

Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy Magazine

The vital resource of the Ag Industry

Southwest / Rocky Mtn. • winter-spring edition 2006-2007

Arizona / California / Colorado / Montana / Nevada / New Mexico / Utah / Wyoming

**Individuals Honored for Commitment
to Angus Breed**

Hereford Leads the Efficiency Charge

**Strategic supplementation can lure cattle to
areas they otherwise would not graze**

**Spokane Ag Expo
at the new Spokane
Convention Center**



**PolyExcel – manufacture of
wire replacement twines**

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Look for your *Official Spokane Ag Expo Magazine*
in the January 19th issue of the *Capital Press*.

For Detailed Information, Visit Our Website:

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Photo by Angie Stump Denton courtesy of Hereford World. Inset photo courtesy of Poly-Excel.

Have an article or photo submission? Give us a call at 1-800-330-3482 or e-mail: info@ritzfamilypublishing.com for image and file requirements. (All submissions subject to approval)

On The Cover

Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy Magazine

Southwest / Rocky Mtn. • winter-spring edition 2006-2007

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How to reduce or eliminate your dependence on insecticides & fungicides:

Give Pests & Viruses The All-Natural **ONE! TWO! pUNCH**

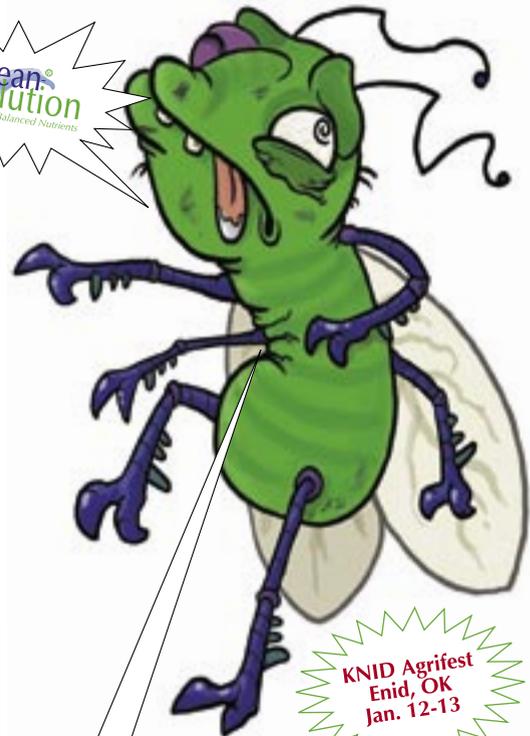
It is no secret that insects and crop viruses are attracted more to weak crops than healthy ones; crops that either are giving off 'death rattle' vibrations and/or appear to be past their prime.



Crops grown with a full spectrum of minerals, properly balanced, strengthen a plant's immune system so as to delay signs that attract insects and viruses for much longer than crops with weak immune systems.

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**KNID Agrifest
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Jan. 12-13**

Even crops with relatively strong immune systems can be weakened by conditions such as a lack of water or altered gene structure, which can attract hungry insects and fungi.



**New Mexico
Ag Expo
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Advantages

- 1 Our wand is meant to be back filled to keep the concussion in the tunnel/burrow and keep the noise level down.
- 2 If you hear a bang you are losing 50 to 70% of your concussion that should be in the tunnel/burrow.
- 3 Saves on your oxygen.
- 4 Hand held devices are DANGEROUS.
- 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.
- 7 VARMITgetter can be fired repeatedly over and over again, simply by applying the gas and hit the button without being near the blast.
- 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.

14 You are able to see the blast from a safe distance at the control box and know how effective it is, versus just hearing it.

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

16 More portable, easier to move from burrow to burrow, it is smaller and better balanced.

17 Well built to protect sensitive parts, yet readily accessible for easy repair.

18 Extra safety measures are built in, so in the event that the unit has been damaged or misused, you are protected by check valves, flashback arrestors and pressure relief plugs.

