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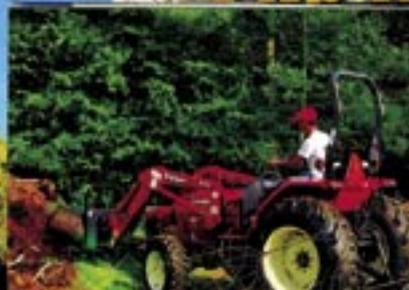
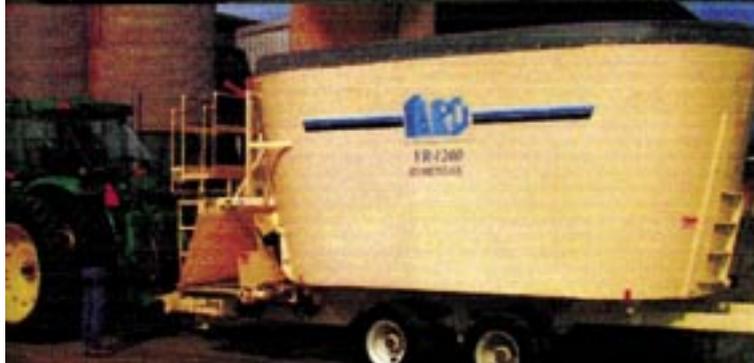
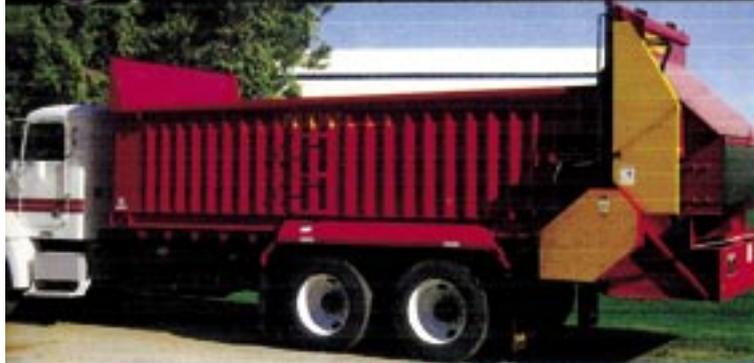
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On The Cover

A Wyoming Winter courtesy of USDA NRCS.

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- **Both front and back lights are molded into the structure of the tractor, for a more finished, integrated look.**
- **New cab interior design is easy on the eyes, with logically grouped, easy-to-read instrumentation that lets you monitor systems status with only a glance.**
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New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranches

Helping Children for 60 Years Without Government Funding

By Mike Kull

The state of New Mexico and the West are known for many things. At the mention of the name some think of the majestic beauty of the landscape while others remember our magnificent art and cultural diversity. No description would be complete without mention of the wonderful people who love this land

and make their home here. These same people should be famous for something else - their amazing generosity. Let me explain...

The New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranches (The Ranches) have been providing meaningful help to children and families for almost 60 years. What is so unusual about that you ask? There

are programs for children scattered throughout this country.

The thing that makes The Ranches unique is the fact that we have done this without the sponsorship of a national organization or denomination, and without accepting government funding. We like to think that rugged self reliance is still alive and well in

The Last Frontier

Wonder what to put up in your den, office or lodge? Why not an original mosaic glass tiled bison mount created by Alaskan artist, Ruby Hollembaek.

Artist and rancher, Ruby Hollembaek, had a novel idea. What about taking the bleached bison skulls that husband, Scott Hollembaek, sold every year to hunters and create a piece of artwork. What about mosaic? At first, it was difficult to convince Scott. Ruby actually had to hide the bison skulls in their raw form in the barn in order to begin the process. Scott just wasn't convinced but once he saw the final product, he hated to sell any of the pieces.

Art is not a stranger to Ruby. She comes from a long line of artists both on her mom and dad's side of the family. Ruby's grandmother, Mae Herman Blatchford, made her earnings skin sewing and beading. She was Inupiaq Eskimo from Shishmaref, Alaska. Her other grandparents, Les and Elma McCaughey Peck did antique restoration, and operated a second hand store and lamp shop in Helena, Montana. Art just comes second nature to Ruby, besides now that she was retired from teaching in Alaska, she needed another source of income and a creative outlet.

These bison skulls are taken from the harvested animals on the artist's ranch.



The skulls are cleaned and prepared for the original mosaic artwork that will make each piece its own. Each skull is boiled, cleaned, bleached and dried.

The horns are given a high gloss treatment by scraping them with a glass shard.

The bison skull is laid out while a design and color is created specifically for it.

Once the colors and designs have been determined each glass mosaic piece is cut and glued onto the skull. When finished, the skull is grouted, sponged off, buffed by hand and sprayed with a water-proof seal.

Currently, Scott and Ruby run a bison, elk & reindeer ranch on 2,000 acres of private land 25 miles south of Delta Junction, Alaska. Both Scott and Ruby are born and raised in Alaska. They love "the last frontier" and enjoy the challenges of farming/ranching in the interior of Alaska. 🐾

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this part of the country. In fact, many of the people who live here don't seem to find this all that unusual. They seem to think this is the way it has always been and this is the way it is suppose to be. What very few of them know is that for years, people have traveled to The Ranches to see this unique phenomenon for themselves Some have even tried to recreate it back in their home states. Unfortunately, I currently do not know of anyone who has succeeded. They eventually give up and start accepting government pay-

The people of New Mexico and surrounding states have donated enough to build all of these programs and provide their daily operating costs since 1944. We actually have donors who got involved when they lived in the West and have continued their support after moving somewhere else. They often tell me that a part of their heart will always be here.

Even though we are proud of what has been accomplished, we have some great plans to do more in the future. Since we do not believe in debt and do



ments or sponsorship from a national organization, which brings me back to the uniqueness of the people who love the West.

Over the past 60 years. The Ranches have grown from a single Boys Ranch south of Belen, NM, to five separate but interrelated programs that are scattered throughout the state. In addition to Boys Ranch there is Girls Ranch near Santa Fe; Pippin Ranch near Clovis; Families for Children, our adoption and foster care program; and The New Mexico Family Connection, our family intervention and therapy program. Both of the latter are in Albuquerque.

Both Boys and Girls Ranch have schools on campus that have been specifically designed to get kids who are way behind their peers in school back to grade level. The children respond well to being involved with animals and a country lifestyle.

not want to take government funding, the only way this can happen is if more Americans catch the vision.

If you have a desire to really make a difference in the lives of children, consider joining us in this unique partnership. Your donations do not have to be large. Hundreds of our donors can only send a few dollars each month, but because of their numbers their collective impact is huge. Please join us. There is nothing better than knowing that you are making a life changing difference for a child or young person. People tell us all the time that it makes their lives so meaningful.

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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 trans-

action 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 expenses

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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Forest Stewardship and Fire Safety go hand in hand.

Many western ranch and forest landowners feel that fire fuel reduction and safety programs are something for the government to do. Well, if you think the government knows better than you what to do with your land than perhaps you are correct; and you may be warned to watch out what you wish for.

Forest Stewardship, thinning and fire fuels reduction projects are something that should be on everyone's mind and the conversation around the dinner table. With a basic understanding of fire behavior and readily available markets for forest products in your region, the farm and ranch owner can spend their time improving their forest stands; generating income from otherwise unrealized properties and at the same time leave their forests fire safe, or much nearer to fire safe that without any attention.

The western forests of the Rocky mountain and inter-mountain regions are generally dry each summer, and are host to hundreds or thousands of fires. Some of these fires escape control and spread to



great areas of the western states. Keeping fires from becoming catastrophic can only be done with fuels reduction. We can't change the weather, we can't change the terrain, we can only change the fuel loading on our lands.

While some will take the harvest option and clear their land of forest, others might realize that you can have your forest and harvest it too. Small scale, low impact operations can leave your timber stands intact, a good inventory of future forest products standing, and the forest in a healthier and more fire safe condition. The removal of overcrowded stems, the opening up of canopies to

provide fire breaks and the breaking of the fire ladder fuels will all keep small ground fires in check and keep them from becoming crown fires.

With markets for sawlogs, poles, pulp and specialty forest products, the forestland owner and manager can profitably do fire fuel reduction projects. With small scale, low impact equipment, these operations can also keep costs and impact on the lands in check. Small scale equipment is not for small logs or small volumes, it is simply equipment designed for low impact operations without the size and impact of standard logging equipment.

