata will behave in other areas is not known.

How to plant and use falcata alfalfa

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to open the soil and reduce competition. Plant in 5 ft. rows, with sweeps in front to clear the trash for a furrow 1½” deep and 6”-8” wide. A seeding rate of 1/3 pound per acre gives falcata a density of 5 ½ plants per square meter. After 5-6 years, plants will begin to fill in between rows. Plants will compete well with most native western grasses but may struggle against smooth brome when conditions favor the brome grass. Falcata should not be grazed until the second year after seedling establishment.

Because of its slow-growing fibrous root mass, falcata should be rested at least one month before regrazing. Spring, fall and winter grazing in moderation should enable falcata to thrive. Avoid frequent and extensive grazing of this winter-hardy alfalfa.

Besides the benefits of superior forage and yield, alfalfa in a range can pull livestock away from hard hit riparian areas and can reduce the need for winter feed supplements.

Because falcata is difficult to produce, it costs little more than premium alfalfa varieties. Market prices fluctuate between \$8 and \$40 dollars per pound depending on supply and demand but prices are falling, as farmers begin to solve production problems.

For many, the benefits of falcata alfalfa can be outstanding, but there’s only one way to find out, and that’s to try it. For a small investment you may get substantial benefits for a hundred years!



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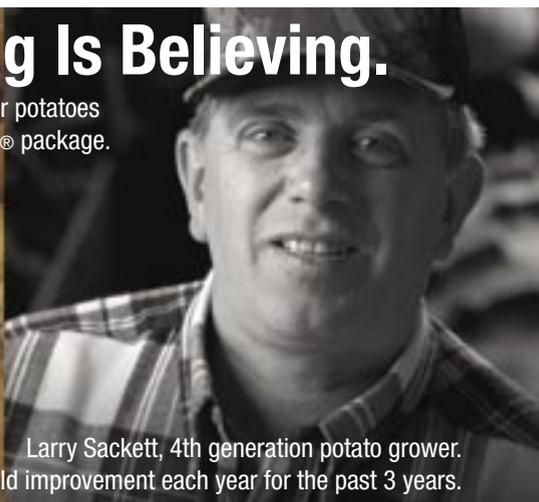
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New Variety has 30 Percent Fewer Carbohydrates

By: Kimberly Warren

With low-carb diets sending potatoes onto the menu of taboo dinner items, growers are seeing decreased demand and decreased value of the once-prized American staple. But a new variety being grown in Florida could help reverse the anti-spud attitude of late.

The yet-unnamed variety was developed by HZPC, a seed company based in the Netherlands and tested by University of Florida researchers (UF). UF Assistant Professor Chad Hutchinson said they have been testing this potato for five seasons.

“We have been evaluating its horticultural characteristics for those seasons, and consistently it’s risen to the top of the lines from HZPC,” Hutchinson said. “I think it finally got to the point where it is a no-brainer.”

Among the qualities tested on the new potato were flavor and appearance and its ability to grow in the sands of Florida. Its low-carbohydrate characteristic

was an added benefit to finding an attractive potato that grows well in the state.

“The variety was selected long before Atkins or South Beach or before any of these groups were running,” said Don Northcott, marketing manager with HZPC American Corp. “The variety was selected for its ability to grow under hot conditions, beautiful skin, high yields – just a good looking potato.”

Northcott said Florida growing seasons are different from many for growing potatoes. When most areas go from long days to short days, the Florida season goes from short to long.

“It’s cool when you plant and is warm most of the season,” he said. “So we selected Florida because if it can work there and in Wisconsin, we know it would fit in California and Maine and other places – it’s very adaptable.”

Where a Russet Burbank will take 130 to 140 days to mature, this new, low-carb variety takes 80 or 90 days.

“A shorter time in the field means guys don’t have as long a wait,” Northcott said.

The size of the new potato variety is different from other varieties out there as well. Northcott said it’s not a round white, and it’s not a long Russet – it’s in between.

After selecting this variety for trials and production, researchers found out that the variety has 25 to 30 percent fewer carbohydrates than standards like Russet Burbank and Yukon Gold, Northcott said.

“We knew there were some varieties that would have the potential to be lower in carbohydrates because there are traits for that,” he said. “We examined a select set of material and compared it with known industry standards – lo and behold we had one low in carbohydrates.”

Though the growers and researchers have seen what they’re calling tremendous promise in the new variety, others are saying it’s not necessarily a good

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move for the potato industry.

“My view is that the Idaho potato is already a nutritious product – it’s got only 100 calories, no fat, no sodium and no cholesterol,” said Frank Muir, president of the Idaho Potato Commission. “Our focus is on potatoes as we’re currently growing them.”

Muir said he is also concerned by stories he’s seeing in the mainstream press about the new potato.

“The other thing that concerns me is that the press release says it won’t taste like anything currently available,” he said. “If it doesn’t taste like a potato, people aren’t going to eat it. It’s going to be a real niche potato for people who are just paranoid about carbs.”

Though some may not see a widespread acceptance and demand for the new low-carb spud, Northcott said it’s getting a lot of press.

“At least they’re talking about potatoes, right?” he said.

Northcott said the new low-carb potato is expected to be available to consumers starting in January 2005.

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Smoke and Mirrors By: Randy DeRuwe

As an alfalfa seed grower and dealer, I say, "Seed buyer beware!" It's the time of year with lots of ag shows. As you walk around the ag show, talking to reps and picking up big brand name brochures, keep track of the number of companies claiming their variety is one of the top three producing varieties. If it is a big show, you might run out of fingers and have to count with your toes! Claims of standing up to cattle traffic, hay equipment, standing water, low Ph soils, high Ph soils, having fine stem plants, being winter hardy, and anything else that sounds good. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying their varieties can't do what they claim. I am asking: Will they clearly out perform the other zillion varieties out there if planted on your farm?

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curacy of seeders, time of planting, soil types and temperatures, available moisture, ect. Cultural practices and environmental influences do make a difference. The variety that works well for you might not for you neighbor. If you have internet service, go to your State University web sites and look up their forage trials. Most State Universities have a good source of public information. Try the State Universities of neighboring states or your county Extension Service for printed information. You are welcome to call me, farmer to farmer. Randy DeRuwe 509-529-9671. I will mail or fax information regarding alfalfa seed, shipping costs, and will likely save you money. Call today!

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“Knowing what tax codes exist to help farmers is the first step,” explains Bruce Stein, Public Relations Director at Total Administrative Service Corporation (TASC). Stein adds, “money that would otherwise go to Federal and State governments, can be used during slow periods, reinvested in the farm and local economy.”

John Krings of Arkansas, Wisconsin, credits such tax planning with keeping his farm going during lean years. With the help of TASC’s AgriPlan, Krings deducted almost \$60,000 from his taxes of the past decade, money which helped him maintain and update his farming equipment.

AgriPlan draws upon a little-known tax provision, Internal Revenue Code Section 105 and Revenue Ruling 71-588, which allows qualifying self-employed farmers a 100 percent tax deduction of family health care expenses. Those who qualify for AgriPlan/BizPlan are self employed, have a spouse who assists with the business (even on a part-time basis) and have fewer than three employees. Family health insurance premiums as well as non-insured medical, dental and vision care expenses are 100 percent deductible on federal, state and self-employment taxes.

For Krings, who lives with his wife and three children on a farm that has been in his family for nearly a century, the break provided a financial bridge during lean years, while making Long Term Care insurance affordable.

“It really helped during the years I didn’t have a lot of income,” says Krings. “For a struggling farmer, the AgriPlan savings really meant a lot.”

Success stories such as the Krings’ are not uncommon for TASC clients.

“My father was raised on a farm and started this company because he felt strongly that farmers were not taking advantage of opportunities for the same kind tax savings which existed for corporations,” says Daniel Rashke, Total Administrative Services Corporation’s (TASC) Chief Executive Officer.

TASC, the Midwestern-based company which administers AgriPlan, works with tax and financial service professionals in administering these medical deductions. AgriPlan has assisted family farmers with this deduction since 1986. For a small annual fee, AgriPlan performs the documentation and maintenance necessary for the proper use of a Section 105 plan and backs their work with an Audit Guarantee.

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Farm-Fresh Packaging In The Produce Aisle



(NAPSI)-You may soon be seeing something new in the produce aisle: farm-grown containers-made from 100 percent corn-used to package farm-grown fruits and vegetables.

The popularity of fruits and vegetables is growing as more consumers become aware of the importance of healthy eating. The low-carb phenomenon and rising obesity rates have more and more people focusing on their diet. In fact, in a recent survey of supermarket customers, almost all shoppers reported making some changes to make their diets health-

ier and 62 percent are doing this by eating more fruits and vegetables.

Grocery stores are responding to this trend by stocking their produce departments with convenient, portable salads and ready-to-eat fruits and vegetables to give consumers healthier snack options and quicker meal preparations.

Packaging plays an important role in maximizing the convenience of on-the-go produce options-and with the new emphasis on "fresh and healthy" research shows consumers want their food packaging to be as fresh and natural as the food it contains.

Nature's solution? Plastic packaging that's made from corn. The new, nature-based packaging, called NatureWorks PLA, looks and feels just like traditional plastic-but uses corn, an annually renewable resource, as a raw material instead of relying on pe-

troleum. The packaging is turning up in grocery stores around the country now and is used in holding a variety of whole and fresh-cut fruits and vegetables like apples, melon and tomatoes. It's even being used as film bags for pre-cut salad mixes.

Production of the new packaging involves breaking down the starch stored in corn into natural plant sugars. The sugar is fermented into lactic acid, which is used to create a clear plastic called polylactide acid or PLA that can be shaped into a variety of containers, trays, film and other packaging forms.

A wholesome, natural choice for the fresh foods you eat, the new material is more sustainable than petroleum-based plastic, since it is made from a resource that can be regrown every year, and its manufacture emits less greenhouse gases.

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USDA Confirms Soybean Rust In United States

WASHINGTON, -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service today confirmed the presence of soybean rust on soybean leaf samples taken from two plots associated with a Louisiana State University research farm.

While this is the first instance of soybean rust to be found in the United States, the detection comes at a time when most soybeans have been harvested across the country. As a result of the harvest, the impact of the fungus should be minimal this year.

Soybean rust is caused by either of two fungal species, *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*, also known as the Asian species, and *Phakopsora meibomia*, the New World species. The Asian species, the one found in Louisiana, is the more aggressive of the two species, causing more damage to soybean plants.

USDA will dispatch its soybean rust detection assessment team, composed of scientific experts and regulatory officials, to

the site within 24 hours. The assessment team will work closely with Louisiana State Department of Agriculture representatives to assess the situation and conduct surveillance around the detection site to determine the extent of the disease spread.

Soybean rust is spread primarily by wind-borne spores capable of being transported over long distances. At this point in time, based on predictive models, APHIS believes that the detection in the U.S. is related to this year's very active hurricane season. While the harvest for this year is complete, during next years planting season, producers will need to watch for symptoms of the fungus such as small lesions on the lower leaves of the infected plant that increase in size and change from gray to tan or reddish brown on the undersides of the leaves. USDA and the soybean industry have been cooperating on awareness efforts and will amplify those efforts now that the disease has been found in this country. Lesions are most common on leaves but may occur on petioles, stems, and pods. Soybean rust produces two types of lesions, tan and reddish brown. Tan lesions, when mature, consist of small pustules surrounded by slightly discolored necrotic area with masses of tan spores on the lower leaf surface. Reddish brown lesions have a larger reddish brown necrotic area, with a limited number of pustules and few visible spores on the lower leaf surface. Once pod set begins on soybean, infection can spread rapidly to the middle and upper leaves of the plant.

Soybean rust can be managed with the judicious use of fungicides. However, early detection is required for the most effective management of soybean rust. Monitoring soybean fields and adjacent areas is recommended throughout the growing season.

Fungicide applications can reduce yield loss, depending on the plant developmental stage, time when soybean rust is detected, and fungicide application method. Efficacy information for producers on fungicides is available through state university extension services.

For more information, visit APHIS' soybean rust "hot issues" Web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/sbr/sbr.html>.

Source: USDA

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Tuberculosis - An Old Nemesis

By: Troy Smith

A decade ago, U.S. animal health authorities thought they might be close to winning the battle against bovine tuberculosis (TB). Eradication efforts had been so successful that the disease had become a rarity. Many states had boasted TB-free status for so long that most cattle producers considered it beaten — if they gave it any thought at all.

During the last few years, however, the old nemesis has made a comeback in certain parts of the country. TB-infected herds have been detected in four states. To guard against reintroduction, other states have their own rules requiring out-of-state animals to be tested prior to entry. The so-called reemergence of TB is not cause for alarm, but it could be considered a warning against complacency.

“Bovine TB has a low prevalence in

the U.S., but it still presents a risk,” cautions Robert Meyer, national TB epidemiologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Based in Fort Collins, Colo., Meyer has 20 years of experience in the APHIS Veterinary Services’ battle against TB.

“We can’t let down our guard and think that it isn’t a threat,” he adds.

Spreading infection

An infectious bacterial disease, TB affects practically all species of vertebrates, but the three main types include those primarily associated with humans, bovines and birds, respectively. The two mammalian types are most closely related, but all three types may produce infection in species other than their own. Before control measures were adopted, TB was a major disease among humans and domestic animals.

In many parts of the world, infected animals (especially cattle) still serve as significant sources of transmission to humans. And humans may transmit TB to animals.

Infection commonly attacks the respiratory system and the lymph nodes, but it may attack other organs. Destructive lesions form in affected tissues, along with an associated production of toxins. Symptoms are generally similar among species. Signs include progressive emaciation, lethargy, weakness and a low-grade fever. In its respiratory form, TB causes a moist cough followed by progressive deterioration of the respiratory system.

Consumption of infected raw milk is a potential source of infection, but milk pasteurization has significantly reduced the incidence of human TB in many countries. Inhalation of infected droplets expelled from infected lungs is



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the most common route of infection.

Meyer says TB may take an acute course, but it often is a prolonged, chronic disease. Infected cattle may not show symptoms until long after exposure. They may remain in the herd undetected and productive for several years, all the while shedding the bacteria and exposing herdmates.

“Clinical signs of TB might not become apparent until eight to 10 years after exposure. By then, the trail to the source of infection is pretty cold,” Meyer states. **To be TB-free**

Neither treatment of TB nor vaccination against the disease has been particularly successful. In the United States, the principal approach to control has been through herd testing and depopulation of infected cattle. In the absence of a reliable blood test, the standard procedure involves a tuberculin inoculation, which, within three days, produces a skin reaction in the infected animal. The U.S. eradication program also includes surveillance at packing plants to detect infected animals at the time of harvest.