19 The firing cone is made smaller, therefore, easier to use on small rodents, such as the gopher and mole, etc.

20 Some repairs can be done while in the field, such as the check valve and wiring.

21 The single dispersion hose provides better gas mix, giving more effective and consistent blasts.

If you have any questions, would like more information or to purchase call our toll free number 1- 877-XVARMIT or go to www.varmitgetter.com 📞

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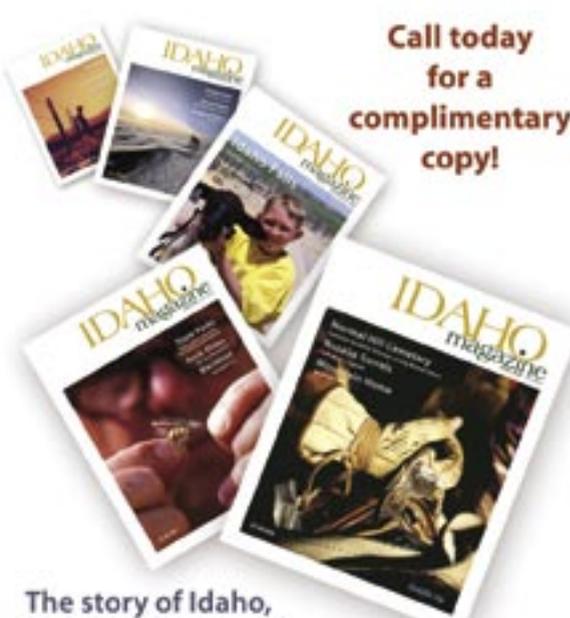
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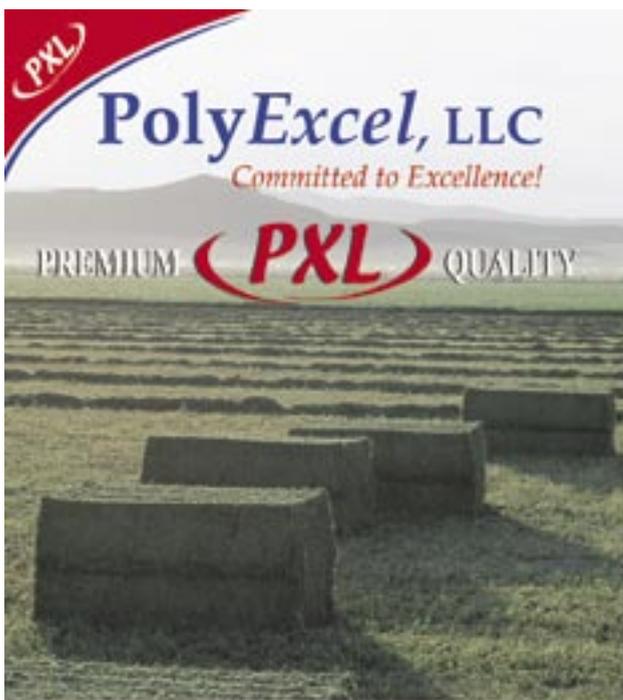
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Loomis Tank Centers has recently celebrated 100 years as the successful offspring of a century-old tradition: The Loomis family business.

The story behind the Loomis family follows a tradition of quality products, excellent service and competitive prices. Dan Loomis, the current president



of Loomis Tank Centers, perpetuates the values of his great-grandfather, E.C. Loomis.

In 1905, E.C. Loomis worked as a grain

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

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

Dan Loomis joined Loomix, Inc. in 1981, starting in service and, later, moving up to regional sales manager. When the business sold in 1991, Dan purchased the fiberglass division, which has included polyethylene water and chemical storage tanks. The new company was named Loomis Tank Centers, which now has six retail locations, 80 nationwide distributors and over 25 manufacturing points.

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

cess."

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



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- The model 1030-s is designed for 3x4 bales with the big operator in mind. It is extremely strong and built to withstand many hours of continuous use.
- The all new 1028-s model is designed for the 3x3 bales and is nonadjustable.
- The model 1032 is adjustable and able to handle the 3x3 and 3x4 bales with ease.

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work with, but will help keep your bale wagon around longer by lessening wear and tear. Add in the matching yellow and red paint job, and it’s evident that MIL-STAK is the leader in quality and appearance.