Further information on fire fuels reduction operations can be found at most State University Forestry Extension offices. The USDA Forest Service and many western universities have participated in equipment trials and demonstration days and will have results from these tests and trials. The author of this article would be happy to discuss the subject with you as well, and can be reached toll free at 888 258 1445. ☛

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A sound/pressure wave can often be sent as deep as 1000 or more feet into the ground. This sound/pressure wave causes a small movement in the rock formation. If there is water present in the rock formation below the sound/pressure wave the water moves (ripples) slightly. When the water moves it causes a very small change or disturbance (electro kinetic) in the bond between the rock and the water. The small electrical signal that is created by this change or disturbance travels to the surface at the speed of light. The stronger the signal the more water available. The speed at which the signal comes to the surface is generally used to determine the depth of the water. If little or no signal is returned then there is either no significant water in the rock formation below or there is water with high dissolved solids (salt) in the rock formation. Our equipment records the signals and we provide a printed report of the computed results. A survey with four or more soundings can map approximately 12,000 square feet and accurately show the estimated groundwater depth, quality, and quantity (yield).

THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR A NWAS SURVEY TO BE COMPLETED ON MY PROPERTY

There are only a few minimum requirements: **1)** we need to have safe access to each sounding site with our 4X4 vehicle (otherwise in acceptable weather we can do remote soundings which are an additional cost). **2)** The area to be tested generally needs to be a minimum of 40 to 50 feet away from any type of electrical power source (primarily underground power and some buildings). **3)** We need to have enough **unobstructed** surface sediment (topsoil) to drive (install) four 3 foot 3 inch long 3/4 inch diameter electrodes into the ground. The electrodes are placed in a straight line and require an area that is approximately 16 feet long and 2 feet wide to complete each sounding. The NWAS definition of unobstructed surface sediments is surface sediments that contain approximately 30% or less large gravel or cobbles. If the surface sediments contain more than 30% large gravel or cobbles then more soundings may be required to collect a sufficient amount of definitive information.

THE SURVEY LOCATION

In most cases, the property owner tells us the general area that they would like to have their well, which is where we complete the survey. If you are unsure of approximately where you would like your well drilled or there are a number of dry or poor performing wells in the area then you have a few options to narrow the search for the right place to complete the survey. One option is to have fracture tracing (used primarily in areas with bedrock near the surface) completed on your property. Another option is to have a study of the existing wells in the area, which may help find a pattern common to the good wells. A final option is to have NorthWest Aquifer Surveying com-

plete and extended sounding profile survey (soundings completed in a line but separated by approximately 300 feet) completed across your property which will help us located some good areas to focus on with a more detailed close sounding profile survey.

SOUNDINGS NEEDED per PROPERTY

Every property varies and some properties need many more soundings than others but as a general rule we recommend a survey consisting of a minimum of four soundings (completed in a profile or grid pattern separated by 85 to 150 feet) for a single house domestic well and a survey consisting of a minimum of eight soundings for agricultural or multi-home wells. We also recommend that the soundings be completed in a profile or an organized pattern of some kind.

Until now, there were very few accurate and affordable options to locate wells. The two most common options are either picking a spot or well witching. Most well drillers will not suggest where to drill a well because of the potential liability involved. NWAS will survey your property and provide a printed report containing approximate water depth, water quality, and approximate flow rate.

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Colorado AgrAbility Project

We would like to thank the Colorado AgrAbility for assisting the farmers and ranchers in overcoming injuries and health challenges. The Colorado Easter Seals and Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, work closely together to provide the needed support for their community.

Colorado AgrAbility is part of a nationwide network of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs begun through the 1990 Farm Bill. The goal of the National AgrAbility Project is to inform, educate, and assist farmers, farm workers, and their families with disabilities that were affected by injury or health challenges.

Colorado AgrAbility is a partnership between Colorado State University Cooperative Extension and Easter Seals Colorado. Their goal is to maximize independence of farmers, ranchers, and their families who are facing new obstacles due to injury or illness by providing

services, information and education.

All of Colorado AgrAbility services are free to individuals. They cannot provide goods or financial support; however, the staff will explore and assist with every possible option to help their clients reach their goals and continue to do the work they love. Colorado AgrAbility would like to help farmers, ranchers and their families work smarter not harder.

A disability is any impairment that keeps you from doing as much work as you used to do or the necessary work on the farm it also keeps you, your spouse, or your child from doing routine daily activities like walking, talking, and playing.

A disability can be an amputation, arthritis, stroke, and hearing impairment or deafness.

It can also be back pain and injury, muscular dystrophy, respiratory problems, spinal cord injury, visual impairment or blindness, head injury, heart problems, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, or paralysis.

Assistive technologies are every day

adaptations made on farms and ranches to facilitate independent living and working. Assistive technology can be any of these essential adaptations, including: platform or chair lifts to provide access to equipment, tools that can be used with one hand, and hand controls or lever extensions for equipment, or adapted ladders for access to irrigation ditches.

This material is based upon work supported by the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services, under special project number 2002-41590-01350. ☛

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- 5 VARMITgetter gets the gas in the tunnel/burrow 3 to 4 times faster than the handheld devices.
- 6 Our device does not have to be cocked and valves to be turned each time you fire it like the handheld that are out there.
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- 8 In VARMITgetter's owners manual it tells you how long to apply the gas depending on what varmint you are dealing with.
- 9 VARMITgetter is priced hundreds of dollars less than the handheld devices on the market and doesn't break down.
- 10 Wired remote control -- up to 25' away from the blast site.

11 Operator DOES NOT hold onto applicator, which produces the blast.

12 Operator is not fatigued by the constant concussion of the blast.

13 The other hand-held units cause some operators to flinch, causing not enough gas to be used for proper application.

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15 Able to cover firing cone with loose dirt to help keep gas from escaping and to snuff out possible fire.

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Common Pasture Planting Errors

By Richard Dunne, CEO Wind River Seed

Establishing good pasture from seed can be difficult because of uncertain weather, and there is not much that we can do about that. However, through proper planting we can at least make sure that if favorable weather occurs our seed will benefit to the utmost. Establishing good pasture requires an unbroken chain of favorable events and if any link is broken all may be lost. Here are several common mistakes in planting seed which merit discussion.

Timeliness. The most frequent cause of seeding failure in Wyoming, whether dryland or irrigated is late planting followed by hot, dry weather. Newly seeded pasture and range grasses require fifteen to thirty days for germination and emergence, depending on species, weather conditions and planting depth. From time of emergence, these seedling require about six weeks to establish an extensive enough root mass to supply the leaves with moisture during hot weather. Without sufficient root mass, the seedling cannot meet the evapotranspiration needs of its leaves in hot weather, even if adequate soil moisture is available. To determine optimal planting time for most cool season grasses, figure back 8-10 weeks from when your temperature usually climbs into the 90's. In many areas of Wyoming this means March or early April for planting. Most cool season grasses germinate and thrive at fairly low temperatures so don't worry about

the occasional late snow. Summer heat is the big killer in Wyoming.

Lack of Quick Germination. Some seeds have a dormancy which is broken down over time in a cool moist environment. This cold/moist stratification may require several weeks for hard seeded species like alfalfa, Indian ricegrass and green needlegrass. Many seed lots of alfalfa have relatively low dormancy and will germinated readily. Some lots may have high dormancy and would be unsuitable for mid to late spring planting. Before planting alfalfa in the spring check with your seed vendor to make sure you're not planting alfalfa with high dormancy, say more than 10-15%. Some seeds are almost always dormant and should be planted in late fall or very early spring to allow time for stratification.

Improper Seeding Depth. For most cool season grass species, planting more than one inch deep or less than 1/4 inch deep is the kiss of death. Most seeds simply do not have enough energy to push that first stem through more than one inch of soil. Soil texture should be considered in determining proper seedling depth. Heavy, clay soils should generally be planted more shallow than sandy soils. Since sandy soils tend to lose moisture quickly we usually plant on the deep side of our target range. Depth bands on a seed drill are effective in creating ideal seed placement only if the seed bed is firm and can support the depth bands. Planting too shallow may put the seed in a zone where moisture evaporates quickly, robbing the seed of that 2-3 weeks of moisture necessary for germination. Generally, the larger the seed the deeper you can plant it and a commonly used rule of thumb is to plant seed to a depth 2 1/2 times the diameter of the seed.

Like most general rules there are many exceptions, so know the requirements of the seed you are planting and beware of



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seed mixes containing seed which must be planted at different depths.

Poor Soil Preparation. Ideal soil is firm and somewhat rough with small clods. You should be able to leave the print of your heel about 1/4 inch deep. If you sink up to your ankle in dust your equipment will almost surely plant the seed too deep. Not only will the seed be too deep in fluff but such soil is very poor in its ability to support the capillary action between soil particles necessary to wick moisture to the seed. Small clods help preserve soil moisture and reduce soil erosion, so take care not to over prepare your seed bed.