Currently, APHIS classifies 46 states as “TB-Free.” There is no federal rule requiring TB testing prior to interstate movement of cattle among TB-free states. However, several states have adopted new rules barring entry without a negative TB test — particularly since the resurgence of TB in Texas, California, New Mexico and Michigan.

Federal testing requirements do apply to cattle moving from or within states where TB is known to be present. These states are classified relative to disease prevalence and the rules vary accordingly. Texas, California and New Mexico are classified as “Modified Accredited Advanced.” During 2003, two TB infected herds were detected in both California and New Mexico. Two Texas herds were found to harbor TB in 2001, and another was detected in 2003. A fourth herd was added to the list in early 2004. Infected herds in all three states are subject to depopulation or repeated testing procedures to remove infected animals.

Federal regulations also require that breeding cattle in “Modified Accredited

Advanced” states must test negative for TB within 60 days prior to movement. No testing is required for feeder cattle being shipped to an approved feedlot.

Michigan, with five infected herds detected in 2003 and two more in early 2004, has “Modified Accredited” status. There, too, a negative individual test is required within 60 days of movement for breeding stock. In addition, its herd of origin must have undergone a whole-herd test within the previous year. A negative individual test within 60 days prior to movement is the only requirement for feeder cattle.

Meyer calls Michigan unique among the states currently wrestling with TB, because the disease is believed to have spilled over into cattle from infected deer. Thus far, the problem is confined to the northeastern part of Michigan’s lower peninsula. An aggressive eradication plan has been implemented, and Michigan has sought split status, so that only the problem area would be subject to the strict testing requirements.

Texas has implemented an aggressive testing program, hoping to recover its

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TB free status. Initiated in November 2003, the program calls for testing of all of the state's 850 dairies and 25% (about 2,400) of its seedstock herds.

In January, a TB-infected dairy herd was found in Arizona. That herd, which had a New Mexico origin, was depopulated. If no other TB cases are detected within 48 months, Arizona may retain its TB-free status.

"There are infected beef herds in September 2004 22 Tuberculosis: An Old Nemesis Story by TROY SMITH A state experiencing TB may require all feeder calves to have a negative individual TB test within 60 days of movement. 23 September 2004 both Texas and Michigan, but the majority of TB cases occur in dairies," Meyer explains, noting that dairy heifer development programs may be a contributing factor.

"There is concern that heifer calves with low-level TB infection are delivered to large-scale growing operations and feedlots where they are commingled with other heifers from multiple sources and infection spreads. And it can spread to beef heifers being devel-

oped at the same feedlots that grow infected dairy heifers," Meyer adds.

TB transmission, near and far

Another potential source of TB infection is cattle imported from Mexico. Meyer reports that about a million head of Mexican feeder cattle come to U.S. feedlots annually, ultimately going to harvest. In 1993, TB surveillance measures detected more than 690 cases on U.S. kill floors. Meyer says most of the infected animals were of Mexican origin.

"That number has been reduced tremendously by halting imports of Holsteins and by Mexico's efforts to clean up their beef cattle. They have done a good job of reducing the prevalence of TB in Mexico, but the work isn't finished. So far this year, we have found 18 cases on kill floors, and still, most are Mexican cattle," Meyer says.

"U.S. producers need to think about it. The majority of Mexican steers come here as light cattle. They are grazed in pastures all across the West, maybe right across the fence from cow herds. Then they go into feedlots," he says. "Are you having replacement heifers grown and developed in a feedlot

where they might be right across the fence from Mexican steers?"

Mexican roping cattle may also transmit TB to U.S. herds. Generally, they are long-lived cattle, used for recreational purposes for several seasons before going to feedlots. Many are transported frequently and to multiple locations. It's not uncommon to see roping cattle wintered with beef heifers or cows. Considering the opportunities to spread infection, they should be tested for TB, Meyer stresses.

It has been suggested that those responsible for TB surveillance may have let down their guard, thus contributing to TB's comeback. Meyer admits that inspection procedures at some packing plants need improvement, with more tissue samples taken and tested. In general, however, surveillance efforts have been stepped up. The take-home message for producers, Meyer says, is to avoid complacency. Know what federal and state TB testing, if any, is required prior to intrastate and interstate movement of cattle. And know the source of any cattle brought into the herd.



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The Wilson Wheel Corral can be pulled by a pickup to any pasture and set up on various types of terrain levels. In transport the dimensions measure 8 feet wide and 36 feet long with a gross weight of about 6,000 pounds.

After arriving at the site, simply turn the two transport wheels away from each other to begin the unfolding process. When the pickup is moved forward, a minimum of 30 feet, the two 24 foot panels begin to separate outward in a Y formation. To unfold, release the

panel from its transport position so the dolly wheel is on the ground and manually push the panel into place at about a 140 degree angle. This corral is constructed of 2-inch pipe and has a brace for each panel that will keep the corral steady and secure. The panel height is 5 feet 8 inches to accommodate the larger size cattle on many of today's ranches. The unfolding procedure can now be repeated with the panels on the opposite side of the corral.

After the last panel is in place, unhook the corral from the pickup. The hitch separates into two braces. The unfolded corral measures 76 feet in panel length along each side and can accommodate approximately 123 head of 850-pound cattle. The Wilson Wheel Corral has a loading area that is 6 feet wide and 12 feet long with 3 smaller gates to be used to in sorting livestock for loading. The

two front swinging gates can be used to load trailers or can be attached to a loading ramp for loading a truck. One third of the way back on the first panel is a 14-foot crowding gate. By swinging this gate you will have a place to sort if needed. All units have options of 4 front gates and two 14-foot sorting gates.

All Wilson Wheel Corral models are available in an extended version. The "E" model has two extra 10 foot or 14 foot panels. These additional panels will increase the inside area by 40% to 60%. When the work is all done, simply roll the panels back to their transport position and you'll be ready to move down the road in no time at all.

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Deadly Forages

Animals that spend time in corrals or pastures are at risk of eating toxic forages. High summer temperatures, too much or not enough rainfall, and ag chemical applications can heighten the risks by changing toxicity levels of plants.

Frederick Oehme, professor of toxicology in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University (K-State), outlines common Midwestern plants that can be hazardous to livestock if consumed or touched.

Poison hemlock

“Livestock rarely eat hemlock because of its strong odor, but they will if no other forage is available or if it is in hay or silage,” Oehme says.

Signs of poisoning develop within an hour of consumption. Salivation, abdominal pain, muscle tremors and lack of coordination are the first signs. They can be followed by breathing

difficulty, dilated pupils, weak pulse, and frequent urination and defecation. If the animal has eaten enough poison hemlock, respiratory paralysis, coma without convulsions and, in some cases, death can occur.

Poison hemlock can cause abnormal fetal development if it's eaten by pregnant cows between Day 40 and Day 70 of gestation.

“If poison hemlock has been recently consumed, saline cathartics and activated charcoal help to remove the plant from the gastrointestinal tract,” Oehme says. “Destroying the plants by mowing or with herbicides before the seed stage reduces the risk of hemlock becoming an invasive weed and a problem to livestock.”

Water hemlock

The toxin of this plant is concentrated in its tuberous roots, but the entire plant can be toxic. “The roots of water

hemlock are highly poisonous at all times, and livestock that consume the roots usually die,” Oehme says.

The plant is most toxic as it emerges in spring. By late summer the mature plant and the dry stems have minimal toxicity to cattle.

This neurotoxin is capable of rapid onset of muscle tremors and violent convulsions. Death often occurs 2-3 hours after consumption of a lethal dose, but it can occur as soon as 90 minutes (min.) after consumption.

“When possible, early treatment of water hemlock poisoning should consist of heavy sedation with sodium pentobarbital to reduce the severity of convulsions. Laxatives may also help remove the plant from the digestive system,” Oehme says.

Hairy vetch

This weed establishes itself in many areas, especially along roadsides,





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waste areas and in croplands. What makes this legume toxic has not been determined.

“Hairy vetch poisoning in cattle and horses is suggestive of a hypersensitivity reaction induced by a foreign substance that activates the immune system response. Hairy vetch poisoning occurs most often when the plant is near maturity and forms a major part of the diet of cattle and horses,” he says.

Not all animals are susceptible to this disease. It is more prevalent in cattle that are more than 3 years old. Hairy vetch poisoning is reported in many breeds of cattle, but is more common in Angus and Holsteins. It is characterized by itchy skin, weight loss, conjunctivitis and diarrhea.

For more information, visit the K-State Veterinary Quarterly newsletter on the Web at www.oznet.ksu.edu/dp_ansi/nletter/vq/KVQsum04.pdf.

Editor's Note: This article was written by Crystal Rahe, a student writer for K-State Research & Extension, which supplied this article.

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Contemporary Groups

It takes more than one calf to generate EPDs.

by: Corinne Patterson

It may be the most important aspect of comparing cattle. No, it's not one man's visual appraisal against another's — it's the contemporary group from which the animal obtains its figures.

Contemporary groups are the cornerstone of genetic comparison, says Sally Northcutt, genetic research director for the American Angus Association. They allow performance information to be used in deriving expected progeny differences (EPDs).

An EPD, defined in the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Guidelines, is "the difference in performance to be expected from future progeny of an individual compared to the average. "Difference implies a genetic comparison, which can only be made when all factors not directly related to genetics are constant.

While visual appraisal is important, EPDs unlock genetic clues about the nation's Angus population and begin with producer created contemporary groups.

Group creation

BIF guidelines define a contemporary group as "a group of cattle of similar age that are of the same breed and sex and have been raised in the same management group (same location, on the same feed and pasture, etc.)."

Contemporary groups are formed to allow genetic differences from one animal to another to be compared without the influence of the environment or other factors that could affect performance not attributed to genetics, says Bill Bowman, vice president of information and data programs for the American Angus Association.

"A contemporary group is a set of animals that have had an equal opportunity to perform," Northcutt adds. "Individual animals are evaluated on how well they performed compared with their herd mates raised under similar environmental conditions."

Northcutt says two or more animals of the same sex are necessary in a contemporary group for EPDs to be calculated. Why does it take at least two animals

in a group? "Each animal is compared relative to the performance of the contemporaries in the defined group," she says.

Contemporary groups never gain animals — they can only get smaller. Angus breeders should define their contemporary groups at weaning, Northcutt says, and "contemporary groups cannot be recombined after herd mates are separated from their defined groups." She says one example is taking two bull calves from a contemporary group of 10 defined at the ranch to a regional bull test and leaving eight of the calves at home.

While bull tests allow for gain to be measured in a common environment, the mass of bulls on test are not a contemporary group because management and environment prior to coming to the test weren't the same. Only the two bulls brought from the same ranch, in this example, are a contemporary group, and their performance data will be compared against only each other to compute their EPDs.

A solid cornerstone

It's important that producers understand the value of contemporary groups and the importance of keeping as many animals in a grouping as possible, Northcutt says. "One animal deviated from itself tells you nothing.

That's why proper contemporary grouping is the foundation of the EPD." That's why Russellville, Mo., Angus producer Duane Robertson takes his entire group of bull calves to the Professional Beef Genetics (PBG) feedlot for testing and development. He says all his bull calves remain in their contemporary groups, allowing him to gain the most accurate EPDs on his cattle.

"We try to keep the data all together if we can," Robertson says. "It makes the data a little more meaningful if we can keep as many of them in the same group as possible."

Robertson calves around 130 cows each year, half in the fall and half in the spring. His contemporary groups are well-defined. He keeps his 2 and 3-year-

old cows in one group so their calves make two contemporary groups, one for bulls and another for heifers. The same approach is taken for his cows 4 years of age and older. Their calves are in two contemporary groups, one for bulls and another for heifers. So, each fall and spring Robertson has four contemporary groups with approximately 20 calves in each.

He says this grouping technique keeps environmental factors and the management of cows in balance. After weaning, only a few calves drop out, mainly bull calves that aren't suited to become herd sires and are culled for marketing in another fashion. The heifers remain in their contemporary groups until they reach a year of age, and only then do a very few fall out for poor performance or phenotype reasons.

"A lot of that is just common sense," Robertson says of defining contemporary groups. "If you have an animal in a contemporary group that is not on equal footing, for whatever reason, you need to look at that and remove those cattle in order to keep your data accurate.

"The system relies on us as breeders to make that data accurate. If we as individual breeders don't do a good job of contemporary-grouping our cattle, then obviously it takes away from the accuracy of the data that we get back through AHIR (Angus Herd Improvement Records) and the accuracy of our sire evaluations," Robertson says. Bowman echoes the same sentiment. The membership is a vital statistic of the American Angus Association, and it's the members who have created the largest beef cattle performance database in the world.

"Breeders are responsible for the integrity of contemporary grouping, so they have to be the ones to make the judgment call that the pasture this set of animals was on was substantially different from the environment or management to which this group of animals was exposed," Bowman says.

USDA Provides Up To \$4 Million For Livestock Producers In Arizona And New Mexico

WASHINGTON, – The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds are available for producers in Arizona and New Mexico who graze livestock on public and private lands. Up to \$2 million is available in each state for eligible producers.

“This funding will help advance stewardship practices on agricultural working lands by helping producers implement conservation systems that improve grazing lands and manage important watersheds that benefit the public,” said Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works with producers to develop conservation plans that cover all land in the farm or ranch operation, including both owned and leased land. Through EQIP, NRCS works with eligible producers to improve soil, air and water quality and other related resources.

EQIP funds announced today will be used for local, collaborative livestock grazing projects that enhance environmental quality, encourage economic stability and improve efficiency and effectiveness of federal efforts. Local projects may include federal, tribal, state and private land. EQIP funds are used on federal lands only when conservation practices directly improve resource concerns on nonfederal lands.

In central Arizona, the Tonto EQIP pilot project allows EQIP cost-share funds to be used for any part of a ranching operation managed under a coordinated resource management plan. Eligible producers for the pilot project include those with operations that include Tonto National Forest grazing allotments. Grazing land resources in the pilot project are managed by livestock producers who operate on intermingled private, state and federal lands.