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			BW38
			BW28
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Egbers on Super Edge

“There just isn’t enough we can say about the Super Edge Auger Flighting” Agrees Doug and Laura Egbers, owners of Egbers Flighting & Supply L.L.C. The Super Edge is created in the rolling process. This is a cold rolling process so the steel is not heat treated. “This lets the steel retain its strength.” States Doug. Because of how the flighting is made, the outside edge is thicker than your common market flighting or plain flighting as they call it. Super Edge Auger Flighting has approximately 50 thicker outside edge. It gives longer wear and longer life of the auger.

And Egbers knows their augers. Their repair and fabrication division has years of experience in re-flighting and balancing auger sections. “It just makes good sense to replace the auger flighting instead of buying a new auger section.” Confirms Doug- “New auger sections can be pricey and the Super Edge Auger Flighting is priced to sell.” Along with their repair’s Egbers offers a wide assortment of replacement parts and tubing. They have you basic inside tubing, pipe, rolled tube for grain cart unloading augers all the way up to 40 ft. lengths for transport augers, “We’ve always thought freight and shipping to our customers was a problem, we can ship pretty much all the replacement parts a customer needs from here.” States Laura “That way all your parts come

from one location instead of several,”

New service for Egbers is their ability to balance combine rotors* “We’re always looking for new products and services for our customers. These rotors can be balanced at a fraction of what a new one costs,” Says Laura.

All in all Egbers supports a great team for sales and repairs. They’re your One-Stop-Shop for your replacement needs. Call them at 800-462-2588 or check them out on the web - www.eflighting.com. 📞



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patented a method of using simple text pagers to keep irrigators informed on the status of whole groups of pivots, one to a hundred or more.

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Zero Toys, Inc., in the best tradition of realizing ideas and inventions and bringing them to life in the marketplace, has developed a family of fun, cool, vapor toys. Now going into their fourth year, two brothers, Alan and Joel Aronie, started 'just messing around one night'. By the next day, they had a prototype of the classic Zero Blaster, which now comes in translucent blue, red, purple and opaque silver. The Zero Blaster (and Launcher) loft 2-4 "diameter vapor rings, that sail up to 10 feet away. The Zero Launcher is the equally capable non-gun version, using the same fog chamber. It's for the people who don't want anything resembling a gun.

The third member of the family is the keychain version of the blaster, very cute, also in the original colors, which makes cheerio size rings that sail up to a couple of feet. Next is the Wizard Stick, a special effects toy, for lots of fun games and tricks. There's also a Deluxe version of the Wizard Stick which includes 3 scary collectible heads. Last but not least is the Mighty Blaster, the big little brother of the Zero Toys family, which emits extra big rings (8" - 12" diameter) that sail up to 25 feet. It uses a detachable Wizard Stick as its vapor / non-toxic smoke producer.

Central to the Zero Toys family of vapor toys is their patented vapor generator, which vaporizes non-toxic water-based Super Zero Fog Fluid when it is pumped past this generator. This is what makes the vapor rings or toroids. The science behind this toy is central to the understanding of phenomena such as tornadoes, whirlpools and the like; and an explanation of "Fog Ring Physics" is included with each Zero toy.



But the real deal with these toys is not so complicated. They are simply fun. Of all the toys given during Christmas, they are usually the ones the kids keep on using and keep having fun with. We have received scores of testimonials that say just that. "You've just made babysitting really easy." "Thanks, Zero. My kids love these toys!!" "These toys are really fun. Everybody in the office has one!!" "Very cool toys!!" VISIT US TODAY!!

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DOYLE'S THORNLESS BLACKBERRIES BACK HOME AGAIN IN INDIANA

When Kern and Mary Severson decided to retire from their farm and quit selling Doyle's Thornless Blackberry® plants, it didn't take long for the berries to find a new home. The six children of Thomas E. Doyle, Sr., who developed the berry, were delighted to have the opportunity to return the operation to the original home in Washington, Indiana.

Thomas E. Doyle, Sr. was born June 26, 1900, in Daviess County, Indiana,



and was an avid gardener until his death in 2001. He and his wife, Rose, were the parents of six children.