Inappropriate Use of Cover Crops. Cereal cover crops compete with grass seed for moisture, light and nutrients and should be avoided or minimized unless some compelling reason exists to use them. Under irrigated conditions cover crops can be used successfully at light rates but never forget that your goal is to establish good pasture, not a good cover crop. Water to the needs of the pasture grasses. The cover crops may jump out of the ground and suck up all the surface moisture before the pasture grasses even germinate leaving you with the impression that everything is fine when it is not. Where wind erosion is a problem, plant into stubble if possible.

Over-application of Fertilizer. Perennial pasture grasses do not grow much in the first year and require very little fertilizer until the second year. Start thinking a split application of 40 lbs in spring and 40 lbs in the fall and then adjust for soil type and species. More fertilizer than needed will only feed annual weeds such as kochia and cheatgrass creating problems in the future.

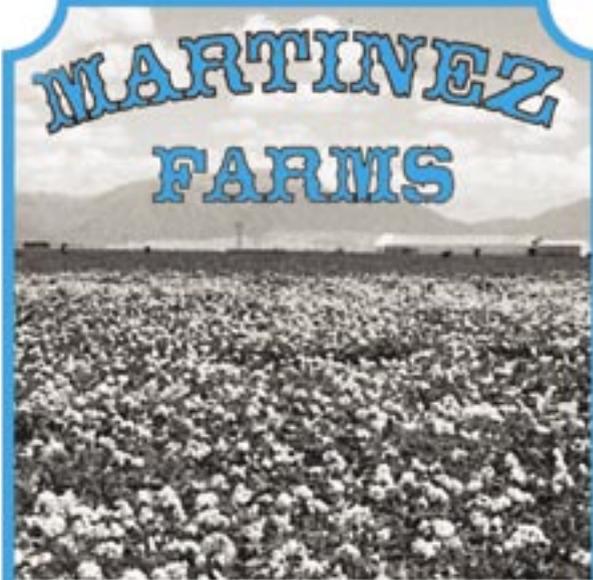
Broadcast Seeding. Consider this as a last resort. Even if you can scratch the seed into the soil with a harrow you will have seed at many depths in fluffy soil and, thus, a smaller return on your seed investment. With broadcast seeding we usually double the rate to compensate for the loss of efficiency over drill seeding, but frankly, having twice as many seeds in the soil surface death zone of Wyoming doesn't improve your chances very much.

Subsurface Compaction. Planting around an old feeding ground or down in the corner where livestock congregates? Chances are you've got compacted soil somewhere. Before seed bed preparation, use a compaction probe to determine whether and where you need to rip up a compacted layer. Measure while the soil is moist since almost all dry soil in Wyoming cannot be penetrated by a compaction probe. Rip while the soil is dry to create a fractured zone rather than a knifed zone created when the soil is moist. Seedlings expend more energy trying to penetrate compacted soil and usually end up severely stunted. Since you're going to have to live with the results for many years, do it right the first time!

Poor Quality Seed. Seeds with poor germination, high weed or other crop concentration often indicate a product whose seeds were produced under stress and which may have a poor life expectancy, or poor seedling vigor or a high rate of abnormal seedlings. Most cool season grasses should have a germination of at least 85%-90%, and a purity above 90%.

Anything less should be rejected unless low purity and germination are a characteristic of the species such as in warm season grasses. You should also know the species of weeds and other crop in the seed you are about to plant. Are you buying a problem?

Nobody can predict what our spring will be like. Will it be cool and moist, or hot and dry? Will we get a big dumper in June that has to last all summer? By proper choice of species, using good quality seed with good planting equipment in the proper seed bed at the right time, you will greatly improve your chances of successfully establishing a healthy pasture. Good Luck! 🍀



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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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The Peep Sight Curse

Have you ever been bitten by the peep sight curse? Misalignment with the eye, peep moved on the string, rubber cord tearing, poor visibility in low light conditions, water or snow in the bead, etc. I have been bow hunting since 1960. When Fred Bear came out with the Compound Bow with a front sight and the string mounted peep sight, I purchased two bows, which I have today.

Since then I have experienced all of the above. I drilled out peep sights for better visibility, but that allowed more margins for error. I eliminated the peep and went to a kissers button. I started working with the compound bow rifle sight. I bent a bracket out of galvanized sheet metal, drilled mounting holes and cut a slot at the end of the T bar to adjust the rear sight. I took a thumb screw, heated it, beat it flat, made the end square used a tri-angle file to make the V notch and used two wing nuts to hold the sight in place. It was very crude. I was surprised how it improved my accuracy and eliminated my problems in low light conditions. I worked with this sight for years before I figured out how to decrease margin for error, shoot multiple pins and pendulum sights. Mr. Randy Ulmer, who is in archery Hall Of Fame, in year 2000, wrote an article. Shooting Guide, in the Bowhunter magazine. I still have this article. My sight helps to aid with these problems. Mr. Ulmer states in his article, your anchor point will move slightly as you change from one sight pin to another. This is how I recommend shooting the Compound Bow Rifle Sight. Maintain form and lower your anchor point about 1/4 inch or less. When you lower your anchor point the top of your bow rocks rearward and your pins pops up dead center of the V notch. You can also shoot by maintaining your anchor point and move your bow arm. No matter how many pins you want to shoot, you set

the rear rifle sight to align with the bottom pin.

When you draw your bow your bottom pin is setting in the V notch, move the correct pin for the given distance onto your target. As soon as you come to your anchor point you always have clear vision of the V notch and your appropriate pin is sitting dead center. If you torque the bow or have your head out of form the slightest margin, your pin disappears not allowing the archer to make that bad shot. You can shoot from any position. If you're bending around a tree, you can see the appropriate pin for the distance you are shooting in the center of the V, on target, release your arrow, you're dead on. You will shoot greater distances with fewer pins and your pins settings



will be much closer then that of the peep sight. You will be amazed how accurate and how tight a groups you will shoot. My sight simplifies archery by decreasing the margin for error. Anyone in good physical condition will shoot with consistent accuracy. The archer will not become frustrated and will enjoy shooting. See web site www.peepeliminator.com

Inventor
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Got a bump in your road. We can help. Double B MFG INC has been taking bumps out of roads like yours for more than 10 years. Owners include, farmers, ranchers, townships, state dots, schools, grain elevators and machinery dealers. The original machine, the 2014 has changed very little in 10 years. Two smaller units have been introduced, the 9872 to be pulled by smaller tractors, and the E-48 to be towed by ATV's or garden tractors, for use on smaller driveways, hiking trails or any place where the path is rough. Brad Preslicka one of the original owners, still works in production along with a son-in-law Jamie Peters. Looking for a road grader? We have them in 17 states and part of Canada. Our company also manufactures hose reels for fertilizer, chemical, diesel fuel and water in sizes from 1/2 in to 3 in full port. We believe in quality, and customer satisfaction. Need a reference, or have a question? Call us, we can help. 320-382-6623 or 320-382-6253 📞

Bale Before, Not After It Rains!!

You can stop rain damage losses with the new Stinger 5000 Cube-Line Wrapper. The Cube-Line Wrappers will wrap hay from 8% to 60% moisture. If you make dense bales of quality hay, wrap them well and soon with high quality film, close the ends to prevent oxygen from getting inside and keep the bales this way you will take out high quality feed. If moisture levels are high enough then the bale will ensile. Shelf life of bales above safe moisture storage levels will vary but in most cases one to two weeks in hot weather and a month or more in cold weather. With good management and communication with your buyer the Stinger Cube-Line Wrapper gives you the opportunity to beat Mother Nature out of a lot of quality and profit that is lost when hay is going to be rain damaged.



The Stinger 5000 and 4000 allow you to stack and wrap 2-4x4x8 bales or 3-3x4x8 bales at one time in a continuous line with any number of bales at any given location. You can wrap in excess of 1500 bales per day.

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Liberty Companies has more news to share with you, in our endeavor to continue our growth of the products, services, and supply alliances we offer as a truly "ONE STOP SHOPPING CENTER FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS".

We feel we have put together a package that is not offered elsewhere in the country as far as the markets the we service.

We are now the dealer for STAR BUILDING SYSTEMS, for metal buildings that may be used for livestock buildings including sale barns, auction centers, dairy buildings, farm and ranch barns and shops, equestrian centers and horse farms including indoor arenas, stables, and... Even airplane hangers.

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the Pacific Northwest, and we team up with them base on the type of project. We have the alliances with a large number of contractors, in order to provide multiple projects at one time.