Source: USDA



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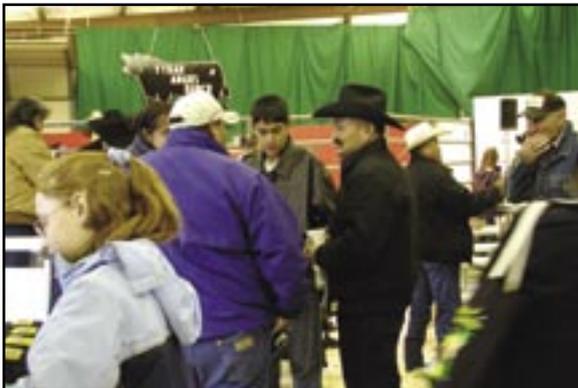
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The owner of the horse has the option of having the remains returned to them. We have a large variety of horse urns available. The owner can choose from our basic wooden urn to our highly popular hand painted likeness of their horse on an urn of their choice. If the owner chooses

not to keep the remains, they can send them to our tree farm located in Donnelly, Idaho. This option is one that many owners have chosen to do. They are welcome to visit this site anytime of the year. Our farm consists largely of blue spruce and Scotch pine trees, so regardless of the time of year it is very pretty. The cost to cremate a horse starts at \$595.00 and goes up from there.

The owners of the horse also have the option of burying the remains in our cemetery, located at our cremation facility. The burial includes a headstone with the plot. The cost for burial of the remains starts at \$735.00 and goes up from there. We would also like for owners to know that our memorial wall is nearing completion. This will provide all animal owners a place to remember their friend and companion forever.

All of our cremations, whether it

is a hamster or a horse, are handled with the utmost dignity and respect by our certified pet cremator operator. All of our customers are welcome to view the cremation if they would like to. We also offer private memorial services for those owners that wish to say goodbye in their own way.

As our cities grow and our farm land decreases, cremation is becoming a much better option. The remains can be taken with them anywhere, or simply scattered in their favorite riding place or even put in a small keepsake pendant so that they can be kept close. Just remember, whichever option you choose, Memorial Pet Care is here to serve your cremation needs, 24 hours a day. For further information on our services, please call our office at 208-887-7669 and our qualified staff will be happy to assist you.

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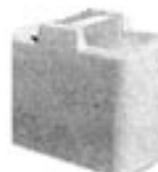


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MULES – What an animal! A cross of a Jack (male donkey) and a mare which takes the likeness of both animals results in a mule. Breeding a horse to a Jennet (female donkey) results in a hinny, both are classified as a mule. Long ears and a sparse tail are a easily recognized trait.

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Many mule and donkey shows are held all over the country. There have classes for youth, amateur and adults. Classes offered are halter, pleasure, trail, driving, english, jumping, reining, roping and racing. A class for everyone and his mule.

A recent NASMA World Championship Show was just held September 24-26, 2004 in Oklahoma City, Okla., where a NASMA World Champion was crowned in each class. To learn more about NASMA (North American Saddle Mule Association) contact the Executive Secretary – Leslie Packard – 603-490-9530. Mule registrations for NASMA may be made thru Jeane Grace – Registrar 573-881-2237 or 573-696-3890.

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Norwegian Fjord Horse

The Norwegian Fjord Horse is coming of Age!

With its dorsal stripe and zebra markings a testimony to its primitive status, the Norwe-



gian Fjord Horse is enjoying increasing popularity in North America as an all-around horse capable of performing well in a variety of disciplines.

Considered one of three remaining 'primitive' breeds, domesticated for over 2000 years, the little Viking horse is considered

highly versatile. The all-around talented Fjord brings a strong competitive spirit to every equine sport. As an English horse,

Fjords can do dressage, jumping, and eventing. As a Western horse, the Fjord's agility, sure-footedness and willingness are assets to competing in trail and endurance riding, cutting, and reining.

In harness the Fjord is superb. It can do light and heavy draft work from pulling carts and carriages to plowing,

logging, and packing. The Fjord works beautifully in single and multiple hitches.

It has a natural ground-covering trot which it can sustain for long periods of time. With its keen competitive spirit and endurance, the Fjord, as a driving horse, does well in pleasure classes and in combined driving

events. Added to its athletic abilities, the calm, good-natured Fjord is an outstanding choice for young, inexperienced riders or for therapeutic riding programs.

The appearance of the Norwegian Fjord Horse is very distinctive beginning with its unique, upright, cropped mane with a dark stripe run-

ning through the middle. This dark stripe, known as a dorsal stripe, runs from the forelock, through the mane, down the back, and into the tail. Traditionally, the mane is trimmed short to show off the crescent of the neck and to highlight this dramatic stripe. Other primitive, dark markings may appear across the withers, or shoulders, or as zebra stripes on the legs. Most Norwegian Fjord Horses have a dun body color of varying shades. Ninety percent of them are brown duns which can be described like a rich, light tan. The remaining ten percent may be red, gray, white, or extremely rare yellow dun.

It's believed that the Fjord Horse migrated to Norway and was domesticated 4000 years ago. Herds of wild Fjords existed in Norway after the Ice Age. Cave paintings show Fjord-type horses and, even in prehistoric times, the mane was trimmed to show off the dorsal stripe! The Fjord was ideal for Norwegian farmers who could use a single Fjord instead of a team to work their small farms in mountainous areas. The stocky and powerful Fjords were also known to pull ships up the fjords and for logging.

The Fjord Horse was such a treasure in its



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native Norway that, in 1850 the Norwegian government assumed control of breeding and certification to insure the protection and preservation of the breed. The Fjord's popularity spread to other European countries. When Norwegians immigrated to the United States, it seems certain they brought Fjords with them. Today, the Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry (NFHR) serves as the primary registry in the United States. The NFHR maintains a pedigree registry for accurate record keeping of bloodlines. The Registry's aim is to preserve the purity of the breed. It supports an evaluation program that measures horses against a

breed standard to help in selecting the highest quality animals for breeding. The registry prohibits cross breeding Fjords with other breeds. Purity is maintained by DNA testing of all registered Fjord offspring. Ties to Norway remain close. The Registry works with Norway to promote the Fjord horse and to

yet is powerful enough for logging, farming, and other draft and driving activities.

Is there more to say about Norwegian Fjord Horses? Of course, just ask any owner or breeder of Fjords and you'll hear their love and respect for the treasured horse of Norway. The Fjord can do almost anything, do it with a willing heart and generous spirit. Visit the Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry at www.nfhr.com or write to the Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry at 1203 Appian Drive, Webster, NY 14580 for more information about, and pictures of, the Norwegian Fjord Horse.

provide educational information.

The Norwegian Fjord Horse has a gentle, charming, people-pleasing disposition. They love attention and they love to work. The Fjord's calm, cool work ethic plus its graceful, balanced gaits under saddle or in harness, make it an ideal family horse. The Fjord has the sweetness to be a babysitter for children,



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US Gopher Bait Formulators depend on them but now have to scramble to find any Tech material because of a worldwide shortage of strychnine. Strychnine coated rodent baits are not being formulated in quantities that were experienced during the years prior to 2000. Low crop yields from *strychnos nux vomica*, a toxic plant from India and parts Southeast Asia, are the major problem. It's over harvesting and improper cultivation during several years of drought have combined to drive this worldwide shortage. The majority of plants are in random locations with little or no cultivation. Strychnine uses vary with countries; it's used as a Me-

dicinal, as an animal control toxicant, while a radical minority use it as a homicidal agent. Most of us depend upon it as the primary gopher control toxicant mixed in a variety of gopher baits. While it does grow in other countries, harvesting and processing are all done primarily in India and Ceylon. Civil unrest, market instability and Government involvement have also compounded this tenuous situation. Only several US formulators, including RCO Intl. Inc., makers of RCO Omega Gopher Bait, will be building for 2004 national usage. This bait shortage is projected into next year, barring any other draughts. Limited amounts of strychnine gopher

bait are available in many Farm Stores across the US. Effective alternatives to strychnine gopher baits are few, but the closest control agent seems to be the 2% Zinc Phosphide baits. They can be poor on average, but our RCO "Western Formula" 2% ZP Gopher Bait with "naked oats" has shown favorable levels of control in hay areas. We encourage spot treatment with small amounts of strychnine bait to finish off the task. Traps, gases, and crop rotation can be effective complimentary methods to an initial economical grain baiting. RCO Dealer and Distributor information can be found at www.rodent-baits.com or our home office : 1-800-214-2248.

Wrapping Up Potential Mold Problems

(NAPSI)-If you have a dry, mold-free house, that could be because it was "wrapped" up before it was finished being built or remodeled.

Concern about mold growth in homes has become a serious issue, which explains the growing popularity of a technique called "housewrapping." It literally involves wrapping the outside walls of a home with specially designed wrap during the framing stage of construction. The housewrap is a secondary weather-resistant barrier that is added insurance because it helps protect walls from being penetrated by dampness. Moisture is, of course, the major cause of mold.

Why all the concern about mold? One reason is that it can cause thousands of dollars of damage: Some molds can

lead to frame rot, for instance, and literally digest the underlying structure of a house. More important, mold can represent a health risk to those living in or visiting a home. The most common problems associated with exposure to mold and fungi include nasal and sinus congestion, wheezing, skin and eye irritation and upper respiratory infections.

Fortunately, there are ways to protect your home. These tips are offered:

- Wrap It Up-When building or remodeling, use a housewrap such as Weather-Trek EVD. It directs any water or moisture that gets past the exterior siding of a home down and away from the wall because of its unique drainage space and surface pattern.
- Be Water Aware-Fix the source of

water problems or leaks as soon as you discover them.

- Dry Down-Clean and dry any building materials or furnishings within 24 to 48 hours of their becoming damp.

- Dehumidify-Reduce indoor humidity by venting bathrooms, dryers and other moisture-generating sources to the outside.

Homeowners can get a free "how-to" booklet called the "WeatherTrek Moisture Management Construction Guide." It includes construction and remodeling information for do-it-yourselfers, remodelers, builders and architects. For a copy, call 1-877-832-0333.

There are a number of ways homeowners can protect their houses-and families-from mold.

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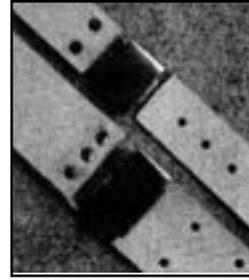
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The Tradition of the Arapahoe Ranch

As one of the West's reputation outfits, the Arapahoe Ranch consists of 380,000 acres of high desert and steep mountain country, spanning the Owl Creek Mountains to an elevation of 10,000 feet. The Arapahoe Ranch is home to over 4000 mother cows and 2000 head of yearlings, along with over 300 head of Quarterhorses, including the ranch cavvy, the product of years of intensive breeding to establish hard working ranch geldings.

The Arapaho nation is seven generations strong. Just as strong are the three generations of the Arapahoe Ranch. This is a place where the past is lived everyday. The past shapes the future. And from the beginning of ranching along Owl Creek sprang the future of the Arapahoe Ranch. The ranch was established in 1940 when the Northern Arapaho Tribe purchased the Padlock Ranch. The Arapahoe Ranch was the first enterprise of the Northern Arapaho people and came into tribal ownership at a time when the Arapaho were still reeling from the shock of moving

away from a nomadic lifestyle to settle into an agricultural community. It is the strength and perseverance of the Arapaho people that allowed them to make this transition from chasing buffalo on the open plains to raising cattle on the Wind River Reservation.

Sixty-four years after its purchase, the Arapahoe Ranch is a thriving enterprise for the Arapaho people. It is also a source of great pride and accomplishment.

The West is still very much alive at the Arapahoe Ranch, where cowboys spend long, hard days horseback working cattle. Summers are spent in high mountain cow camps branding calves. And during the fall, the cowboys spend long days in the saddle gathering pairs to the lower country so that the calves can be weaned and the cows pregnancy tested and then turned back out on native range. Arapahoe Ranch cows must be highly adaptable to endure long, tough winters and hot, dry summers, but the summer grass is beyond comparison and both cows and



calves come into the winter months in good flesh. The yearling program is also very productive for ranch operations.

The ranch has recovered from the devastating wildfires of the summer of 2000 and four consecutive years of drought and has begun to rebuild the cow herd and is quickly becoming one of the premier cattle ranches in the country. With the continued support of the Northern Arapaho Business Council and the Arapaho people, the Arapahoe Ranch will continue its historic and prosperous tradition for generations to come.

Arapahoe Ranch

2080 Hamilton Dome Rd.

Thermopolis, WY 82443

Tel. 307.867.2342

Fax. 307.867.2567



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Maddison Saddlery

Madison Saddlery is a family owned and operated Montana business. Wade Miller (a third generation Montanan) and his son Richard operate the shop located in Jeffers, just across the Madison River from Ennis.

Growing up on a ranch and working as a packer and guide taught Wade how saddles and tack need to fit and work. Working under 2 experienced saddle makers taught him the construction and quilty aspects of the work.

Living in the Madison Valley gives plenty of opportunity for product testing. Wade works part time for a local outfitter during hunting season. Summer trips to the new gear and ideas in actual use. Now in nearly every State and many foreign countries, their products have proven satisfactory in every condition and terrain.

With this as their background, Wade and Richard build quality saddles, tack, and pack equipment. While they carry a full line of tack, the Millers



specialty is custom work. They also produce holsters and gun belts, cases for knives, axes, and just about anything else. The latest addition to their line is mule tack. (Riding a mule himself has shown Wade that the usual horse tack didn't fit properly on long ears.)

Emphasis is placed on quality mate-

rial and construction. Over 30 years experience goes into everything built in the Miller's shop. Every effort is made to produce custom work to your satisfaction in a timely manner.

Madison Saddlery can be contacted at 83 Jeffers Road, Ennis, MT. 59729, phone 406-682-7137, or e-mail at madsdlry@3rivers.net.