"Dad was in the garden every free moment", says daughter, Mariam. "He raised everything he could think of. He even tried raising tobacco once but found it killed his tomatoes, so he stopped that. Mom spent all summer canning or freezing one thing or another. We kids weren't too much help. But we did manage to show up when

the food was ready to eat".

TOM DOYLE, SR. SHOWS HIS PROLIFIC BLACKBERRIES

Tom became well known nationally as the "plastic man" and "blackberry man" after 1959 when he developed a method of using black plastic to cover a garden and planted through small holes. Because the plastic was used for up to 30 years, he called it "Gardening without Cultivation" and marketed his special formulated plastic sheets under that name. He also wrote a gardening book that has been printed in 13 editions.

IMAGINE THESE FRESH BERRIES IN YOUR FAVORITE PIE OR COBBLER

In the early 1970's he discovered a thornless blackberry that can produce up to 20 gallons of extra large and extra sweet blackberries and in 1975 was granted a patent on the plant as "Doyle's Thornless Blackberry®." This was the first thornless blackberry patented since 1940. His blackberry is a featured attraction at the Agricultural Hall of Fame west of Kansas City, Kansas, and for 30 years visitors have adjusted their travel plans after seeing the plants and came to Washington, IN, to meet the originator.

Nearly all popular varieties yield far less than the Doyle. The average is about 1 to 2 quarts per plant. Some may produce a gallon, which is not even close to the Doyle's production. This amazing plant yields 10 to 20 gallons per plant, that's 1 to 2 bushels! Many



dwarf fruit trees don't produce this much volume.

Curious about how many berries he was getting from each plant, Tom planted one blackberry plant in a corner of his property, away from all the other berries. No one was allowed to pick berries from this plant except Tom. That way he thought he could get an exact measurement. So every day during growing season he would take his measuring bucket, pick the ripe berries, and write the amount in a book. But he made one mistake. He had planted the berries close to a road that was heavily traveled by walkers. One day he noticed kids walking by eating some of



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the blackberries. “Well, at least they’re sweet enough that I don’t have to give them sugar to go with them”, he said. “And I have no idea how many were eaten before I could count them!” At the end of the season he had logged over 20 gallons of berries from the one plant.

TOM DOYLE WITH FIRST PLANT VERIFIED TO YIELD OVER 20



GALLONS OF BLACKBERRIES

There are many different types of blackberries. All of them have a two-year cane or vining process. The first year the vine-like stem of the berry plant just grows and develops, and the next year it will bloom and produce blackberries. After a cane finishes bearing it dies, so we recommend to all of our Doyle customers that the cane be cut 90 days after bearing or in spring, so that nitrogen will be recovered and stored in the roots for the next spring.

There are two categories of blackberries. Varieties with thorns are called “erect” because they have a stiffer cane that grows upright but still needs support for best results. The thornless types are called “trailing” and have a more vine-like habit that needs support on a post, fence or trellis. Most blackberry plants yield more when the canes are tipped or trimmed but NOT the Doyle’s Thornless Blackberry. Ordinary berry plants will produce an optimum of about 50 to 75 linear feet of laterals or branches during a good season. These canes then produce small groups of one to five berries all along the vine.

TYPICAL BUNCHES OF DOYLE’S THORNLESS BLACKBERRIES®

The Doyle, by contrast, will produce 250 to 300 linear feet of laterals, with

large bunches of berries every two to eight inches for the entire length. Looking very much like grapes, several bunches should have nearly 100 berries. This large amount of fruit is not the product of one long vine, but many shorter laterals or canes. Typically there are four to seven main canes on each mature Doyle plant, which can grow up to 40 feet long.

About ten years ago Dad signed an agreement with Severtson Farms allowing them to grow and sell the Doyle Thornless Blackberry®. After much success, however, Severtsons have decided it’s time for them to retire from the farm. And the timing couldn’t have been more perfect.

“It seems we’ve lived with these blackberries all our lives” said one of Tom’s sons. “So I guess it’s time for us to keep Dad’s plants going. Dad loved his blackberries and would talk for hours about them to anyone who would listen. It was his dream that every state would be growing his blackberries and he accomplished that a few years ago. He also has plants growing in Canada



and Bermuda.