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Check out our website at www.libertypipe.com, or give us a call in Montana at 888-595-4355, or Idaho, 800-764-7473, or 866-542-0522. Or come see at in 1321 8th Ave No. Great Falls, Montana. 36 E. Frontage Rd. Jerome, Idaho. 3788 No. 5th East Idaho Falls, Idaho. 📍

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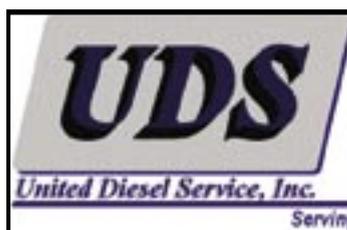


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C&R Supply, Inc. • Birth Of A Sprayer

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

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

The EZ ATV Sprayer was designed with the operator in mind for ease of operation and functional ability and safety. With the sleek design brings the weight forward and more to a center of gravity for better machine balance. Allowing the legs of the tank to wrap around the fenders of the ATV gives the sprayer dual sumps to give maximum drainage and the ability to run on side hills without losing its prime. The pump, strainer, and main shut-off are mounted underneath the tank in a protected cavity, which also serves as a dual slosh baffle. The top of the tank is designed with a fill catch area to prevent chemical from getting on the operator. The EZ is fitted with a 4 gpm Shurflo Pump and a quality Tee-Jet trigger style handgun in the convenient control panel at your side. All brackets and boomless nozzle or boom accessories are attached to the tank for quick and easy mounting. The EZ ATV Sprayer has several different options and accessories to meet your requirements and needs.

C&R Supply, Inc. is a distributor and manufacturer of agricultural and roadside spray equipment located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. For over 25 years, C&R Supply, Inc. has been a leader in the distribution and servicing of many quality products from Raven Industries, Spraying Systems, Banjo, and more. They also lead the way in designing and manufacturing new and advanced products such as their C&R Foam Marker, Spot



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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 as-

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Egbers Flighting & Supply Co.

Egbers Still At It

When you hear Auger flighting, most of you think of Egbers. "We're very proud that we're so well known by our customers," Says Doug Egbers, owner of Egbers Flighting & Supply. The Egbers family has been involved in the Auger and Agricultural Repair business since 1974. Doug and Laura Egbers are the newest members to take on the family business. In January, 2003 Egbers Farms Inc. was purchased and Egbers Flighting & Supply was set in place.

Egbers still offers a wide variety of auger flighting and recently they opened up their other stock items for resale. "In the past, we did not heavily advertise our stock of tube, shaft and auger accessories. There are so many companies that require minimum orders, we opened our stock items to better accommodate our

customers," says Laura Egbers. Egbers has no minimum order requirements.

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

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

Walking into their inventory shed, you see rows and rows of auger flighting. Around 1200 sizes are on hand at all times. 90% of these sizes are the 'Super Edge' Auger Flighting. Egbers possesses a talent for size and application. Just call on their sales staff and they can fit about any application you have for your combine, grain cart, transport auger and more.

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Always innovative and never compromising on quality, WINCO produces the most complete line of power take off (PTO) generators offered for agricultural applications, hobby farms and full scale commercial operations. Sizes range from 7kW to 150kW, and models in single and three-phase voltages are available, as well as 540 and 1000 rpm models.

WINCO was one of the first companies to design a small quiet home standby package that both rural and city homeowners have come to rely on. Available in LP and Natural Gas in sizes up to 75kW, these fully automatic gensets are also widely used for livestock operations that require backup emergency power, due to ventilation, watering and feeding needs. Diesel generator systems are also available through WINCO's sister company, Winpower.

WINCO also produces a line of industrial grade generators for the construction market, which includes portable gensets from 3-18kW, light towers and mobile diesel generators. The WL18000VE Big Dog is one of the largest portable gasoline



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Proper maintenance, handling, semen collection and processing ensured by well trained, experienced sire care and laboratory teams naturally contribute to the sales success of Semex. Strict attention to bio-security & efficient housing combined with an optimal nutrition program guarantee an unrestricted semen production.

The identity of all bulls is assured by DNA analysis, which has replaced the conventional blood typing method. This verification is assured before the release of the test bull semen for delivery to the farm. Each bull is identified with two ear tags, one with the bull's short name and sire code and the second with official Holstein Canada information.

The evaluation of the semen after collection requires use of strict quality guidelines using standardized equipment and techniques. All evaluation values are stored in the computer facilitating review of a bull's production pattern and monitoring of the production sample from each producing bull.

All laboratories of the Semex Alliance use the same freezing medium, which was determined on the basis the optimal in-cow fertilization rate. The continuous composition of this extender requires high quality chemicals, pure water and the obligatory addition of antibiotics. After the semen is diluted it is gradually cooled to 5°C over 2 hours.

All Semex Alliance semen, whether frozen in the 0.25ml or 0.50 ml straw, is labeled with the bull's registered name, registration number, an ownership code, a processing number and the freezing date.

After freezing, several randomly selected straws are thawed and the motility and thermal resistance examined. Only the straws with very high quality are offered for the sales around the world. Poor quality semen is destroyed immediately.

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

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

Innovative Product Development

After pioneering in the manufacture of 60% and 80% dry high fat products, we expanded this line to include 100% fat for both dairy cow and swine rations. Merrick's was the first to develop and introduce many innovative products that optimize the survival and health of baby animals. In 1982 Merrick's expanded



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

Milk Replacers . . . and So Much More!

Animal plasma in milk replacers was introduced into the market by Merrick's in 1989. In 1998 we developed a calf milk replacer formulated with spray dried animal blood cells. In the search to develop nutritionally advanced products for use in milk replacers, we test many alternative proteins. This testing resulted in the formulation of egg protein milk replacers for both Merrick's branded milk replacers and private label customers. In 1994 we developed a calf nursing bottle and a patented nipple featuring the first advance in calf nipple design in many years. That year Merrick's also entered the poultry feed industry with products to help producers maintain healthier animals.

Research and Product Formulations

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

Commitment

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

ducers. Merrick's technical staff is available to assist with any questions about our products and good animal management practices.

Merrick's, Inc. Brands:

Milk Replacers: Centurion, Millennium, Cell Star, Winter Star, Super Star, Gold Star, Silver Star and Blue Star for Calves; Soweena Litter-Gro and Litter Life for Baby Pigs; Super Lamb and Super Kid; Grow-N-Glow for Foals

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

Electrolytes: Blue Ribbon Electrolytes with Direct-Fed Microbials – for all species

Poultry Vaccine Stabilizer: Vacci-Guard

Nursing Equipment: Super-Calf Nipples & Bottles Super-Calf Oral Bottle Feeder

Dry Fats: Soweena 7-60/4-80 & Select 100 for Swine Rations; Dairy Ultra 100 for Lactating Cows

MERRICK'S, INC.

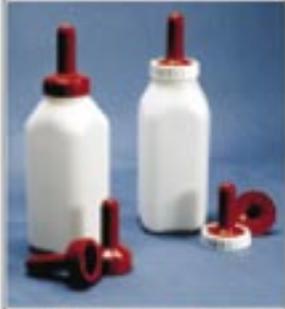
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Weaver Ranch

Weaver Ranch is a family operation, consisting of our founder, Adrian Weaver and his three daughters, Susan, Maxine and Mourine. We are helped by our ranch manager, Lyle Linman, his wife Deb and their son, Clint, along with part time help. We started our Registered Black Angus operation in the spring of 1960, with cows having Eileenmere breeding. In the fall of 1960, Adrian bought more cows from the Dale Redding herd at Minatare, Nebraska and began ranching at Tie Siding, Wyoming and Virginia Dale, Colorado. We purchased the present ranch headquarters north of Fort Collins, Colorado in 1969 and the Cottonwood Ranch at Sedgwick, Colorado in 1988.

All of our cattle run for at least one summer at Tie Siding, Wyoming at an elevation of 7500 to 8000'. Our bulls are Pulmonary Artery Pressure (PAP) tested while at Tie Siding. Our main cow herd is managed at Sedgwick, while the yearlings and sale bulls are summered at Tie Siding and wintered at Fort Collins.

Over the years, we have utilized Artificial Insemination (A.I.) in our breeding program, choosing sires with low birth Expected Progeny Differences (EPD's), high growth EPD's and high carcass quality. A.I. sires we have used include: S S Rito 0715 OH3, Bon View Winton 1342, Baldrige Oscar, QAS Traveler 23-4, Scotch Cap, Nichols Trademark, U.G. Herschel 1062, Franco of Wil We, Emulation N Bar 5522, GAR Sleep Easy 1009, VDAR New Trend 315 and most recently, TC Stockman 365. We have developed our own herd sires, emphasizing calving ease, growth, carcass quality, sound structure, and good disposition. Bulls we have developed and used as herd sires include: Weavers Traveler 87-257, Weavers Traveler 9196, Weavers Traveler 6958, Weavers Math 92-18 and Weavers Sleep Easy 5176.