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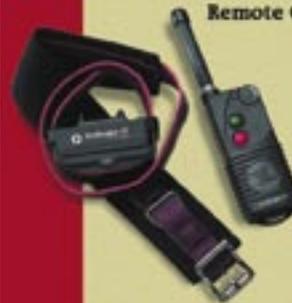
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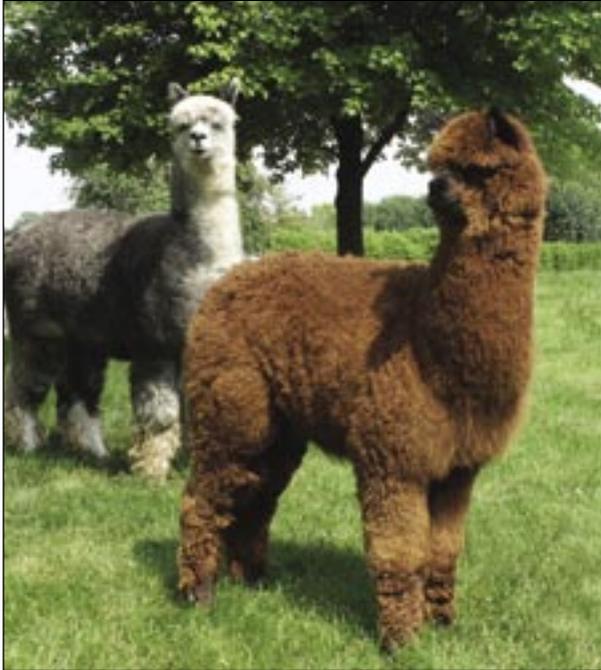
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How to Begin Your Alpaca Business Successfully



Note: The following is the fourth installment of a four-part series featuring alpacas.

Alpaca farming is a growing industry. It's easy to see why. The animals are gentle in nature, require minimal land, and can provide the potential for profit. Educate yourself and take advantage of the many alpaca resources available. Your alpaca business will benefit immensely.

Alpacas are beautiful, intelligent, and docile animals. Cousin to the llama, adult alpacas are smaller and stand about 36 inches at the withers; they weigh between 150 and 200 pounds.

Originally from South America, the United States first commercially imported alpacas in 1984, and today there are more than 55,000 registered domestically. Once an Incan civilization treasure, alpacas provided clothing and transportation.

Although almost physically identical, the two types of alpacas are distinguished by their fiber. The Huacaya (wah-Ki'-ah), the more common, has a fluffy, extremely fine coat. The Suri (surrey), the rarer, has fiber that is very silky and resembles pencil-locks.

Shorn every twelve to eighteen months, they produce a luxurious fiber. Alpaca fiber, once known as the "fiber of gods," is as soft as cashmere and stronger, warmer, and lighter than wool. Making it even more desirable, it's hypo-allergenic, contains no lanolin, and comes in 22 natural colors.

Alpacas do not have horns, hooves, claws, incisors or upper teeth. Alert and curious, they are social animals that seek companionship. They communicate most commonly by humming. Neck posturing, ear and tail positioning, and head tilt are other communication methods.

The average lifespan of an alpaca is 20 years, with a gestation period of 11.5 months. Female alpacas normally give birth, without assistance, in the daylight hours. Single births are typical, but twins are possible. The most recent figure notes that 1 in 2000 is a twin.

Begin your successful alpaca farm operation by educating yourself. Gather as much information, from as many resources, as possible.

First visit alpaca farms in your area. Local breeders will gladly answer all your questions and share helpful information about their start-up experience. To find an alpaca farm near you, visit www.alpacainfo.com and click on the "request information" link. You'll receive a free Farm and Ranch Guide, listing alpaca breeders across the country. Or, call the AOBA office at: (800) 213-9522 to receive your complimentary guide.

The Farm and Ranch Guide is a must for potential new breeders. This handy reference book includes the fascinating history of alpacas and alpaca fiber, the investment potential, and the tax advantages of ownership. You will begin to understand what the alpaca community is all about; alpaca breeders are a unique, dedicated group. They have made alpacas a major part of their lives. Some owners raise alpacas for companionship. Others use alpacas as a 4-H animal that teaches their children compassion and responsibility. Fiber artists and enthusiasts often raise alpacas for the multiple end-products, intricate sweaters, scarves, hats, mittens, to name a few. Whatever the personal reason, alpacas undeniably are pleasurable and can bring the potential for a rewarding lifestyle and business opportunity.

Another great way to learn about alpacas and the alpaca industry is to attend AOBA certified shows and events. These shows are national, regional, and local.

The 3rd Annual AOBA/ARI Fiber to Fashion Conference "Alpaca: Natural Luxury at Its Finest" will be held at the Atlanta Hilton, Atlanta Georgia, from February 23-27, 2005. It will highlight alpaca fiber and end-products. Educational seminars, hands-on workshops, panel discussions, and social events will be available. The all-alpaca fashion show is always a crowd hit. Alpaca enthusiasts, near and far, will showcase and shop for the finest, and often one-of-a-kind, alpaca fashions. The international Student Design Competition invites talent from over 200 fashion and design schools. These students, with their original designs, capture the unique qualities of alpaca fiber.

The biggest alpaca event of the year is 14th Annual AOBA National Conference showcasing over 1,000 alpacas. It will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah from June 1-5, 2005 in the South Town Exposition Center. The National Conference is the largest AOBA certified halter & fleece show. Breeders and guests witness the inner-workings of a billion-dollar industry and learning never ends. Education seminars range from alpaca care to marketing techniques. Artisans compete with hand-crafted items. And, there is no better place to buy, sell, and learn about alpacas, apparel, and a variety of alpaca-related materials.

Besides the two National Shows, there are several regional

and local shows and events. To find a complete list of events, visit: www.alpacainfo.com and click on Calendar of Events.

Once you have visited a local farm, read the Farm and Ranch Guide, attended a few alpaca shows, it's time to fully immerse yourself among the thousands of others who love and raise alpacas. Join the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA). Be amongst the warmest and welcoming community of more than 4,000, with members in all 50 states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

AOBA membership has many benefits. You can join as either an Associate Member or Farm Member. Every member receives a subscription to *Alpacas Magazine* or AM. Established in 1990, this quarterly magazine is now 14 years old. Standard, in-depth articles often include topics of alpaca health, tax-related information, innovative ways to market your animals and end-products, and more. Besides the four standard issues, one issue is exclusively devoted to fashion, highlighting the latest alpaca trends and standard favorites. *Alpacas Magazine* also has several advertising opportunities, which is a wonderful way to market your farm or ranch, while staying in-touch with financial trends. *Alpacas Magazine* has a strong reputation within the alpaca industry and beyond. It's no surprise then to hear that AM has earned the coveted Crystal Communicator's Award—five times in-a-row. The Crystal Communicator's Award is given to the best of the best in print media.

Another publication, *OneVoice*, is a quarterly newsletter, providing industry information. Topics cover how to sell your first alpaca, advice the latest in alpaca health and nutrition, affiliate committee news, a calendar of events and more.



Also included in the AOBA membership is the invaluable membership directory. This resource includes contact information for member alpaca breeders in North America.

The AOBA lending library is one of the largest alpaca-related libraries in the world. AOBA's Marketing Committee has produced several resources to purchase or to borrow. Topics include everything from care, feed, and nutrition, to how to raise your alpaca in general.

Once again, the best way to learn more about alpacas is to visit a farm or ranch. Visit www.alpacainfo.com or call the AOBA office at: (800) 213-9522 to locate one near you.

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THE DOUBLE B R ALPACA RANCH

BBreeding for BBrilliance

“Alpacas—I wonder what they’re like?” That’s what Bette Rittinger thought when the trailer marked “alpacas” went by. She knew what alpaca sweaters were like—much like her coveted cashmere sweater, which she had since college days. But, the animals? Maybe that’s what she was looking for . . .

Bette loved her land, in the mountains near Boulder, Colorado, and was looking for a way to make that 18 acres work for her. She had horses, but they were hard on the drought-stricken land.

Seeking information about alpacas on the internet, she was met with the cutest, most intriguing faces she had ever seen! After learning as much as she could from the AOBA (Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association) website, she thought this might be the livestock for her. Then, after visiting alpaca ranches, talking with ranchers, and especially meeting these adorable, lovable, soft-as-a-cloud animals, she was convinced of it! Being around the alpacas was so calming; listening to their quiet humming was akin to meditation. Looking into their big beautiful eyes and at their smiling faces made her smile too. What a bonus way to enjoy her mountain property and to generate retirement income! Thus began the Double B R Alpaca Ranch.

Now, three years later, Bette is still as enthusiastic—with the



Ezri Dax and her new cria, Queen Ezmerelda, at the Double B R Alpaca ranch in Colorado.

lifestyle and with the income potential—and she is totally in love with the animals! Her herd has grown from the initial two to twelve, the females are pregnant, and she is now in a position to start selling the animals. Also, she has just opened “The Alpaca Store . . . & More” in her town of Nederland, Colorado. It carries alpaca fleece, rovings and yarn from the Double B R herd, alpaca fashions and accessories from Peru and Bolivia, and alpaca items made by local artisans, as well as indigenous and folk art.

The Alpaca Store had its beginning on the ranch as an educa-

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Bette Rittinger, of the Double B R Alpaca Ranch, shows off Bbrilliance.

tional vehicle, showcasing the end products of alpacas and all the steps in between. Bette and the gregarious, curious alpacas enjoy visitors of all kinds. Families and school groups especially love spending time at the Double B R Ranch.

So—Bette and her family have found that all those positive attributes were right. Alpacas are wonderful to be around, they are easy and inexpensive to care for, they are easy on the land (no hooves—just pads and toenails), they produce fantastic fiber (for luxurious sweaters and such), their income/investment potential is great, and the tax advantages are extremely beneficial. In short, alpacas are the super livestock/lifestyle alternative!

To visit the ranch or store, learn more about alpacas, or for more information, call Bette Rittinger in Colorado, at 303/545-2187 or e-mail to BBR438@aol.com. A website is in the works: <http://alpaccabrilliance.com>.

Our Friendly Farm Story; Getting into the Alpaca Business

By: Kathleen Friend-White

I retired from American Airlines as a flight attendant in 1984 and then raised Arabian horses where the money kept going, going, and was gone! In 2001, I stumbled into the world of the alpaca while researching fleece for my spinning wheel, left to me by my mother. Expecting to see sheep's wool, I found only alpacas.

I decided to look into the possibility of starting a farm business of my own. My first step was to visit a farm about 100 miles from us. We found a very beautiful home on top of a hill on about six acres of well-fenced and manicured grounds—clearly a successful farm. We saw a mom alpaca with her day old cria (baby alpaca) in a tiny little coat. The mother stood about 36" at her shoulders and the baby was about 20 pounds of curls. She was walking around and under her mom, and all the

while they were humming. Very endearing!

However, was it a good investment? I began researching the financial aspects of raising alpacas, and found that if you buy a \$20,000 alpaca that is pregnant, who then has

steadily. We were hooked! Soon we bought our first two pregnant females at an auction, and started our farm, "Friendly Farm Alpacas."

I decided, just for fun, to get personal license plates for my truck. My husband has his own business called

AGRA TRADING, dealing in agricultural byproducts. His personal plates read "AGRA TRD" short for "trading." Everyone asks him, "What's an agra turd?" We've had a lot of fun with it. So, now that I am dealing in alpaca byproducts, I have PACAPOO for my plates.

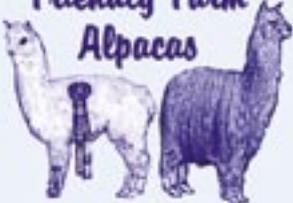
Today, Friendly Farm Alpacas has over 30 top quality alpacas, and we are winning many blue ribbons at the shows. We have a lovely boutique on site, and we

are making sales of our own. If you are considering a lifestyle change and an excellent investment opportunity, we invite you to come for a visit.



a female cria; you now have \$40,000 worth of alpacas. That's doubling your investment in a single year. We found that alpaca fleece is in high demand, and the market is growing

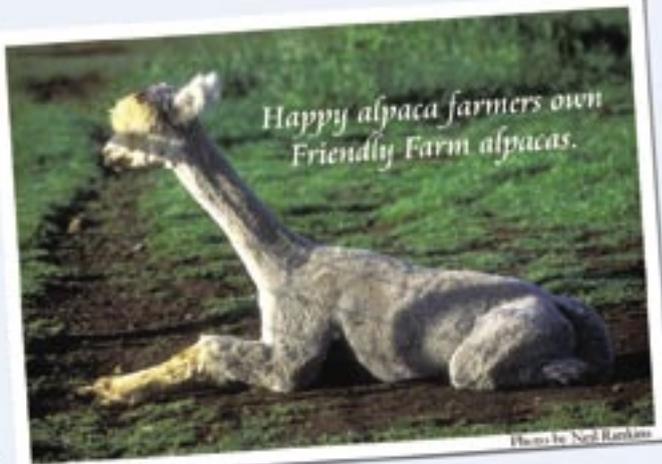
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Kathleen Friend-White Chico, CA (530) 342-4745



Happy alpaca farmers own Friendly Farm alpacas.

Photos by Neil Hartman

Abra-Cadabra Alpacas by: Tawny Bott

When we first become interested in alpacas, it seemed like an impossible dream. Like many that have become alpaca owners, we fell in love with alpacas, but also saw the business opportunity they represented. However price was a stumbling block.

Providence stepped in with a job offer in Colorado. In six months we had moved to Colorado and purchased a home with acreage and a barn. The dream of alpaca ownership was becoming a reality.

We then decided how much we would be comfortable investing, which turns out, was the equivalent of the purchase of a new mid sized car. And since alpacas can be fully insured for their purchase price, possible loses can be covered.

We then continued the process of learning about alpacas, and visited as many alpaca farms as we could. Our first alpacas came to us in the middle of February. A pregnant female with male cria at side, and two companion/ fiber quality males. Abra-Cadabra Alpacas came into existence.

We soon added a guardian llama to the mix, as our female was lonely in her pasture once her cria was weaned. With the male alpacas on the other side of the fence, this made up our beginning herd.

Our first cria was born in June. A beautiful Rose gray male. Well, our herd wasn't expanding too fast, but we were thrilled with our first birth.

The ease of care for these sweet, docile

animals was quite a change from our former experiences with livestock. But they were also very different too. They didn't like to be by themselves. Two was okay, three was better, six was a herd. As a prey animal, they are very stoic, and a health problem had to be dealt with quickly and aggressively, as by the time symptoms present, they had been sick a while.

This stoic nature led to our first set back, as unfortunately, when our female was sent out to be bred, she developed a serious illness and died. The vets said it was very unusual and something we'd probably never encounter again. But we were devastated.

She was however insured. Undaunted, as we had both been raised with livestock and know animals die, we took that insurance money, were able to add a bit more, and bought three pregnant females. Yes, we believed in this livestock and were determined to continue.

With lots of hard work, judicious re-investments and purchases, we were able to recover our original investment and have gone on to make a profitable



business. And the tax benefits aren't bad either!

As with any business, this is not a get rich quick scheme. Depending on your initial purchases, it will take five to seven years to see a break even point or a profit. Do some fail? Yes. But more have gone on, as we have, to have a business we love, and a good return on our investment and labor. Financing is available through many alpaca farms, including ours, at rates much lower than traditional loans.