“It’s come full circle”, said the Doyle’s. “We are now the only legal company selling the Doyle Thornless Blackberry®. We began shipping in the late spring of 2003 and are now in full production. We are also working on a new cookbook with recipes for everything blackberry. It’s outrageously tasty to just go out in the morning and pick fresh blackberries for your favorite recipes, or just to put on your cereal.

For more information about Thomas E. Doyle, Sr. and his amazing blackberries, log on to www.fruitsandberries.com, write to: Doyle’s Thornless Blackberries, Inc, 1600 Bedford Road, Washington, IN 47501 or call 812-254-2654. ☛

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Kuhns Mfg. “No Hydraulics or Electronics”

In the summer of 2002, Kenny Kuhns, a hay farmer in northeastern Ohio, decided he needed a more efficient way to handle hay. With small hobby farmers composing most of his customer base, he couldn't switch to large square or round bales. But with several hundred acres of hay, most of it far from his barns, he needed a mechanical handling system.

Kuhns had tried a hay accumulator, a machine designed to leave bales in groups throughout the field. A specially designed grapple moved these groups of bales wherever they needed to go. This worked well enough under the right conditions, but constant rain, uneven fields, and the occasional ill-formed bale made

the right conditions a rarity. These complaints convinced Kuhns that he needed something better, but none of the other available designs really fit his needs. With constant rain keeping him out of the fields, Kuhns decided to use his time to design his own accumulator.

Kuhns started by making a list of necessary features. His machine had to be simple (no hydraulics or electronics), fully automatic, and adaptable to all conditions, including muddy fields, stubble, and unevenly sized bales. He also wanted the bales to be on edge for better curing, since hay for horses must cure almost perfectly to avoid forming dust.

By August of 2002, the first model was

ready to test. It had several completely new features, most notably a twisted chute to get the bales on edge, and a raised platform that used gravity to sort the bales. Though the first test failed—the machine was too narrow to allow bales to slide easily—it came close enough to convince Kuhns that his concept could work. He set to work tweaking the design, removing one glitch after another. Finally, after three years of tweaking, he had a product that fit all of his criteria. With a patent pending on the design, he went into full production under the name Kuhns Mfg. LLC. Having already exceeded his production goal for the year, he is now grateful for the “ruinous” rains of 2002. 🍂

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Removing bales from the field in a timely manner is crucial for maintaining high-quality hay, ever changing weather conditions can often create a last minute rush to get the bales off the field in time. Hurried bale removal is not only stressful but also leaves room for mistakes and a lack of safety precautions. Tube-line's Techno-Bale is designed to specifically handle these types of situations. "We understand the farming needs in a wagon," says Tom Hall, Tube-line's Marketing director. "Tube-line's Techno-Bale is every farmers answer to speed and safety".

The Techno-Bale allows you to pick up bales in a straight line which limits the amount of soil compaction in your field and wear on your next crop. A single row Techno-Bale 900 can hold up to 5 bales and allows for self loading in less than 2 minutes. This model is unbeatable within a one mile radius from the field. A double row Techno-Bale 960 can carry 8 or 9 bales of hay, dry or wet. These quick designs are a one man, one tractor operation and can get the hay off the field faster.

The Tube-line Techno-Bale is the only bale wagon design that lets the driver see the load behind him due to its low design. This increased visibility is great for seeing the field and your surroundings but its first purpose is for safety. Allowing the driver increased visibility decreases your chances of an accident in rushed situations.

For farmers concerned with safety and hay removal time the Tube-line Techno-Bale is the best way to get your bales off the field. Tube-line offers buyers more information at www.tubeline.ca.