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Under Pressure

With patience, low-stress handling can save you time and trouble. by: Brooke Byrd

No matter how calm your cattle are, stress is a factor in nearly all livestock operations. Stress is often the biggest cost to producers and feeders, says Roger Ingram, University of California Cooperative Extension farm advisor.

"Stress can affect animals in many different ways," he says, including a reduction in drinking and eating. Because of this, stress directly affects a producer's pocketbook. "If you have 100 head and your average daily gain (ADG) is 3.5 pounds, the gain per day per pen would be 350 pounds," Ingram notes. An animal that doesn't gain doesn't make money.

Other problems, Ingram explains, are the health costs. "If the animal isn't eating or drinking, then the chances of it getting sick are much higher." Treatment costs are among producers' biggest expenses.

Stress also costs the people who work livestock, says Bud Williams, Bowie, Texas, who teaches livestock handling workshops around the country. "Most people, when they're working livestock, get very upset and frustrated," he notes.

Throughout a lifetime of working with all kinds of livestock, Williams has developed a set of principles and methods to help combat stress in livestock production.

Low-stress handling

The main cause of stress in the livestock industry, Williams says, is an inability to communicate. Many people work animals into confusion and panic because the animals don't understand what they're expected to do.

"My method of working livestock consists of learning to 'read' what the animal is telling you and changing your position so she wants to go where you want her to go," he says.

The first step to a better understanding of livestock is a change in attitude, Williams notes. He says everything an animal does is in reaction to something its handler does. The ways people position themselves cause trouble because humans are predatory animals and cattle are prey animals.

Williams explains that humans naturally want to either chase or force animals to move, which directly causes stress and causes animals to run, go the wrong way or turn to fight.

"I don't want any animal I work with to perceive me as a predator," he says.

Pressure and release

Williams' way of handling cattle revolves around movement.

"Our body language is how the animal reads what we want," he says. The central principle involves pressuring the animal to cause a reaction and releasing that pressure, while working around an animal's flight zone.

He defines "pressure" as anything that causes a reaction in an animal. Williams mostly pressures an animal with movement, but notes that noise or nearby objects could also apply pressure. However, he warns, loud or continuous noise can put too much pressure on animals.

The flight zone is the area around an animal that, if moved into, constitutes pressure.

"As long as you're outside of it, you're not exerting any pressure on the animal. When you move inside of it, you are," Williams says. Some flight zones encompass an entire corral, so the first step may be just getting the animal used to your presence.

Williams begins by pressuring an animal, usually by moving toward it. As it moves away or otherwise responds by moving its head or shifting position, he eases up the pressure. That can mean either taking a step away from the animal, standing still or ceasing to make noise. However, he advises, don't release the pressure completely by stepping too far away. The point is to step away enough that the animal realizes it won't be constantly pressured and understands that you are not a predator.

When applying pressure, Williams offers two things to always keep in mind. "The angle at which you pressure and the amount you pressure are extremely important," he states.

Angle

"The angle you pressure at determines the amount of pressure that you're putting on," Williams says. "If animals aren't moving and you want them to move, change the angle." Walking toward an animal's hip is what he calls a flat angle and doesn't



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constitute much pressure. Angling toward the middle pressures more, and angling toward the front is even sharper and causes the most pressure.

Choosing which angle to take can depend on the temperament of the animal, Williams explains. A calm animal won't respond to the small amount of pressure from movement toward the hip. However, a wilder animal may panic at that much pressure.

Angle also factors into directing animal movement.

"If you pressure an animal, and it's not doing what you want, then you must assume that you have done something that's not quite right, and you must move to another spot to pressure," Williams says. Pressuring from directly behind an animal makes it nervous and causes it to turn around to see the cause of pressure.

Amount

Applying too much pressure causes many livestock-handling problems, Williams notes. "The reason an animal breaks off and runs is because we're exerting too much of the wrong kind of pressure," he says, adding that too much pressure will cause a negative reaction. Handling then becomes associated with a

single negative experience.

Too much pressure also causes an animal to panic and break off when faced with a gate. "She's focusing on the excessive pressure and is not even concerned about the gate she's trying to get away," Williams says.

The key to Williams' method is to release the pressure after the animal has responded. "It's helpful if somebody can guide you with a slight push on the shoulders," he says, "but if they keep pushing, it doesn't take long until you've had enough."

Practical perspective

Putting his different principles together, if Williams wants to sort out a single animal, he first discovers how much pressure the animal will take by finding its flight zone. After applying and releasing pressure to show he is not acting predatory, he discovers where the animal needs to be pressured to make it go straight and turn by trying different angles. After turning the animal in the direction he wants, he then pressures and releases until the animal willingly walks when he applies pressure.

"It doesn't take as much pressure to keep an animal moving as it does to start one," he notes.



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To sort through a pen of cattle, Williams will begin near the gate, pressuring the animals he wants to move out, then step back toward the gate to block an individual from leaving. He can then use the same technique to pressure other unwanted animals in the opposite direction.

When moving a group of cattle, Williams notes that he uses a crossing pattern.

"I move back and forth across. Even though I may be behind the animals all of the time, I'm not behind one animal for any length of time," he says. By applying similar pressure to different ani-

mals in succession, no individual animal feels too pressured.

To slow down individual or group movement, Williams says, move parallel to livestock in the same direction animals are going. To speed up movement, move parallel in the opposite direction. "Animals want to continue in the direction they are headed," he says. "When they see you coming, they will try to hurry past you."

While Williams affirms that his method can work in a variety of circumstances and will eventually save time, he offers some cautions. Each animal or group

must be approached differently, and they will respond differently, he says. "Every situation that I get in I use some of the same things, but I don't necessarily use them in the same way."

Williams says this method can be translated to other ways of working cattle, such as with horses, dogs, four-wheelers, and even helicopters. However, he cautions, "A four-wheeler is going to put on more pressure than somebody on foot."

He also notes that the method will take time to thoroughly understand. "A beginner can learn something that can help them," he says, "but this is something I've spent a lifetime studying and I've just scratched the surface on what can be done when working with animals.

"Anything worthwhile is going to take some effort."

Starting points

Because this method takes a great deal of practice, Ingram, who also teaches livestock handling classes, suggests producers start working with their herd when they don't need to accomplish anything specific — the time they normally spend checking eyes or calves. He also suggests people first practice on calm animals. "As you begin to understand these techniques better, you can move on to more challenging animals," he says.

The first step when working with any animal, Ingram notes, is to make it comfortable with having you around. Once it's comfortable, it can be trained to take pressure. He also notes the importance of pressuring and releasing pressure to establish trust, especially if you've never handled them before. "If you've got your herd trained, they will stay trained," he says. "But, you may have to do some more initial work with a new pen of animals."

While it may sound complicated and confusing, Ingram says, "As you get more comfortable with those methods, you can actually achieve a lot of this stuff in relatively short periods of time." The key, he says, is patience. "You have to be willing to invest time to learn a new skill."

Learning curve

Jack Martin, a veterinarian and owner of Bar M Bar Ranch, Cherryvale, Kan., compares learning this method to using your opposite hand.



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“So many times you start wanting to use your right hand, because it just seems natural,” he says. But, to be successful, Martin cautions against returning to forceful ways when frustration sets in.

One way to head off frustration, he says, is to realize that each animal and group of animals will respond differently, Martin says, “Be open and ready to evaluate every group of cattle differently. Realize that you’ve got to change your tactics and not try to do the same thing with every group of cattle and expect the same results.”

Even so, he says, the hard work is worth it. “You can get a lot more done in a day and get it done a lot easier. It’ll pay huge dividends, but it also takes huge commitment.”

Feedyard experiences

Greg Glunz, assistant manager of Fairleigh Feed Yards, Scott City, Kan., says calming cattle as soon as they arrive at the feedyard is crucial to his operation. “The whole focus is to try to get your cattle to become more relaxed in your presence — accept you being there as not being a threat,” he says.

One of the biggest benefits he has found is easier detection of disease. Cattle that are not feeling well, he says, will more easily express it because they aren’t afraid. “Because animals aren’t perceiving you to be a predator, they’re more relaxed in your presence,” he says.

“Any time that you’re able to utilize another tool that helps you identify cattle at an earlier stage of illness, you’ll reduce your medicine cost per head.” Glunz also notes that it’s not easy to change an established mind-set. “We all know habits don’t change overnight,” he says, “but we’ve learned how to work

with cattle instead of fight with them.”