Talon and Tawny Bott have owned and operated Abra-Cadabra Alpacas in Kiowa, CO for five years. Please contact us if you would like more information on alpacas or visit our web site.

Cienega Creek Llamas & Alpacas

Need some peace and quiet in your life? John and Margaret Cokely found just that through the animals on their farm. That's why they founded Cienega Creek Llamas and Alpacas. Starting with just a pair of Llamas and two male Alpacas, Cienega Creek Farms is now one of the largest Alpaca and Llama farms in Southern Arizona. They also raise Boer Goats, Nigerian

Dwarf Goats and two breeds of dogs, Anatolian Shepherd Dogs (livestock Guardian) and the Border Collie.

At Cienega Creek Farm, you will find the experience and knowledge of John and Margaret's 30 years of raising and breeding livestock. They offer assistance in management, husbandry, marketing and breeding. Also offered flexibility in purchases with financing, leasing, agistment

and package deals.

Please feel free to stop by Cienega Creek Farm to see some of the finest Alpacas from some of the top bloodlines in North America. You can also take a look at their website: www.cienegacreek.com for a list of Alpacas and Llamas for sale. Don't forget to check out the country store for great gift ideas from products produced from Llama and Alpaca fleece!

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Is alpaca investing right for you? Some points to consider before parting with your cash...

By: Diane Kuss

After finally realizing a lifelong dream of living on acreage in the Colorado mountains, the question became – what to do with that acreage? A Christmas tree farm sounded interesting, but lack of irrigation water made that implausible. Raising pleasure horses had a nice ring to it, until factoring in the high maintenance requirement. What then?

I found the answer in an airline magazine, while on a business trip: “Have You Herd? Alpacas – the world’s finest livestock investment”.

An AI-whatta????

After months of careful research, I drew up the following Pros and Cons list:

Pros:

Significant tax benefits – unlike pleasure horses or other hobby stock, the IRS recognizes alpaca production as a for-profit agriculture endeavor.

Lifestyle – a reasonable venture for those who want to get out of the city, suits and boardroom, and into the country, overalls and tack room.

Return on investment – alpacas offers a good rate of return; at current prices, alpaca sales can provide a very comfortable income. Prices have remained strong and stable for the past decade.

National marketing – the Alpacas Owners and Breeders Association has a very strong marketing component, providing high quality television ads that reach scores of potential buyers, from coast to coast. Last year, this marketing effort generated over a quarter of a million vis-

its to the web site. Each year, web visits increase by 20%.

Limited supply – the US alpaca registry is closed to imports, which limits the supply of alpacas to the approx. 50,000 alpacas already here, plus the slow growth rate governed by the 11 month gestation period and the fact that alpacas deliver single babies, not litters.

Family friendly – alpacas are small (approx. 150 lbs.), intelligent and gentle, thereby making them easy for women and even children to handle.

Efficient – alpacas are “cheap eaters”, consuming about 1.5 bales of hay per month, making them less costly to feed than the family dog! They also have high stocking ratios, at eight alpacas per acre. Just 4 or 5 acres provides ample room to raise many alpacas.

Earth-friendly – alpacas do not have hooves, making them gentle on the land, nor do they have upper incisors, making them relatively gentle grazers.

Cons:

Sticker shock – the initial cost of purchase takes some getting used to!

Medicine – most medicine is not labeled specifically for alpacas, so dosing and treatment has to be guesstimated.

Veterinarian help – not as many vets are familiar with the unique requirements of alpacas, compared to traditional livestock, but most are willing to learn.

Spit happens – Yes, alpacas do spit – at each other. Just avoid getting caught in the crossfire.

No overnight riches – alpaca breeding is

not a pyramid or get-rich quick scheme. Like any other business, it takes time, dedication and hard work to be successful.

After visiting numerous alpaca ranches, I took the plunge, and purchased 3 females. Four years later, my herd now numbers 25 alpacas and I don’t regret a minute of it. I elected to specialize in suris (vs. huacayas) because of their scarcity – suris make up less than 10% of the world alpaca population. My reasoning is the suris will hold their value longer as a result of their rarity. Right now, suris are in very high demand, and generally fetch a higher price than huacayas.

A word of caution to anyone contemplating the purchase of alpacas as an investment: DON’T buy cheap! Low quality alpacas may seem like a deal from a price point, but high quality alpacas will always be in demand. Look at the llama market as proof of this – there are still high quality llamas selling for \$30,000-\$40,000, whereas the low end market will only bring a few hundred dollars per animal. On the other hand, if you are looking for pet quality or fiber-only (i.e. non-breeder) animals, the low end of the market makes perfect financial sense. Lastly, if purchasing companion alpacas, never buy a single alpaca. These are herd animals, and do not do well alone – a lone alpaca would perish of a broken heart.

I am happy to discuss alpacas anytime – please call our toll free number 1-888-338-9594 or schedule a ranch visit if you’d like to see the alpacas up-close-and personal.



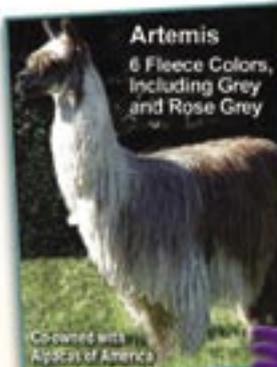
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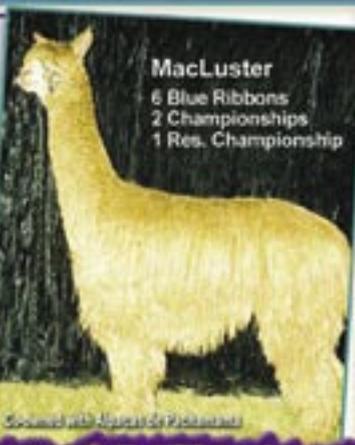


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There are a lot of choices to make when purchasing your starter alpaca herd. No matter whether you choose to buy at auction, on-line or by private treaty at a show or ranch, you need to know what you are looking at. Assuming you want breeding quality stock (and not just a few pasture ornaments), do your homework so you can get your money’s worth.

Alpaca prices can reach over \$100,000. The new breeder probably shouldn’t speculate in the highest price range. Low-cost animals are not destined to breed. Their value is as companion animals. Starter herds are often small, and alpacas are extremely herd-aware. Always keeping them in groups minimizes harmful stress. Companion animals are a worthwhile addition to the starter herd.

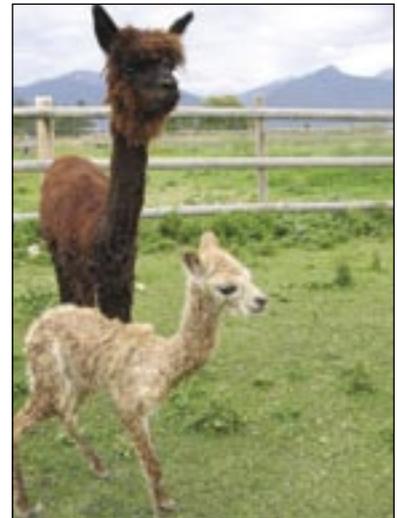
Seek quality stock from the middle price range with traits that breed true. Alpaca breeders do not generally in-breed or line-breed as is done with other livestock, so persistent expression of desirable traits must be directly observed across multiple



generations. Buying from breeders who can show this to you on the farm will improve the quality of your starter herd.

Be skeptical of claims touting genetic superiority based solely on country of origin or show results. Many of the best animals have never been shown, and not all imports can throw worthwhile progeny. Being the offspring of some well-promoted herdsire doesn’t automatically qualify an animal to be part of your foundation stock. Judges weigh fleece and conformation properties equally - and so should you. But it’s not enough for an animal to exhibit good conformation or fleece characteristics, or for it to have a winning show record. It’s the second generation that shows the persistence of heritable traits. Attend some shows and visit some ranches, both large (that offer broad selection) and small (the reserve pool of great genetics). Consider contracting with a judge to assist in selecting your initial herd. Start with proven

dams with cria at side, that are known to be easy birthers and strong milk producers. Don’t be duped into buying animals that are not registered with the Alpaca Registry Inc, and beware of paying premium for “cute” - not every adorable weanling male will mature into herd-sire-quality breeders. Join the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association, and scour all sources for information. Have a plan and a well-defined goal for your breeding program. Most importantly, look to the second generation. That’s where to see the persistence of traits that you desire. Give us a call at (406) 550-2517 and ask us about our “grandkids” - you’ll be glad you did!



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Lazy K Ranch

For those who do not know what an alpaca is, they are a member of the camelid family. My husband and I started raising them in 1999 while we still lived in Southern California. These charming, quiet animals stole our hearts. Today we have a herd of 35 and more to come this summer. There are two types of alpacas. The Huacaya is a woolly animal whose fiber is best for knits and the Suri is an elegant animal with almost dread-lock looking fleece that is better for worsted fabrics. We have both types.

The alpaca is very easy to care for and inexpensive to keep. The average alpaca will eat one bale of grass hay per month and is extremely hardy. We find that they love Nevada's cooler summers and cold winters. They really enjoy the snow. They use a com-

munal dung pile, do not trample the ground and only take about 3 hours a day to take care of a herd my size. I vaccinate only once a year and deworm twice a year. Shearing normally takes place in June when we also check toenails and teeth. The alpaca has a dog like pad with two toes and nails that can be cut with small pruning shears. We find we do have to do white animal's toenails more than the colored animals.

Our operation, while still in the construction process, is really simple. A barn (you can also do three sided shelters) and five foot field fencing. We have catch pens and a breeze-way to help herd the animals. We started with less than a half acre of land and now have six acres enclosed. Our goal is to have twenty to fifty breeding females.

We are on the seven-year plan financially. We started with two breeding age females and four maiden females. After a year of showing the younger females we bought two pregnant females because we really wanted babies. Now we have five suri females and ten huacaya females. We are expecting thirteen crias this summer.

As with any livestock we do have sickness and deaths. It is just a fact of doing this type of business. I have been very fortunate to lose only two animals in the five years of raising them. We have had some hard births, ear ticks and lameness but we are counting our blessing. Each one of these animals is a treasure to me. My neighbor, who also raises alpacas, has said "If I die tomorrow, I'll be happy because I got to care for these wonderful animals." I feel that way also.

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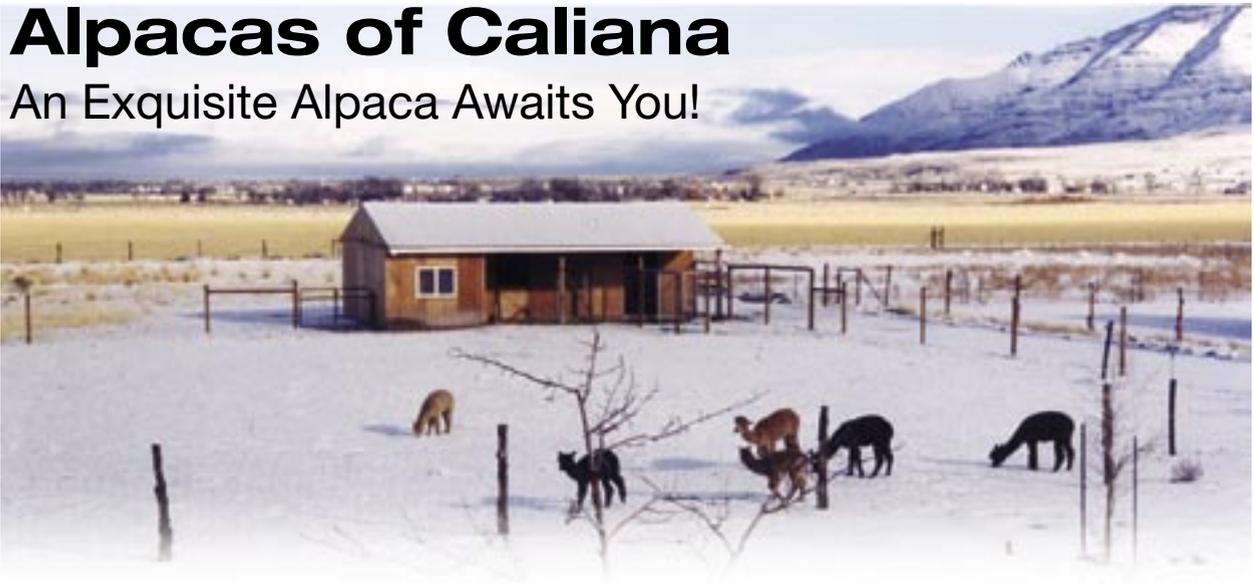
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When asked to write an article about our alpaca ranch, it finally hit me – “I really am an alpaca rancher!” Four years ago, when my husband emailed the face of a young alpaca to me with the subject line, “Is this the darndest thing you’ve ever seen?” I never dreamed we would actually pursue something outside of our chosen field. I mean it’s unheard of for academic-minded, career-oriented scientists to even consider something besides laboring in the lab 65 hours a week! Nonetheless, we ordered the free information from the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA) and were on our way to becoming alpaca breeders. The video explained the alpaca’s South American heritage, the

two alpaca types, how easy they are to raise and handle, their magnificent fiber qualities, the spectacular tax benefits, and most of all, the unbeatable lifestyle. All the details, from alpaca traits to business plans, are freely available from AOBA. However, the real learning comes from the real teachers – your local alpaca ranchers. Ranch visits not only introduced us to a most intriguing and unfamiliar animal, but also exposed the true face of an alpaca owner. We met prosperous businessmen, nine-to-fivers, young families with a penchant for the fiber arts, well-to-do retired couples, even a talented musician raising her grandsons. There were also a few just like us that wanted a life away from the city, but with no agricultural experience

except a love of animals and a desire to work outside of an office. Surprisingly, the group that seemed to be in the obvious minority was the established rancher/farmer. Now if a boy from the bayou and city girl from L.A. can navigate successfully in such uncharted territory, imagine what an established agricultural businessperson could do! The time-honored rancher already possesses the knowledge we so eagerly sought during those early farm visits - the secrets to building barns, designing efficient fencing, purchasing equipment, animal husbandry, knowing a good large animal vet and hay brokers – the list goes on. With these skills, the traditional rancher is well on his way to a profitable venture into the world of alpacas.