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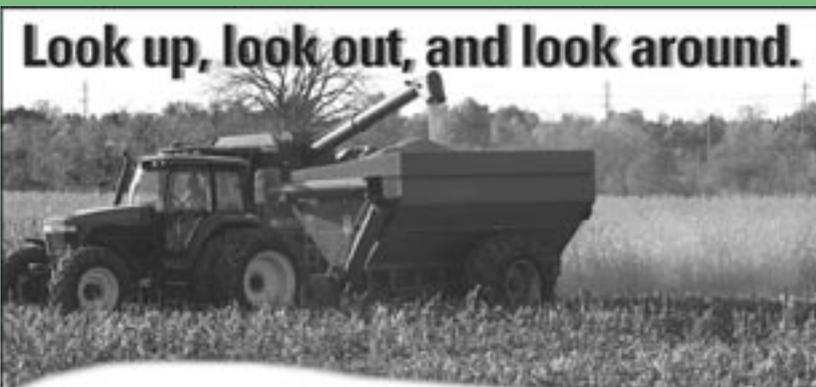
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OTECO MFG. sold its first track filler in March of 2000, in mid-January of 2006 they just delivered their #350th trackfiller to Arizona. OTECO is a family owned business, which came into existence because of a problem, and the grace of God.

Jim Stevenson was trying all sorts of things to try and keep from making bad ruts from his irrigation pivots. It seemed everything he tried damaged his crops in one degree or another. The different nozzles left dry spots in the fields, and he knew that tall tires just left deeper ruts and more strain on gearboxes and wide tires left wider ruts. In his mind the solution would be to put a road based material in the rut, the only question was how to do it.

He designed a small box with a funnel on the bottom, and began filling his ruts. The neighbors began to take notice and asked him to build them one. Jim goes to his fourth of five son's Otie, he catches him in his hay field, broke down.

Jim tells Otie, "I've got a job for you." Otie says, he remembers thinking, just what I need, another job. Looking from hind site now, Otie says, "I wish I'd thrown my tools down on the spot and went to the shop."

However, Otie didn't start designing the current trackfiller until fall. The trackfiller which sold in March of 2000 was much bigger, had a ten yard capacity, with an adjustable screed below the funnel to help knock in the sides and regulate the height of the mound.

It has a two-foot by four-foot opening to facilitate the gravity flow of material, with a hydraulic gate at the bottom to close during transport. The machine was patented and have since sold all over the mid and western United States. That year, when the first one sold to Australia, Jim and his wife, Dorothy dubbed the company, OTECO.

OTECO just got its second patent on a product they call the JIMMY-JACK, which they hope to begin marketing soon. It is a spring-loaded jack, which installs right inside of a metal gate. When pushed to the ground, it takes the weight off the hinges of the gate and holds the gate in place.

"We're just praising the Lord," says owners, Jim and Dorothy, Otie and Tonya Stevenson. 🚗

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Stress and probiotics

By: Lark L. Burnham, Ph.D.

The gastrointestinal tract (GIT) of all mammals contains billions of microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, and protozoa). These microbes present both a physical and chemical barrier to opportunistic pathogens. They are an extension of the animal's own immune system. Indigenous microorganisms also degrade indigestible material.

When an animal experiences stress, physiological changes occur in response to hormones secreted by the brain. Many of these changes negatively impact the GIT and its inhabitants. One of the first responses to stress involves redirecting energy from the GIT to the muscles. Without energy, digesta stops flowing and nutrients are not actively absorbed. Stressed animals also reduce or stop feed intake. Since many of the beneficial mi-

croorganisms are either attached or non-motile, they starve and die. Gaps appear in the protective barrier and the host becomes vulnerable to infection.

Opportunistic pathogens are always present in the GIT, but proliferation is kept in check by cooperation between the immune system and the indigenous microflora. Pathogen establishment can lead to further GIT disruption, toxin production, and/or tissue invasion. Even if the animal survives the primary stressor, it can still succumb to the consequences.

Stress is part of livestock production. Stresses can be everyday events such as weather and some handling, or they can be more severe. Birth, weaning, processing, castration, shearing, transportation, and showing are all examples of major stresses. The more severe the stress, the

greater the damage to the GIT microflora.

Although it's not practical to try to protect livestock from stress, there is a way to prevent or ameliorate the consequences. Probiotics are beneficial microorganisms that temporarily fill the gaps left in the protective barrier by stress and disease. The severity of the stress determines the probiotic concentration required.