Real results

For Wally Olson, Vinita, Okla., Williams’ method has provided some very real results. Olson has a cow-calf and stocker operation, feeding about 3,000 calves a year. “We used to run 3% or 4% death loss on these calves, but now we’re down to 1% or 2%,” he says. “What’s really impressive is we’ve cut our vet bill from \$20 a head down to about \$6 or \$8 a head.”

He also recognizes a decrease in his labor load. “We moved 600 or 700 cows out of a pasture that, a few years ago, took eight or 10 riders. Two of us went and did it.”

However, Olson notes that his results did not come overnight. “You really have to work at it,” Olson explains. “It’s not a simple thing.”

Even so, he still enjoys it. “I’m prob-

ably the happiest person in the world when it comes to working cattle, because I have no problems — only learning experiences,” he says. He also recommends that interested producers attend one of Williams’ stockmanship schools. “Unless they are around it, people almost don’t believe what they can do,” he says.

For more information about stockmanship and Bud Williams, visit www.stockmanship.com to see a calendar of upcoming stockmanship schools and find out how to receive a video. To find out about other schools teaching Williams’ methods, visit <http://hand-handlivestocksolutions.com>. Further information about low-stress handling, including a discussion of Williams’ methods, is available in *Stockmanship*, by Steve Cote. 📖

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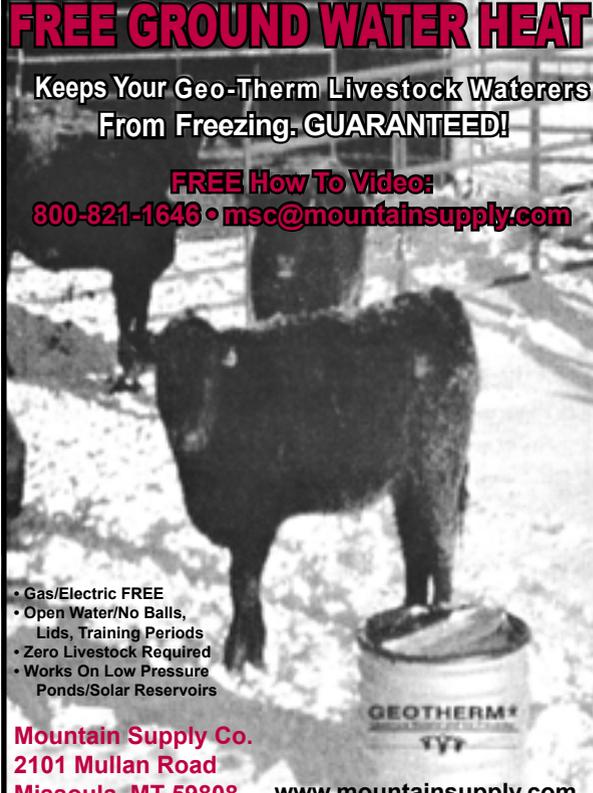
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When the "Calf Claim" is sprinkled on the back of the newborn livestock, it makes even the most reticent mothers receptive to their young. The mother smells the licorice-laced product and dries off the baby as she licks it. This contact stimulates the baby's respiration and heartbeat. The calf stands up and the cow lets it nurse.

"Calf Claim" has been used on foals and lambs, but is most successful with beef and dairy calves born under stress to first time mothers. When used routinely on calves that need pulled, it helps the cow or heifer to start licking. The product works best if the dam and baby are penned in a small area, about 10x15 feet, and sprinkle some "Calf Claim" then rub into its hair. It also helps to dampen the calf's back to make it stick. "Calf Claim"

is bottled in five-ounce plastic containers and distributed for sale by veterinarians and veterinary suppliers across the United States and Canada. It sells for around \$12 a bottle and is good for up to 10-12 calf situations. Demand is heaviest in the spring, although it has found favor with Western-fall calving herds.

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After a tour of duty with the U.S. Army, I joined my classmate, Dr. Max Mekus in a general veterinary practice in Mt. Ayr, Iowa. Shortly after starting practice, Dr. Mekus introduced me to the mixture that his Uncle Dr. Graham had compounded and I was impressed with all the success that local cattlemen were having using the product. Many were repeat customers stopping by the clinic asking for one or more doses of our calf claimer, as they called it.

Out of necessity, we formulated a new process of compounding to batch produce the calf claimer to meet the demand. At this time, it became a permanent part of our O.B. grips. After a successful delivery of a newborn the question of "What are you doing Doc?" soon changed to "Did you put Calf Claimer on Doc?"

In 1978, we trademarked the name "Calf Claim" and started to market our product thru some of the smaller veterinary product distributors that called upon us. The rest is history, and we now have distribution in the United States and Canada. About the only advertising of the product has been its success. "Calf Claim" has actually sold itself. In, 2003, our formulation was changed a little. We have removed the animal by products as the carrier and changed to a vegetable carrier. This change was prompted because of the fear of mad cow disease. John L. Peters, D.V.M. 🐾

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WELCOME TO THE MRNAK HEREFORD RANCH

In 1906, Jim Mrnak's grandfather, Vincent, homesteaded the present Mrnak Hereford Ranch. They came from the East with the usual homesteader belongings and a few head of livestock. In 1944, Jim's father, Wencil, bought him a few registered Hereford heifers. This was the foundation and beginning of the Mrnak Hereford Ranch. Since 1968, the entire cowherd has been of recorded seedstock.

Since its inception, the ranch has seen many changes in the cattle industry, from the small compact cattle, to the large framed cattle and everything in between. It has always been our program to stay with the moderate framed cattle with thickness, muscling and natural fleshing ability. We strongly believe that a highly fertile, functional and sound cowherd is a must in the Hereford cattle industry.

Over the years, as the cowherd grew, many influential bulls have contributed to the successful marketing of our cattle. BB Selkirk Lad 3136, purchased from BB Cattle Co., Connell, WA, has left a lasting genetic mark on our cowherd. Other strong breeding sires were BHRH 4088-642, CL1 Domino 590, Dan Mischief, and many more. At present we are using a combination of Canadian and US genetics. We feel this combination will be very beneficial to the commercial cattlemen that purchase our seedstock. Our Canadian genetics are highlighted with BP Debonair 205D, a bull we purchased from Bar Pipe Farms at Okotoks, Alberta, and LCI Diamond Bow 201E, purchased from Doenz Ranch, Warner, Alberta.

Through the use of A.I. some of the useful performance bulls in the US have been utilized in our breeding program. Star Donald 335F, a great maternal sire,



has left a host of great daughters as well as the very popular BB Patriot 0293. It was a genetic cross of the Patriot sire on a 335F daughter that resulted in our popular herdsire MH Patriot 3159. This bull is in partnership with Hoffman Herefords, Leola, SD & Rocking Chair Ranch, Fort McKavett, TX and is leased to ABS. Currently in use are MH Dakota 0230 and MH Monument 3147.

In 1968 we had our 1st production sale here on the ranch selling 50 bulls. In the spring of 1981 we moved our production sale to St. Onge, SD where we felt we could offer our cattle at a closer location to our customers. Over the years we have seen our bulls sell all over the western United States. In earlier sales we sold strictly bulls, but in recent years the demand for Hereford heifers has convinced us to open up our market of heifers in our annual sale.

The 3rd, 4th, and 5th generation of Mrnaks now resides on the Mrnak Hereford Ranch. Jim and wife Marlene

have 5 children; Connie, Wayne, Terry, Loren and Carla. Wayne, wife Jill and daughter Robyn along with Terry, wife Debby and sons Brent and Andy operate the ranch that consists of 470 cows and farming practices that include growing wheat, corn, oats, barley and alfalfa hay. Over the years Jim, Marlene and Wayne have served the Hereford breed on local, state and national levels. Wayne was recently elected as a director of the AHA board. Debby is currently on the board of American Hereford Women. Marlene was President of the ND Cattlewomen. Terry and Debby are the ND Jr. Hereford advisors, Brent served Vice President and director of the National Junior Hereford Association for three years and Andy is currently director of the NJHA board. Brent and Andy are very active showing cattle on the local, state and national levels.

One could say the family is "Hereford" through and through as they preach, "Every calf should have a white face." 🐄

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February 10, 2006, 1:00 PM

St. Onge Livestock Exchange, St. Onge, SD

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equine

Horse Portraits by Anne' Handler

How many Christmases did I ask for a pony as a little girl? Never got the pony, but I did gain a life-long love and appreciation for the beauty of horses from my father. He was a sergeant in the Army for most of those years. Before I was born he was in the last mounted Cavalry unit with a wartime mission in the US Army. I have painted a portrait of him with two of his horses in post WWII Berlin, Germany. Every assignment he took my mother and myself on, he made sure I had contact with the horse world, whether it be mucking stalls for lessons from Olympians in Stuttgart, Germany, or seeing the famous Lippizan Stallions. He is my true inspiration for painting horses.