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Stage Stop Llamas: Diversify and Enhance Your Livestock Operation

By Sally Rucker

I was asked to write an article on llamas as an alternative livestock choice for ranchers wishing to diversify their operations. Llamas are my primary livestock. I used to raise angora rabbits, miniature horses, angora goats, cashmere goats and Cormo sheep. As a single mother, I soon realized my llamas hurt me less, were less labor intensive, brought me more enjoyment and made me more money than all of my other livestock. I now pursue my fiber interests as a hobby and concentrate solely on producing and selling llamas. I remarried eleven years ago, and we own and manage 300 llamas by ourselves.

In South America, llamas (the oldest domesticated livestock) are the mainstay of life on the altiplano and they are revered. Their fiber is used for clothing and the best is mixed with alpaca for export to the world's fashion industry. The coarser fiber is used for outer garments, rope, etc. Implements are made from the bones, sandals from the hides, and fuel from packed dung which is virtually odorless and smokeless. Llamas serve as beasts of burden until they can no longer feed themselves or carry their loads; then they are eaten. Consumption of the hard, sparse grasses from the rocky soil leads to tooth problems, so it is rare to find llamas over eight. Llamas in the United States live productive lives of 15-20 years due to better care and nutrition.

Our llamas are utilized in a more limited way. The US industry is in its infancy compared with other livestock industries. To some extent the rise of the llama industry can be tied to flight from urban and suburban areas by people with discretionary funds who wanted to invest in a rural lifestyle. They sought a "commodity animal investment" which would provide quick, high returns, would graze their land, and would provide them with an agricultural tax assessment and a depreciable tax shelter. Many llama owners had no previous livestock experience and were searching for animals which could be sold as companion animals rather than as meat animals. Horses fit the bill, but were intimidating and dangerous for people with no large animal experience. Llamas proved to be a perfect match. They were unique, exotic, gentle, hearty, adaptable, and did not require a high level of scientific knowledge or skill (artificial insemination, castration, complicated nutrition, etc.) Scarcity caused prices to stay remarkably high (\$15,000 to over \$100,000) throughout the eighties and early nineties. Llamas' value was much like that of fine art; they were rare, exotic and beautiful.

Recently, most llama breeders have had to readjust to more realistic prices influenced by increases in the number of llamas and llama breeders and more widespread acceptance of llamas as a common and easily available livestock choice. The top show animals still command high prices, as they do in other livestock industries, but 80% are now sold for prices based on their end uses (\$250-\$3500). The industry is beginning to diversify and have niche markets such as: miniatures, suris, classics, appaloosas, and specific use categories. This specialization is generating renewed enthusiasm among some breeders.

Our industry is just beginning to market based on a product or end use. The wool market is still primarily a cottage in-

dustry with producers making woven or knitted goods or sending their clips to mills to be returned as yarn or finished goods for a fee. There are a few co-ops that will buy very clean fleeces outright, but a national fiber co-op where our clips can be sold and marketed to the international fashion industry still needs

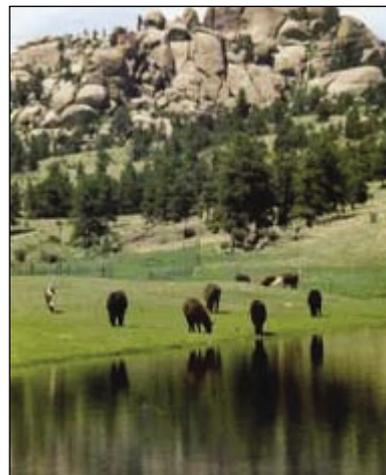
to be developed. We do have some forward looking individuals investigating those possibilities.

The meat market has not been developed, because the sensibilities of our current owners with urban, yuppie or pet backgrounds cannot conceive of this use. Some llama producers with livestock backgrounds are doing the science and, upon analysis, have discovered llama to be the leanest domestic meat with excellent flavor. As our industry expands and matures, and as it becomes an alternative livestock choice for sheep, cattle, goat, and exotic ranchers, the meat market will probably be organized and developed.

There are many uses for llamas. After years of selective breeding, we sell most of our animals as breeding stock. The rest are sold for show animals, wool production, pack animals, 4H projects, pets, and livestock guardian animals. I have also sold llamas to train cutting horses, to control weeds in pastures and ditches, to carry building supplies to remote areas, to use in animal assisted therapy, as golf caddies, as quiet, sensible companions for hunters, and as cart trained animals that do birthday parties, weddings, etc.

Some major advantages of llamas are: they can be raised at any elevation, they do not overeat or bloat, they are easy to fence, transport and train, and they do not damage equipment, barns or trailers. Llamas do not contract or spread bovine viruses or brucellosis and are minimally susceptible to TB and FMD. They are strictly herbivores and do not contract Mad Cow Disease. They are quiet and are suitable for small acreages, because they consume less grass and hay per pound than other livestock. They are browsers and will clean up the weeds in pastures that have been overgrazed by cows and horses. They completely digest their food and this destroys weed and grass seeds, producing slow-release nitrogen rich manure. It is a highly marketable commodity. Their exceptional guarding ability also makes them an animal that would enhance cattle, sheep and goat operations.

This is the first article in an on-going series, by noted llama authorities.



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Life out on the ranch is truly a family affair, requiring time, dedication and commitment from each member of the family. As our herd has grown to nearly 100 alpacas, it has become a full time, often overtime labour of love for the entire Ring family. Our numerous awards and championship banners earned in competitions is testament to our commitment to quality within this exciting industry we've grown to understand, respect and enjoy.

Ring Ranch offers an impressive collection of quality alpacas for sale in a wide range of colors, ages and prices to suit all budgets. Championship Peruvian, Bolivian and Chilean bloodlines have earned us the recognition and respect throughout the alpaca industry. From stunning crias, incredible maiden and bred females to our outstanding young males and spectacular herdsires, we are sure to have the alpaca you are looking for.

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Ring Ranch offers our clients a complete range of services including:

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It’s been said that the two most exciting animals to be imported into the United States in the past 40 years are the Spotted Camel and the South African Boer Goat. We’re not big on Spotted Camels but we sure like Boer Goats. The United States Boer Goat Association (USBGA) is proud to be leading the industry in registration and promotion of this triple purpose animal. We feel the advantages of meat, milk and leather in one unique package equals a profitable business venture for small and large ranchers. USBGA offers member friendly services, unique programs, and extended pedigrees on all of our beautiful red, white, and blue Registration Certificates. USBGA is the only association that offers the ease of electronic Registration Certificates printed on your home computer. As busy as everyone’s life is the unique opportunity of electronic registration allows busy Americans to be able to register their animals easily and quickly. USBGA also has the electronic ability to alert everyone with an e-mail about important late breaking news involving their goat business. Members can research pedigrees on our website at www.usbga.org. A requirement of the staff is that they are all involved in raising Boer Goats. This allows members access to a knowledgeable staff to assist them with their questions. We feel the USBGA is the “Breeder’s Choice Registry” for easy registration transactions, an excellent magazine, and getting help with all of your business needs. If you would like more information about this wonderful animal as a new business venture please contact us by phone at 1-877-640-4242 or 1-866-668-7242 or by fax at 1-877-640-4060. Our email address is usbgaoffice@aol.com.

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Goat Central™ started in June, 2000 with 3 goats. There are now 150 goats in the mob (and it is growing!), four border collies and seven predator control dogs.

Goat Central™ goal is to give landowners an alternative to vegetation management. Goats can clear land of unwanted vegetation and go places no man or machine could go.

Using portable electric fencing, the goats can be contained in a specific area targeted for vegetation reduction. The fencing allows a flexible way to move the goats. If necessary, the border collies will assist in the movement. The predator control dogs stay with the goat herd to protect the goats from other dogs, coyotes or mountain lions. These dogs are not guard dogs, but guardians to the goat mob.

Goat Central™ uses Kiko goats. The breed comes from New Zealand and is a hardy, medium to large size goat. They are an excellent choice for this type of work. They are bred for forage. They know how to browse, and are aggressive at it. The ability to convert vegetation into a nutritional substance is outstanding. They are adapted to a variety of climates and don't mind working in the rain!

Vegetation management with goats is far more than just putting the goats out to eat. They eat different things at different times of their life, and at different times of the year. There is a balance to what they eat, and when they eat it. There is a balance in a project size and how many goats and how long it will take to accomplish the ultimate goal. And they don't do everything. Unwanted and dead vegetation must still be removed. Trimming of cleaned lower limbs must be done by hand. The biggest benefit these goats will do is to open the vegetation, reduce the fuel load, reduce fuel ladders and get rid of the poison oak, making it much easier for the land owner to work with the land.

Using goats can also take more time than conventional methods. It can take maybe three seasons to kill unwanted growth of some vegetation. Some projects may only need maintenance. First year, the vegetation is reduced. However, the roots of most plants are not dead. It comes back, and the goats come back to reduce the new growth and so on until the eventual kill is achieved in the offending vegetation. No chemicals, no fires, and minimal mechanical or hand work. They work in the summer, with no fear of starting a fire with a spark. They work in the winter when it is too wet to burn. In the early spring, grasses can be reduced. Late summer, and the grasses can again be reduced. But there has to be a balance. Too much grazing, and the grass seed bank can be reduced.



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AMGA Breed Standard

The breed standard for the meat goat is primarily designed to enhance structural correctness of the breeding meat goat, with an emphasis on muscle volume, function, and survivability of the commercial animal.

General Appearance: A long body is desirable, with leg and cannon bone length in proportion to the animal. Extremely long legs are no more desirable than extremely short legs. A strong level back is desirable, extending from the neck to the hook bones, keeping in mind that heavier, older animals are more likely to have a weaker top line than young animals. The back should be long, wide, and strong. Width and length of loin are important to volume of meat in the carcass. The back should be wide from the withers to the rump, with smooth shoulders, that blend smoothly into the neck. The rump should be long and wide also, with the same width between hooks as pins, if not wider between the pin bones. The rump should have a slight slope from hook bones to pin bones, but should not be overly steep. Some angle is necessary for easy kidding.

The front end should be wide and smooth. Well spaced front legs representing a wide chest floor, and the legs perpendicular to the ground. Muscling should be visible in the forearm. Feet should be pointing straight ahead. Knock-knees, buck knees, pigeon toed, or splay footed animals are not desirable. The barrel needs adequate spring of rib indi-

cating capacity for foraging, pregnancy, and maintenance of body condition.

Rear legs should be wide apart and straight when viewed from the rear. Muscling should be evident as demonstrated by a thick thigh, and the depth of the twist. A side view should show a straight line from pin bone to hock and pastern to touch just behind the hoof. These angles are most desirable for correct free movement of the legs. The pasterns should be strong and straight. The feet should have tight toes, and a level sole. Frame size indicates growth potential. Adequate to moderate bone is acceptable. Sickie hocked, post legged and cow hocked animals are unacceptable.

Mouth: The dental pad: Length of the upper and lower jaw should be equal. Teeth should touch the dental pad in young goats. In older goats, some leaning of teeth is acceptable, as long as the length of the jaw and dental pad, as viewed from the side is equal. No over or undershot jaw is acceptable. No allowances will be made for bad bites.

Does: The doe should have a feminine head, and a feminine wedge appearance of the body, with a long elegant neck blending smoothly into wide smooth shoulders and back. The body should be of adequate size for age of the animal. Does should exhibit good spring of rib and depth of body; these are good indicators of volume. There should be adequate muscling in the rear leg without losing femi-

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ninity. The body should have volume and capacity, which demonstrates productivity to breed, carry, and rear young in a pasture situation.

The udder should ideally be round, with good suspension (not pendulous), and teats that are easily nursed by a newborn kid. Both sides of the udder must be functional. Breeding age females should show evidence of having kidded by the age of two years. Evidence of reproductive activity, as demonstrated by a well-developed mammary system, and vulva is very important. Large well-developed does, with infantile, reproductive systems are not acceptable.

Bucks: Bucks should exhibit masculinity, and adequate muscling. The head should be masculine, with a broad strong muzzle and horns set far apart enough to not trap and break legs of other goats. The neck should smoothly flow into wide smooth shoulders. The body should demonstrate the Masculine profile with the heavier chest and forebody. Masculinization of older bucks, as demonstrated by higher, heavier, coarser shoulders is acceptable, as this is a manifestation of testosterone. Testicles should be of equal size, and large for day of age. No split is allowed in the scrotum. Mature bucks should have a minimum scrotum circumference of 25cm or 10 inches in circumference. Overly pendulous testicles are undesirable. Testicles should be smooth, and free of bumps or lumps.

Source: American Meat Goat Association

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Scholarship Program For Agriculture Students

(NAPSI)-Graduating high school is a strangely exciting time. Many students feel a great sense of accomplishment; while at the same time have apprehensions about the future. Those planning to attend college are flooded with questions like: What will college be like? Did I sign up for the right classes? Will I make friends? How will I pay for it? In time, these apprehensions will fade and the next few years of their lives will be filled with both delights and disappointments. But for many hardworking students a Monsanto Company sponsored scholarship program can help them prepare for college right now.

The Commitment to Agriculture scholarship awards 100 high school seniors one-time gifts of \$1,500 each. In association with the National Association of Farm Broadcasters (NAFB), Monsanto recognizes outstanding students, who have long-term career interests in agriculture. To be eligible, the students from farm families throughout the United States must have an above-average academic record and plan to enroll as a full-time student in an agriculture-related academic major at an accredited school.

While the financial assistance of the Commitment to Agriculture scholarship makes it a coveted honor, it also rewards student's hard work, accomplishments and goals in agriculture. Price Counts IV, a winner in 2004 from Colbert Country High School in Tuscumbia, Alabama knows this scholarship puts him one step closer to his dreams. "Farming means a great deal to me and this award will help me further my education to make me a better farmer," said Counts, who plans to major in agricultural business management at Shoals Community College.

Established in 1999, the scholarship program has awarded over 550 students with nearly three quarters of a million dollars in support for their devotion to the agriculture industry.

"I was very honored to be recognized by two distinguished agricultural organizations," said Jessica Brown, a future agriculture major from Morrisonville, Illinois. "It means a lot to me to see my hard work pay off and to know that there are companies that are willing to support the future generations of agriculture."

Students can apply for the scholarship through the NAFB, stations and networks, public high schools, National FFA Organization chapter advisors, Monsanto field sales representatives, as well as retailers and seed dealers that sell Monsanto products.

Applications can also be downloaded at www.monsanto.com, www.nafb.com and www.ffa.org.