Probiotics generally come in two concentrations – feed additive (approximately 1 x 10⁸ cfu, or colony forming units, per pound; cfu is a measure of viability) for daily stresses, and concentrated (1 x 10⁸ cfu/cc or ml) for major stresses.

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beef – dairy

Beller Feedlot Strives to Improve End Product

By: Erin McMath

When gazing across the pens at Beller Feedlot in Lindsay, Neb., a sea of black meets the eye. Beller Feedlot has been family operated since 1958, and about eight

years ago the feedlot began focusing on feeding Angus cattle.

Terry Beller, owner of Beller Feedlot, said the feedlot made the transition when the packer starting paying more

for black-hided cattle.

“There was merit out there for the blacks. They worked well for us and worked for the packer,” Beller said. “Now, with all of the Certified Angus

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Beef (CAB) and Angus programs out there for premium cattle, it has driven us to go that way.”

Beller Feedlot has a 5,000-head capacity and feeds about 12,000 head of cattle per year. Beller owns about half of these cattle and custom feeds the rest. The feedlot concentrates on feeding high-quality Angus calves and works closely with its customers.

“Our goal is to feed genetically-superior cattle,” Beller said. “We strive for good genetics, and we hope to help every producer improve on their genetics.”

One way Beller Feedlot helps producers improve their genetics is by providing feedback to its customers. All of the producers that send cattle to Beller Feedlot receive full carcass data after their animals are harvested. This allows the producers to use the data to make management decisions. Beller uses the data, too, as about 75 percent of the feedlot’s customers are repeat customers.

“I can go back through last year’s data and say, ‘I sorted and sold some of these calves on this date, and they did well. I need to get in there and do that again.’ Or I can look back and say, ‘We had too many Yield Grade 4s. I need to get in there sooner.’”

Beller said the feedlot has been sending carcass data to its customers for about eight years.

“We supply the data so producers can improve their herd,” he said. “It’s important to my customers. They get the data back, and they’ll hold it and study it like it’s the Bible.”

Beller said some people have questioned his methods and think that producers might use the information against him to try to get higher prices for their cattle. However, Beller said this is rarely a problem. Instead, he and the producers work together to achieve the same goal.

“We all have a focus to get to the very best genetics,” Beller said. “The ranchers aren’t out there just to get every dollar from the buyer. They appreciate what I’ve done, and instead of just business people we become friends.”

Article courtesy: American Angus Association

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Strategic supplementation can lure cattle to areas they otherwise would not graze.

By Clint Peck



Like people, cows have their comfort zones. In western rangelands, getting cows to leave the comforts of green, cool riparian areas to graze the drier, steeper mountainsides and ridges has always been a challenge. But, several years of drought have prompted some mountain ranchers to dig deeper in their bag of grazing management tricks in an effort to increase cattle comfort.

“We’re now using low-moisture protein blocks to draw the cattle to grass in places that they wouldn’t otherwise find,” says David Voldseth, of Lennep, MT. “It’s the best way that we’ve found to keep a good scatter on the cows.”

The Voldseth family, along with two other permittees, grazes cattle on the rugged Comb Butte Allotment in the Lewis and Clark National Forest of central Montana. On Comb Butte, there’s plenty of forage, even in dry years, to sustain the roughly 600-cowcalf pairs intended for the allotment.

Voldseth and the other permittees have spent thousands of dollars developing water systems to improve cattle distribution. They also used the old practice of locating salt on the higher ground.

Still that wasn’t enough, so Voldseth and the other permittees had to reduce

livestock numbers and duration of grazers were allowed another week of grazing because of better cattle distribution on the allotment.

“A week longer on the allotment means a lot this time of year,” Voldseth says.

On Comb Butte, the block of choice is Crystalyx® low-moisture blocks. There are other similar blocks made and distributed throughout the country by several feed and animal supplement manufactures.

Skeptics turn believers

Forest Service range conservationist Wayne Butts, Harlowton, MT, approves of what he sees at Comb Butte and in other allotments. At first he was skeptical. After seeing the system in action, he thinks the idea can be used effectively in an overall management plan. He stresses that the system is just a tool, “not a silver bullet.”