Whenever I paint a portrait of a client's favorite horse, whether from their photographs or my own taken during the initial interview, it is my unique challenge to find and portray the features accurately. Even one wrinkle in the muzzle, or the cock of an ear, will gain instant recognition for those who know the horse. So, I have to get it right.

It is my special privilege to listen to people's reminiscences of their horses, whether it be a race horse from the 60's to an aloof 23 year-old family pet. The stories have touched me deeply, and it is from that emotion that my paintings come. Once I have the eyes set and painted, the horse on the canvas begins to come alive and beckons me to finish it. The presentation upon completion is always my biggest, most meaningful reward, as the reactions to the piece usually are very heartfelt.

I use the finest quality Sennelier oil pastels, imported from France, and colored India inks in my process, and use 140# water color paper as the substrate. I find the oil pastels provide a singularly intimate experience for me as an artist as they melt under my fingers and infuse into the paper. The inks are used to provide the fine details of hairs, wrinkles, and furrows.

If you are interested in a portrait of your beloved horse, I would be pleased to offer you my services. The result will be breath-taking and full of color and palpable life. 🐾

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HORSEMANSHIP: ART AND SCIENCE

Robert Cook FRCVS, PhD

Reviewing man's 6000-year domestication of the horse in a 24-hour time scale, the art of horsemanship commenced at midnight and metal bits could have first appeared at 3.0 am. Jointed snaffles were introduced about 12 noon and curb bits around 3.45 pm. Xenophon wrote his book on horse management at 4.0 pm but science, as a method of acquiring knowledge, did not exist before 10.0 pm. If equine veterinary science commenced with the establishment of the first veterinary schools, it was born at 11.15 pm but did not mature until 11.48 pm. Equine behavioral science was not a recognized discipline until three minutes before midnight. Regarding the methods by which riders communicate with their horse's head, there has been much art and little science.

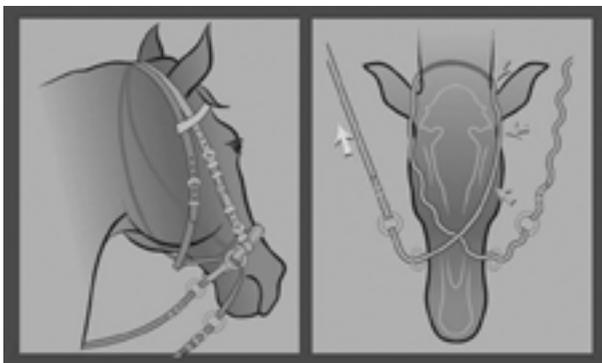


Fig 1. Showing how crossover straps, which are direct extensions of the reins, cross under the chin to provide one loop over the poll and, by pressure on the 'O' ring at the noseband, influence a second loop over the bridge of the nose.

Fig 2. A worm's eye view showing how pressure on one rein (yellow arrow) pushes on the opposite side of the head, from the poll, down the side of the face, under the chin and across the nose (red arrows).

In the hands of a master horseman the bit method is possibly acceptable. An artist-horseman has 'good hands' and communicates with his horse predominantly by means of 'seat and legs,' balance and breathing. Such a horseman can perform miracles of horsemanship without either a bit or even a bridle. However, when reins connect the rider's hands with a rod of metal in the horse's exquisitely sensitive mouth, the hands have to be equally sensitive to avoid inflicting pain.

Master horsemen are rare. The majority of riders are not sufficiently skilled to use a method of communication that requires such artistry. We hurt our horses unintentionally and, until recently, unavoidably. The traditional bitless bridles (hackamores, bosals, and sidepulls) are also pain-based, so there has been no pain-free alternative.

Five years ago, this changed with the introduction of the crossover design of bitless bridle. The new method is painless; compatible with the physiology of the horse; and provides for clear and comprehensive communication, without the inevitable misunderstandings, complications and crossed-signals of the bit method.

As the switch from bit to crossover bitless can take place overnight, the noticeable improvement in behavior is often dramatic. Research has exposed over 120 problems caused by the bit. Most of the problems had not previously been recog-

nized as bit-induced. Many of the problems, such as bolting, bucking and rearing, imperil the safety of horse and rider. To summarize, the bit tortures a horse, making it nervous and apprehensive. Fear of the bit triggers flight, fight and freeze responses; initiates facial neuralgia (the headshaking syndrome); obstructs breathing; and interferes with stride and balance. The full list is available online at http://www.bitlessbridle.com/about/FOTB_Q.xls

The new bridle allows the rider to communicate painlessly by means of two head loops. To signal for slowing or stopping, riders hug the whole of the head. For steering, they nudge half the head (Figs 1 & 2).

A horse can feel a fly landing on its face, so communication needs only the lightest touch. Nevertheless, as it is virtually impossible for a heavy-handed rider to hurt a horse with this bridle, it prevents even these from triggering pain-induced problems. Apart from the welfare benefits for the horse, riding becomes less expensive. A bitted horse often exhibits 30-40 problems. Any attempt to solve these problems, other than by removing the bit, wastes time and money. However, by removing the bit, riding becomes simpler, safer, more satisfying, and ... scientific.

Riding instructors who are committed to the crossover bitless bridle reverse the order of events in the familiar phrase 'art and science.' Quite logically, their pupils learn the science of riding before they progress to consider the art. 🐾

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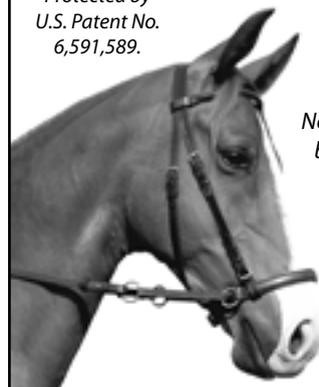
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Shadow Makers Learns How To Open Minds!

By: Gaye Murray

Montana Miniature Shadow Makers has very successful workshops using our little herd of Miniature Horses. This is so exciting that I just had to share this with others. We have a stream of visitors at our ranch to visit, not us, the animals!! Our Minis always leave a lasting impression on children and adults alike. They momentarily forget about their own problems. I am a wonderful example

of how Miniature Horses help heal. In prayers' I met the "Miniature Horse" and my life changed. The little horses give unconditional love. I am not a counselor! I teach people how to take care of the Mini's and the resident goat, Sweet Pea; Sweet Charity, a Shiatsu; Boomer the Lab, and several cats. We have recently added another animal to the herd. A very tiny very sweet black (part Icelandic) Ewe whose

name is Gracie. They all love people. We hope to get these animals all evaluated and registered with the Delta Society to make them official Pet Partners.

We try to match the animal to the person by the actions of both animal and person. Not every person is receptive to animals and/or may have allergies to pets.

By the year 2006, we hope to implement the use of Horticulture at our ranch for this

Colt Has A 3 On His Forehead

You've never seen anything like this colt, born on Friday, May 13th with a no. 3 on its forehead.

"The only thing that's different about the colt is that he has a number on his head," says the Amish farmer who owns the colt. He wishes to remain anonymous for religious reasons. At first, many think it's a hoax or that the mark is painted on. "It's for real and will grow with the colt as he gets older," he says.

A few Dale Earnhardt fans expressed an interest in getting the colt into a race-

car magazine. Earnhardt, one of NASCAR's most successful drivers ever, drove a No. 3 black Chevrolet.

He's received letters offering to buy the colt although no one's named a price yet.

Although the farmer plans to eventually sell the colt, born from a Standardbred mare and Haflinger sire, he's not in any hurry. "A lot of people say 'let me know before you sell him.'

"He's going to be more of a collector's item than a horse," the farmer says. 🐾

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reason. Montana Miniature Shadow Makers is having work shops that introduce proven methods and alternative approaches to receptive counseling. We want to introduce you to “a new experience and alternative therapy” to break the barrier between you and your client, a loved one you are caring for, or are responsible for, or yourself! You or those who are in need of therapy have past or present experiences that may keep successful therapy at arms length. We are offering a different approach using animals and horticulture to open their minds and let their therapy begin!

We teach the person how to care for the horses; what the horses are capable of; and learn to trust the animals.

The animals don't tell secrets! Before you know it, they have taken their minds off their own problems and now they are willing to receive help from their professional counselors or care givers.

We have licensed psychologists and licensed Re-Lapse Therapists working with us.

Re-Lapse Prevention is one of the many reasons “Shadow Makers” guests will always have reasonable scheduled visitation rights with their therapy animal or plant after they have successfully completed

therapy.