Application forms must be completed and postmarked by Feb. 15, 2005. Applicants will be notified of the contest results by May 1, 2005.

Monsanto is the leading provider of technology-based solutions and agriculture products that improve farm productivity and food quality.

The NAFB's member broadcasters are heard on over 2000 radio stations nationwide as well as over 100 television stations.

One hundred high school seniors have a chance at winning a special agriculture scholarship.

CONNECTING WITH KINDERS!

By: Pat Showalter

Kinder goats and the Kinder Goat Breeders Association were first publicly introduced via a front page article, with photo, in the January, 1989 issue of United Caprine News. The article invited interested breeders to join in the development of the Kinder goat. Now, 15 years later, it is amazing to look back on the course that introduction has taken. When the first three does, later to be called "Kinders", were born in June and July of 1986, little did we know what an impact they would have on our lives. The two breedings that produced them, Pygmy buck to Nubian does, were made out of a necessity to freshen the does, but ended up taking us on an adventure of a lifetime!

We discovered that the invitation to participate in the development of the new breed was an intriguing project to people who had never seriously considered goats before. The idea appealed, as well, to those who had raised goats previously, but liked the idea of a smaller size with which to work. The new Kinder breeders soon began discovering many surprising advantages to this new little goat. They tend to be very intelligent, with laid-back and cooperative personalities. They eat far less than a standard size goat, yet their milk and meat production is quite impressive for

their body size (average weight for mature does, 115-125 pounds, for bucks, 135-145 pounds). They take on the Pygmy Goat trait of a seasonal breeding so that a breeder can have kids being born any time of year without the hassle and expense of special lighting to "fool" them into cycling. That translates into a milk and meat supply that can extend right through those usually lean winter months.

Kinders have become known for having "litters" of kids. In 1997, Virginia State University did a study using eight years of kidding records from Zederkamm Farm in Snohomish, WA, where the first goats to be called "Kinders" were born. The study used 119 doe records for analysis, and found that the average litter size overall was 2.51. The range was from 1.94 with yearling does, to an astonishing 3.47 in four year old does. Triplet and quadruplet births are very common, quintuplet births are not uncommon, and there are four recorded births of sextuplets. The present record-holding doe for the most live births in her career, gave birth to 28 kids in seven unassisted kiddings. There are a number of does that are coming close to challenging that record.

Kinder gestation length in that group of 119 does averaged 147.8. The aver-

age weight per kid is about 5.5 pounds, and of course, will vary some with litter size. The first quintuplet set reported so far this year, reported individual kid weights from 3.8 to 5.5 pounds. Weight gain in the first week was nearly doubled. A five pound kid (at birth) can, by age four months, weigh 45-50 pounds.

Milk production is where the Kinders are really stellar performers. In our earliest literature, the KGBA claimed that the Kinder does could average six pounds of milk daily, with a butterfat average of 6%, and a protein average of 4% or better. Not many people believed the claim ("any goat that looks like that could never be a dairy goat!"), but with 14 years of official DHIA testing, with 47 does having earned their production stars to date, the numbers have proven to be true. Kinder does are required to meet the same standards as set by the American Dairy Goat Association for the standard dairy breeds. Because of their high butterfat, Kinders usually earn their stars first on butterfat, and often, on the next lactation, qualify on milk volume as well. It is not unusual for a good Kinder doe to be able to produce a gallon or more of sweet milk daily for a good part of her lactation. By the way, cream can be scooped off the top of chilled Kinder goat milk,

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saved aside a little at a time in the freezer, then can be whipped for dessert use, or made into delicious butter. If you are wondering if Kinder does have adequate teat size for comfortable milking, the answer is yes, but that depends upon proper selection. Just like in any dairy goat breed, there is quite a variety of teat and orifice sizes. The trick is to learn to select the type you like, and build your milking herd with those does that are easy to milk, if that is important to you.

The milk production record-holders to date are as follows:

Standard/group test on 305 day lactation, milk production: 11*MZederkamm Floribunda, 2480# milk/138# butterfat/88# protein -- year 2000

Because Kinder goat milk is extremely rich, it is exceptional for use in cheesemaking. Cheese yield (drained curd) from five quarts of milk will be from 3 to 4.5 pounds, depending upon the time in their lactation. In Strasburg,

Colorado, a growing goat dairy last year added a nucleus herd of registered Kinders to begin upgrading their milk quality. The Lucky 7 Ranch dairy sells their milk to a nearby cheesemaking plant. It is a little early to determine the financial difference the Kinders will make, but the higher the butterfat, the better the price the milk will bring. As a bonus, feedback from plant workers says that the milk flavor has improved noticeably with the input of Kinder goat milk.

Kinder goats have spread across the US, with new breeders beginning also in Canada. The largest concentrations of breeders are in the Pacific Northwest, California, and Missouri, but there are more and more developing areas. In 1997 a group of four bred does and an unrelated buck were shipped to Brazil, where they have acclimated very well. Within four months of their arrival, the five Kinders had become 16, and they have continued to increase from there.

Though Kinders are being tested in many different situations, their primary placement so far has been as "homestead" goats, supplying milk and meat for families. Often the children of the family are the "herdsmen", and the goats provide a wide variety of activities particularly useful for home schooling situations (basic animal husbandry, showing, cheesemaking, soap making, cart pulling among them). Many young people are using Kinders for 4-H projects, and there are reports of small business activities making cheese and goat milk soap products.

If you haven't met a Kinder, you have missed a special experience! If you would like to learn more, the Kinder Goat Breeders Association offers a free informational color brochure. The Association has a web site at: <http://www.kindergoats.com>. The KGBA address is: P.O. Box 1575, Snohomish, WA 98291-1575. The phone number is: (360) 668-4559.



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- Quarterly edition of the IKGA News & Events to keep you informed of IKGA news and programs. (est. start date is Dec. 2004)
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The International Kiko Goat Association, Inc., invites ALL goat meat producers to consider the proven production performance of our breed as we all work together to promote the U.S. goat meat industry!

White Rail Ranch

White Rail Ranch is located in Porterville, California it is owned and operated by Chuck and Judy Kaye. We raise show quality percentage, Fullblood Boer goats and project wethers. We have raised meat goats since 1997 and have had registered show goats since 2000. Since 2001 our goats have won at every major show in California, Arizona, Nevada and Oregon. Our bloodlines include several National Champions - Oscar, Yabu, Bingo, RRD Goldstrike, plus many Ennobled bucks and does. Our wether goats have been the top CJLA (California Junior Livestock Association) circuit winners for the last three years. We also bred the reserve grand at the 2001 California State Fair and Reserve Grand at 2003 Cow Palace. We also have bred many county fair winners. Our buck line-up is really

strong including WRR "MO" Better sired by Eggsonerate and out of JLS Maya. His dam is Sumo X Oscar. "MO" and Maya have been overall Grand Buck and Doe three different times. Pretty good for a mother and son team. Other bucks include TLB Voodoo sired by Yabu and out of a Lucas Berger doe - he was Grand Champion at California State Fair, L.A. County fair and several others. ROK Maverick is sired by RRD Gold Strike



(National Champion) and out of LRB Havana by Eggsonerate, her twin brother is LRB Hobenero Ennobled deceased. WRR Hoss sired by L.H. Bengal out of SEE 335 a triple bred Kaptain Doe. FDO Tucker by Eggsonerate and out of a Big "0" daughter. We have all our bucks collected and semen is available. We kid year round and always have show wethers and breeding stock available.



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Funds Available to Help Sheep & Goat Industries

Colorado Springs, CO (Aug. 1, 2004)- In 1999 an agreement was signed between the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (Sheep Center) and the National Livestock Producers Association (NLPA) that enables Sheep Center funds to be used in the sheep and goat industries. The agreement allowed NLPA to establish a revolving fund that is used exclusively for loans with the following goals:

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

According to the terms of the agreement the Sheep and Goat Fund Committee, which consists of members of NLPA and representatives of the sheep and goat industries, is responsible for the oversight of Fund. The Committee regularly reviews applications and is only allowed to consider loans up to \$1 million that are submitted by eligible entities (sole proprietors are not eligible as written into the legislation that established the Sheep Center).

To date, the NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund has extended 38

loans to 30 entities in 19 states and has received 63 applications. More than \$6.9 million has been loaned to the sheep and goat businesses, leaving about \$7 million still available for new applications at a current interest rate of 4.25%.

“We hope to get all of the money loaned soon so it can help to stabilize and build the industry,” Richard Drake, chairman of the NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund Committee, said. “The Fund has already helped the industry by establishing loans that have reasonable risk but may otherwise not be considered by most banks. Currently, loans have been made in many areas, including genetic development, sheep and goat dairies, lamb and goat meat processing, and fiber processing. The Sheep & Goat Fund Committee will consider any worthwhile project that will benefit our industry.”

For more information or an application please contact the National Livestock Producers Association at (800) 237-7193. More information and the application are also available at www.nlpa.org.

*Funds are still available!
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The McCance Honey Creek Ranch and Hay Co., LLC is located in the northwest corner of Nebraska.

We have raised commercial Angus cattle for the past twenty-two years and have been raising dairy quality hay just as long. We, Honey Creek Hunts, also encourage wild game hunts of every animal available in the Nebraska Game and Parks Hunting Guide from small fur bearing animals to all types of birds and large game.

The McCance Ranch Boers have grown drastically in number in the past few months. Our original interest in the Boer goat was as weed eaters because of their size and gentleness. We have recently decided to delve into the breeding lines to create a weed-eating machine that can carry the same muscling as a feedlot animal and be able to label it organic. This is a big order, but it is our goal. Genetics and nutrition are our top priorities for

our goats and the people who eat them.

Goats are great for weed eating and actually prefer weeds, bushes, and trees to grass. Grass is usually their last choice.



We keep our goats on the river where they eat the weeds and (what was) overgrown brush down, which helps prevent fires from getting out of control in our current drought area. By eating the weeds

they have also considerably lowered the mosquito population, since that is where mosquitos like to hide.

We recently held a sanctioned International Boer Goat Association show in Chadron with Don Smith from Texas as our judge. It was a huge success with over 70 goats and several exhibitors from Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and Texas. This is the furthest north any of the sanctioned shows have come so far. Our main goal in holding the show was to educate the public "up north" where meat goats and goat meat is not yet very popular. We plan on making this show an annual event.

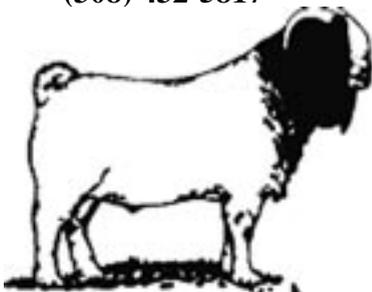
Our bloodlines include: Eggstreme, Tarzan R27, Poco Bueno, Bushman, Ubora's Remington, Little Jake Spoon, Tabu, Tabasco, Sir Edmund, Eggs-Ryals, and hopefully soon to include Pipeline, Canadian Club, Downen Big 85, Kaptein, and Labola.

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International Boer Goat Association, Inc.

Our association is not just a livestock registry which issues certificates of pedigree for full blood and percentage Boer Goats; however, it certainly is a state of the art registry. We are a respected association of capable, talented breeders and producers who have taken the opportunity to help propel the Boer breed and the entire meat goat industry into the mainstream of world wide agriculture. The heart of the association is a member-owned, member-directed, non-profit organization that promotes

the Boer goat breed.

The Association has taken the initiative in helping the members in many ways and they include:

- *state of the art registry
- *full color bi-monthly publication "Boer Breeder"
- *producing quality educational materials about the Boer breed, a narrated video with photos of goats which shows and explains the requirements of our Breed Standards
- *cultivating strategic alliances and working relationships within the agri-

culture community, in academia, and with appropriate government agencies

- *enthusiastic Regional & District Coordinators
- *identifying and targeting potential newcomers in the Boer industry
- *implementing meaningful programs and offering substantive assistance designed to enhance each member's profitable participation in this industry.
- *a progressive youth program
- *dynamic scholarship program
- *exciting show schedule
- *fast & economical DNA testing

The Association has stepped up and is providing the leadership necessary to secure the future of the Boer breed and the meat goat industry in North America and even on to a world wide goal.

The Inosol "Band-It" Band Castrator Tool

Band Castration has been around for years. More recently growers have been using delayed castration to benefit from the natural male growth hormones that the animal receives from the testis. You leave the animal intact for several months before castration and the increased growth is significant. When you cut a larger animal the trauma to the animal is greater. It is not uncommon for the animal, after having been castrated with a knife, to go to the corner of the pen, lie down and not eat for days. Band castration has proven to be much less traumatic to the animal. We developed the Inosol "Band-IT" band castration tool to be equally less traumatic to the owners. The tool is simple and yet surprisingly efficient. The clip with the attached rubber ligand fits in a notch in the tool. You firmly grasp the scrotal sac with the same hand that holds the tool. Holding the tool firmly against the sac, you reach around

the back with the other hand and take hold of the free end of the tubing. Stretch the tubing away from you with about 15 to 20 pounds of force and with the tubing stretched, you pull the tubing around the sac and lock it down in the clip. You then release the clip from the tool and you are done. The whole process can take as little as 10 seconds. We like to use a squeeze chute and apply the bands from the side for obvious reasons. With a little practice, you get to where you can do it by reaching down and under with both hands and keeping your head and face up against the side of the animal. By stretching the ligand before you pull it around the sac, you will find that you get more even tension all around the sac and less chance of any leakage and swelling. The sac dries up and will fall off on its own in three to five weeks. For more information call 1-800-847-2533 or 760-337-9244.

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International Fainting Goat Association

Some Facts About Fainting Goats

Fainting Goats are also known by a number of other descriptive names such as Nervous Goats, Stiff-Legged Goats, Wooden Legged Goats, and Myotonic Goats.

The breed can be traced to the early 1880's when a farm worker appeared in Marshall County, Tennessee with three does and a buck that all had the characteristic myotonia that is typical of the breed. His accent and his clothes suggested that he came from Nova Scotia, but he was not talkative so his origin and the source of the four goats has remained a mystery. He sold his goats to Dr. H. H. Mayberry, who fortunately propagated them and tried his best to research their origin. He could find no evidence of a similar breed anywhere else in the world. He was convinced they were a breed because their unique traits passed on intact from generation to generation.

Myotonia congenita is the medical term for the condition that causes these goats to appear to faint. When the goats move quickly after being startled or excited, or even after stepping over a low barrier, their muscles stiffen and cannot relax as quickly as those of other goats. If they are off balance when this occurs they will frequently fall over, leading to the name "fainting." The condition is painless, and the goat remains fully conscious and alert. The myotonia of the breed is directly linked to the heavy muscling of these goats.

Today's Fainting Goats have distinctive conformations such as protruding eyes (sometimes called "pop eyes" or "bug eyes"), and a long and wide muzzle that is neither dished nor Roman. The ears are medium and stand out to the side of the head with a slight twist at the base making them somewhat forward facing. They are neither erect like Swiss breeds nor lopped like the Nubian or Boer, Kids

can be born with ears that are either erect or droopy, but these nearly all stand out to the side as the kid matures.

The goats are typically thick and muscular. Over the consistent conformational traits are a wide variety of colors including solids, bi-colors, and a number of flashy spotting patterns. Hair ranges from short and sleek to very long and shaggy, and many of these goats grow a winter coat of long and fine cashmere. Some have blue eyes. Many are horned, although several are also polled (naturally hornless) and several breeders disbud horned kids so the horns don't grow. No single color, hair type, or horn character is preferred over another.

Fainting Goats are renowned for their kind and calm temperaments. They are much quieter than most other goats. They appreciate routine, consistent care and respond to kindness and attention with affection and devotion. Many

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Fainting Goats can breed year round, making two kiddings possible in one year. Some, however, will only produce kids in the spring of the year. The gestation is about five months, as with all goats. They usually kid without any difficulty, and are devoted mothers that raise their kids well.

Fainting Goats are easy to raise, and require minimum facilities because they cannot climb as well as other goats. They are safe for neighbors and family members, and are unique enough to be a conversation piece. They can be profitable to raise, and fit well on small acreages. They are a joy to own and raise.

The International Fainting Goat Association is a non-profit corporation designed to educate the public about the breeding and preservation of the Fainting Goat, and to register, promote and establish Fainting Goat shows, sales and activities. The International Fainting

Goat Association is governed by a Board of Directors.

Fainting Goats are registered in two categories. Identification of goats and documentation of the degree of myotonia (stiffness) is done with photographs on every registered goat. The categories of registration include:

PREMIUM: Goats that readily stiffen and show obvious signs of myotonia. All bucks must be PREMIUM. All bucks must be in a full faint on the ground.

REGULAR: Goats that do not readily stiffen but have all other traits of the breed. This section is open to does only.

For complete breed information and to



become a member of the IFGA, contact: International Fainting Goat Association
International Fainting Goat Association
Ruth Prentice, Registrar
3450 230th Street
Terril, IA 51364-7510
712-853-6372 or visit the IFGA Website: <http://www.faintinggoat.com>

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"... just look in the mirror every day and see the visible results of unwanted fat... unwanted flab... unwanted cellulite... totally disappear... right before your very eyes..."

Adipose Tissue (Body Fat) Is Almost Immediately Destroyed And Flushed Right Out Of Your Body!

Why does it work so fast? The secret is in the ingredients and the ingenious way they are combined. The main ingredient (the one from the Himalayan Mountains) maximizes and optimizes your body's natural metabolic process. Therefore, it promotes the utilization (burn-off rate) of body fat and prevents it from being stored.

Another works as an insulin mimic to normalize your blood sugar level. (Note: This is very important... because... it is a low blood sugar level which causes intense food cravings.)

Another ingredient is a potent antioxidant which enhances your immune system and provides "insurance" your metabolism remains at a continuously high level.

The other ingredients influence the thyroid gland, assist in vitamin and mineral absorption and reduce cravings for sugar and fatty foods.

Warning!

Obviously, this is not an ordinary diet product. It is truly extra-ordinary. If you follow the simple instructions and use the product with water as directed

copyright 2004 AVS Marketing

ed... YOU WILL...reverse years of overeating! However, there is a trend in this country (especially among attractive women) to want to be dangerously thin. Therefore, before you start any weight-loss program (especially one which works as fast as this one) you should get advice from your physician on how fast it is safe for you to lose weight. Also, you and your physician... together... should determine your personal, perfect weight goal.

Guaranteed Weight-Loss!

Because this product is so incredibly effective... and... because it is natural and so safe... it is being sold with the most amazing guarantee in the world. Check this out: Take the product as directed and follow the simple instructions which come in the package. Then, just look in the mirror every day and see the visible results of unwanted fat... unwanted flab... unwanted cellulite... totally disappear... right before your very eyes! You will be totally thrilled with your safe, rapid and dramatic weight-loss. However, if you are not satisfied, simply return the empty product container with a short note about how you took the product (three times a day with water) and followed the simple instructions... and then... AVS Marketing (the only company authorized to sell this product in the U.S.) will send you... double your money back!

And, guess what? This is not a 10-day guarantee. This is not a 30-day guarantee. This is not a 90-day guarantee. No. This is a Lifetime guarantee!

How can AVS Marketing make such a guarantee? How can they offer a Lifetime... double-your-money-back... guarantee?

Well, you can only make this type of guarantee... if... you are 100% certain... your product is going to... almost force... people to lose every single pound of all their excess weight.

It's just that simple.

The name of this product is the "Himalayan Diet Break-through" and, it is easy to order. All you have to do is call 1-866-202-3837 ext. HL124 and order with your credit card. By the way, this is a toll-free number (it won't cost you a penny) and you can call anytime... 24-hours per day... 7-days a week.

Supply Options: \$39.95 for a 30-day supply, \$69.95 for a 60-day supply (you save 12.5%)... or... a full 90-day supply for only \$97.97 (you save 18.3%). Whatever quantity you choose, you must include \$5.95 per order for standard delivery and handling arriving in 3-4 weeks. Add only \$5.00 and your Himalayan Diet Breakthrough will be shipped within 24 hours via United States Postal Service Priority Mail arriving as fast as 5-7 business days (sometimes even sooner). There is an enormous demand for this product... if our phone lines are busy... please keep calling back.

"I lost 37 pounds in just 8 weeks!"



"After using the Himalayan Diet Breakthrough for just two months, I went down to a size 3!"

"Taking off these pounds was the best thing that ever happened to my modeling career. As you can see I'm delighted with my new weight of 107. I recommend this new product to all my friends who need to lose weight fast but don't want to use dangerous stimulants like ephedra, caffeine or Ma Huang. Himalayan Diet Breakthrough really works. Thanks again."

Sara DuBerrier
Fashion Model

For Fastest Service, order online at www.orderhdb.com
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Ext. HL124

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P.S. You should not order a 90-day supply... unless... you need to lose more than 50 pounds.

These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to treat, diagnose, cure, or prevent any disease. Always follow a sensible diet and make time for some type of physical activity for best results. Sara's results may be atypical. Never try to use this product to lose weight too quickly. Results are guaranteed but vary from individual to individual.

NEW PRODUCT

EnergyCel™ Improves Fuel Mileage

Any vehicle, from a compact car to an 18-wheeler, farm tractors to back-hoes, even boats, pumps and generators, can become cleaner and more fuel-efficient thanks to a revolutionary new product.

EnergyCel™, introduced about 18 months ago, is a fuel-saving device that clamps around the intake fuel line. Three powerful magnets in the EnergyCel™ break up and re-align clumped fuel molecules, yielding more complete combustion and more power production.

Jerry Cumbus, co-founder of the Automotive Research and Design Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, wrote

“This is one simple device that has so many advantages and to date we have found no disadvantages to discourage its use on any type of vehicle.”

According to Cumbus, tests have shown that EnergyCel™ increases (MPG) miles-per-gallon as much as 23 percent on some vehicles.

Frankie Comeaux, Houston, TX installed an EnergyCel™ on her 1999 Chrysler LHS. She immediately noticed an increase in power and the miles-per-gallon went from 16 to a whopping 21 in normal daily driving. That’s a 31% saving.

Scott Wiley, Splendor, TX, installed an EnergyCel™ on his 2001 Massey Ferguson, model 4253 tractor and saves 4 gallons of diesel fuel in a normal 10-hour day. That’s over \$1200.00 a year savings.

EnergyCel™ was developed to increase fuel mileage, but one of its other effects is a reduction in emissions – as much as 50 percent, said Stan Sisemore, CEO of FreEnergy Group, the company that distributes EnergyCel™. “Everyone is looking for a solution right now to the emissions problem,” Sisemore said. “We can help that considerably. The emissions reduction is bigger than the fuel savings, and the good thing is, you get both.”

EnergyCel™ is fairly simple to install, although the process varies from vehicle to vehicle. Customers can install it themselves or go to an authorized EnergyCel™ installation center. Installation is about a five-step deal and usually takes 15 to 30 minutes.



“We think and a lot of people think, that it will probably become a household name within the next few years,” he said. “Within the next two years, we think our company will be 10 times the size we are right now.”

To find out more about EnergyCel™ or becoming an EnergyCel™ independent distributor, contact Sharon or Bill Vandervlist at 281-852-2157 or visit their website at: www.myenergycel.com/1900 or e-mail: austex2000@msn.com

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Malibu Water Resources - Farm Water Aeration In Simple Terms

By Dr. Mervin Brown

POND AERATION

The very best pond and lake bed aeration adds oxygen to all of the water, improves water quality by maintaining good dissolved oxygen levels especially where oxygen is really needed... at the bottom. Once the lake or pond has oxygen near the bottom, new insect larvae, snails, and other fish food can live there. Without aeration, the pond's bottom water will become anaerobic and produce poisonous gases that smell like rotten eggs...killing anything trying to live there.

Bottom aeration is simply using an air compressing windmill or an electric aerator to pump through an air line attached to an aeration stone which is then placed on the bottom of the pond. The rising air bubbles from the aeration stone release oxygen in the water and brings oxygen-poor bottom water to the surface where it is exposed to the atmosphere. It is at the surface where the real aeration occurs. The rising bubbles just gets the bottom up there. The oxygen transfer from the air into the water happens the fastest at the surface....at the same time that Hydrogen sulfide (typical bottom gas) is transferred OUT of the bottom water sulfur is more soluble in air than water, so it transfers quickly into the air at the surface. This is why a little 1/4 tip 2.5 amp aerator can aerate over 2 acres of water. The rising bubbles will turn that amount of water completely once each day. This is also why you should run your aerator 24/7.

Aeration speeds up the process of oxidizing or burning up the pollution in the water. The result is fresh, sparkling clear, sweet-

smelling water which supports abundant fish life, free from excessive algae and weeds.

Remember - air is actually 79% nitrogen, 21% oxygen. That's just how God made it. Our job is to get that 21% into the water.

REDUCE ALGAE

Aeration reduces algae growth by removing its food (nutrients) - Nitrogen, ammonia, and soluble phosphates are driven into the surface air and out of the pond by the air transfer at the surface. Iron and manganese are oxidized and drop out of solution to the bottom of the pond. Once oxidation of these metals begin, they don't go back into solution. Aeration increases aerobic bacteria which eat the other nutrients on which algae and weeds need to grow. The aerobic bacteria eat these nutrients before the weeds and the algae can... forcing it to starve and die.

Aerobic bacteria are the good guys: They breathe oxygen and exhale CO2 like us... and they have a TREMENDOUS appetite...eating anything organic... very quickly. The aerobic bacteria begin to eat the organic sediment at the bottom of the pond... and will continue to eat it as long as they are given oxygen. Then the other creatures happily show up to nibble on the aerobs.

Aeration also works for de-icing a winter pond. Moving water won't freeze so there remains a 20' diameter of ice free water above the air stone. The more aeration in the winter, the less ice, no winter kill of fish and the less algae in the summer.

For windmills, we recommend the 12' steel tower. Tower leg extensions of four

feet each are available making a 16 foot and 20 foot tower if needed.

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

AERATION in well water storage tanks removes iron, manganese, zinc and other metals through oxidation and precipitation. Metals are oxidized and drop out of suspension because they become heavier.

AERATION removes sulfur and other poisonous gases (methane, ammonia, nitrogen, MTBE, chlorine, chloramines, VOC's) by phase distribution. SO2 (sulfur dioxide) and other gases are more soluble in air than water so are transferred to the rising air bubbles and then to the atmosphere via a tank vent.

AERATION: removes hydrogen sulfide and anaerobic bacteria which produces methane.

AERATION: leaves all beneficial minerals intact - removes only metals, phosphates and gases.

For more information, contact Malibu Water Resources, 800-490-9170; Fax 310-57-4298; www.MalibuWater.com

Recommended Pond Books:

Earth Ponds by Tim Matson: 802-333-9019

Ohio Pond Guide: 614-265-6300

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Most of these mills have been bought by farmers and ranchers wanting to improve the quality of the water in their wastewater lagoons. For livestock, irrigation and fish ponds, the aeration has clarified the water.

It can also be used for aerating compost piles, soil remediation projects and de-watering landfills.

The mill is good insurance against power loss and is an excellent emergency system to back up the loss of conventional aeration. Some fish farms keep the mills going constantly because, "It's 1.1 cu. ft. of air per minute that you are not buying from the Electric Co."

AIR OPERATED WATER PUMP

If you need to pump water from a shallow spring box or pond, the optional air operated water pump will lift water to 40' at 3 gpm.

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For improving well water, aeration removes S02 (Sulfur) and other poisonous gases along with Iron, Manganese and other metals that are troublesome in concentrations.

WASTEWATER LAGOONS

Whether a simple septic system or a large waste water lagoon, the principle is the same...if you aerate it, it will go away....at least the TSS and the BOD goes away... which is very good. It makes the waste-

water cleaner and it percolates back into the groundwater faster. Remember - every study shows that bacteria, viruses and all pathogens are removed from percolating water by the time it gets 6' below the surface. How? Bacteria. After 6' of soil bacteria, the water is clean. Even a 300 year old septic field in Germany was tested for any bacteria or anything biologic below 6'...nothing. Bacteria are eating machines. They will eat almost every man made pollutant found on Earth...and have even been found living in ponds of radiated nuclear power plant water.

If you have a large operation like dairy or hogs, you might consider the Agstar methane conversion system....covered lagoons produce methane which generates electricity. A California Central Valley hog farmer has been powering his whole operation... and reusing the water ...for over twenty years, www.malibuwater.com

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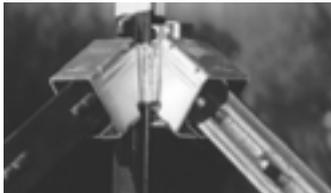
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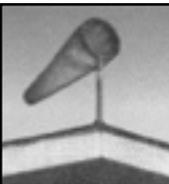
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