Our therapy animals will not be sold. Shadow Makers does not currently have a barn. We use the Residence, the Shelters, and the Great Montana Outdoors for the therapy classes; animal activities; and enjoy the steady stream of visitors. We hope to be able to build a barn in the very near future. We have designed our barn to be ADA compliant. We have designed our barn so counselors can have an office. The conference/observation room will be equipped with TV/DVD as teaching tools. The conference/observation room has total view into the arena. One of our goals is to have enough money to build our barn by 2006. We hope to be able to hire three full time staff members. We do not have a non-profit status but gifts are accepted.

We want to continue to do “God's Work”, show his love through our Miniature Horses and Shadow Makers' many animals, and use the 50 acres to develop our facilities. If you are interested in attending a workshop, being a Workshop Instructor, share what you would like to learn, or share your therapy experiences with us, or would like to be a guest speaker, we would be delighted to hear from you. Our future workshops

may have different instructors and/or different classes based on your interests. We are located 31 miles North of Yellowstone National Park. The activities in our area are too numerous to list. Besides the park, there are many rodeos, whitewater rafting, fly-fishing, many museums and art galleries. In the event you want to plan a family vacation in conjunction with one of the summer workshops, we are planning something fun for the children. We are allowing parents to bring their children. We are offering a training class to the children using Miniature horses. We are charging \$ 20.00 a day per child, which will include a catered luncheon they will enjoy with their parents. Rosemary Chapel will be one of our Workshop Instructors and she is conducting the children's classes throughout the day. This is a fun day for your children while you relax and enjoy your classes. We are in the process of trying to qualify our next workshop for attendees to receive a credit for continuing education.

We are offering for sale a DVD of the highlights of our workshops and some inserts of other activities here at Shadow Makers. This DVD is a delight to watch! 🎥

We give all the credit to God Almighty for project Shadow Makers

Montana Miniature Shadow Makers



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Shadow Makers has created a wonderful DVD that includes our beginnings, visitors, workshops, field trips, progress and accomplishments. This wonderful DVD has testimonials from people Shadow Makers has helped using God's mini's and this ranch. The DVD includes future plans for development.

**Purchase this DVD using
the coupon.**

The Falabella Breeders & Owners Society Established 2000

Working together to protect, preserve and ensure the future of the Falabella Miniature Horse Supporting the Falabella Miniature Horse Association (FMHA Registry)

Breed History

The Falabella family in Argentina became interested over a century ago in the research and breeding of miniature horses. Patrick Newell (the great grandfather) of Julio Caesar Falabella first started the breeding of the miniature horses back in the late 1800's. The long term plan was to produce an equine the size of a pony, but with the conformation and disposition of a horse.

The family selectively chose the horses for breeding by using the smallest mares with the smallest stallions, resulting in each generation becoming smaller. This information was recorded and this knowledge was passed down to his son-in-law Juan Falabella and then onto his son Emilo Falabella and onto his son Julio Falabella. Today, the Falabella is a recognized breed and known as the true "original miniature horse", and has resulted in producing horses standing less than 30" tall. Maria Angelica Falabella, the daughter of Julio now resides in Roebuck, SC, USA, and carries on her fathers breeding program.

Falabellas have been bred down from a variety of full size horses including the Thoroughbred, Arabian, Quarter Horse, Mustang and even Draft Horses. These horses appear in many colors, black, bay, buckskin, palomino, chestnut, pin-

to and appaloosa.

Julio Falabella especially liked the loud colored horses, and many of his herd descendants today are appaloosa and pinto. One of Julio's favorites was a very loud appaloosa stallion named Menelek, who was sold to Lord and Lady Fisher of England. Menelek was the foundation used to start a Falabella bloodline in the United Kingdom and the Kilverstone Zoo was established to promote the breed.

Since a variety of breeds were used, the conformation varies from the very fine Arab/Thoroughbred type, to the heavier quarter/draft horse type. However, all should have good conformation with the body in proportion, straight legs and resemble a true horse. The disposition is quite noticeable; they are very friendly, extremely gentle and very intelligent. They make great performance horses and can be easily trained as driving, show or trick horses.

Falabellas were first imported to the US in the early 60's and 70's, by the Regina Winery in CA. The most famous Falabella was the magnificent appaloosa stallion named Chianti after a wine; and his name also appears in many American pedigrees today. Land of Little Horses in Gettysburg, PA, also imported sever-

al horses in the late 60's and still continues a pure breeding program today with many descendants from the original purchase from the Falabella family.

Falabella Breeders & Owners Society

Since many imported Falabellas were crossbred to create many of the American Miniature foundation stock; many of the PURE lines were lost. In 2000, a few dedicated pure breeders formed our Society to protect, preserve, and ensure the future of these unique rare little horses with a fascinating history.

The Society publishes a newsletter called the Falabella Breeders Digest twice annually to members.

Falabella Miniature Horse Association (Registry)

The FMHA registry was incorporated in approx 1973 to record the pedigrees of imported horses and their offspring. All horses registered FMHA must be 100% Pure and able to trace their pedigree back to the Falabella Ranch in Argentina. This is strictly a bloodline registry with no height restrictions.

For more info visit www.falabellafmh.com

For more information on the breed and our society, please visit www.falabellabreeders.org or phone our President Shannon Graeber, WA, USA, (360) 832-3338 🐾

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Kelso Mules of Murray, Kentucky is your one stop for buying, selling, or trading your mule. Fifth generation mule man, Johnny Kelso, along with his sons Justin and Jody, travel coast to coast selecting the best riding mules, mule teams, and pack mules available. Then, they take these mules back to their home in Kentucky where they are worked on the farm or ridden on the trails in the backwoods to put the finishing touches on them for you. Just check out their web site at www.kelsomules.com to see a portion of their current mules available for sale. If you do not find what you want, check

back in a week or two, as their inventory is constantly changing. There are always around one-hundred mules at any given time to choose from.

The Kelso family has provided many mules for use in the western states for trail riding and packing. Some of their largest volume buyers are in Idaho and Wyoming. They also have experience with the United States Forestry Service and have obtained the necessary permits and federal identification numbers to be able to sell mules to the U.S. Government.

Kelso Mules also provides many public auctions to allow you to buy or sell

your mule. There are four sales per year in Paris, Tennessee, two sales annually in Ada, Oklahoma, and finally the Kelso Select Mule Sales in Sulphur Springs, Texas and Murray, Kentucky for the best of the best. The later two sales are also broadcast "live" over the internet at DVAuction.com to allow for bidding and buying worldwide. The Kelso family also travels often from Pennsylvania to California and can provide delivery service for your mule purchases.

So, the next time you want to swap mules or mule stories, call Kelso Mules at (270) 435-4229 or (270) 293-0538. You will be glad you did! 🐾

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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 also have our Memorial wall. This will provide all animal owners with 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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goat – sheep

Funds Available to Help Sheep & Goat Industries

Colorado Springs, CO - 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 39 loans to 29 entities in 17 states and has received 63 applications. More than \$12.4 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. ✪

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Goats Are Buttheads!

You can call a goat a butthead and be technically correct! Goats with horns are sometimes referred to as buttheads. Goats can be born with horns or without horns (the hornless trait is also called the polled trait). Since the hornless trait is linked to an undesirable intersex trait that will cause the goat to be infertile, most breeders raise genetically horned goats.

In dairy animals, the horns can be inconvenient and dangerous during milking. Also, most dairy goats are so gentle

that they can be lead around by a neck collar like a dog so additional handles are not needed. For these reasons, dairy



goat breeders will often dehorn goat kids in the first few weeks of life while the horn buds are barely palpable on the head. The most common way to accomplish this task is to use an electric disbudding iron to cauterize the horn growth.



Most goats that are raised for meat are left horned, because the horns are useful as handles while restraining these goats for routine procedures like vaccination, deworming and foot trims. These goats are typically handled less frequently than a milk goat. Regardless of breed, horns give a goat a fighting advantage, so it is best to have the whole herd either horned or hornless. 🐐



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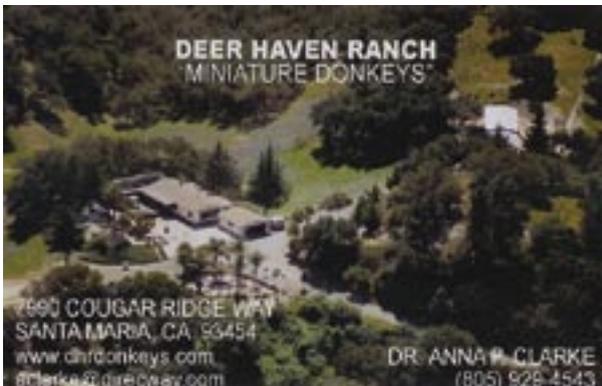
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