A lot of the tension he sees from between the ranchers and recreational users in the forest centers on the use and condition of the creek bottoms. Both parties, he says, use the riparian areas of the Lewis and Clark Forest very heavily.

“With the use of this supplement, the permittees bought themselves 10-20 days extra grazing on the permit (in 2003) when used in conjunction with

riding,” Butts says. When used in combination with herding, they really do a good job in getting cattle off the creek bottoms.”

Low-moisture blocks (125- to 250-lb. Barrels) are the supplement form preferred by the Comb Butte permittees because of the steep terrain and distances cattle and cattle managers have to cover in the allotment.

Derek Bailey, Havre, MT, a scientist, has spent a decade examining cattle distribution and behavior. He believes in using self-feeding, low-moisture blocks as a lure for cattle to graze rugged upland terrain.

“Once cattle find them, the blocks have a unique ability to hold them in the rugged areas,” Bailey says. “There’s no question such blocks improve both pasture and animal production efficiency.”

For example, in a study conducted in the Bear’s Paw Mountains near Havre, Bailey and his colleagues observed 32% of the herd grazing the rugged upland areas near supplement blocks and salt. But, just 3% of the cows were observed working similar areas that contained only salt.

Pretty cheap grazing

Bailey has been tracking animal movement and grazing behavior using collars fitted with global positioning system (GPS) technology. He’s found low-moisture blocks are a stronger attractant than water to cattle during fall and winter grazing. Cows spent more time within 200-600 yds of low-moisture blocks than within similar distances to water.

“This contradicts the notion that water is the most powerful attraction to move cattle in the fall and winter,” Bailey says. But, summer or winter, the influence of the low-moisture blocks rapidly declines beyond about 600 yds. Supplement should not be expected to lure cattle to areas beyond 600 – 700 yds from the site of placement.

What’s the cost of this strategy? About \$4/animal unit month (AUM), estimates Voldseth, which nearly triples the \$1.43/

AUM permittees pay government to graze public domain.

“That includes about \$2 for the product and about \$2 in labor necessary to get the cattle use to it,” he says. “It’s still pretty cheap grazing when you consider everything that’s involved and everything that we have to gain over the long haul in doing a better job of grazing the allotment.”

Voldseth emphasizes through that as the price of grazing increases, say on private lands where rates could be valued as high as \$30/AUM, the payoff of better forage utilization using this kind of practice becomes a real no-brainer. In fact, he used the low-moisture blocks as a fall grazing management tool on 3,000 acres of private grazing land for six years before getting the go-ahead to use it on the forest permit.

“It takes the cattle a couple of weeks to develop a taste for the blocks,” he explains. “But, once the animals find the blocks and become accustomed to them, getting cattle to go back to them is not a problem.”

Bailey’s research also shows consumption patters are fairly consistent among cattle using the low-moisture blocks. He suggests ranchers first introduce cattle to the supplement near a water source. Then, as the cattle utilize the forage around the supplement, the rancher can continue to move the blocks away from the water to the rougher terrain.

Voldseth says that in the past years (“pre-block”), his cowboys would try to drift cattle to the grassy ridges in an effort to keep them away from the creek bottoms.

“Most of the time the cows would beat the riders back to the bottom,” he says. “All things considered, this system works about as well as anything we’ve tried to get better use of the upland ranges.”

Summer herding is key

Dennis Froeming, Bozeman, MT, has seen a lot of gimmicks in his career as a range conservationist. The range consultant admits he’s surprised by what he’s seen in using low-moisture blocks to manage range resources.

His analysis shows that in one case the practice yielded forage utilization rates of 25% near the block site, and 21% at 1/3 to 1/2 mile away from the site. This is compared to nearly zero utilization without the combination of blocks and



herding.

“The blocks give cattle an incentive to stay away from water,” he says. “But, I don’t think you can separate riding from the use of the product during the summer when it is hot.”

In a recently completed study at the

Bair Ranch, Matinsdale, MT, Bailey also found the forage stubble heights near streams in pastures where strategic supplementation was integrated with riding were 2 in. higher than in control pastures where cow-calf pairs were allowed to roam freely.

On public lands where stubble heights are often used as grazing standards, such a reduction in riparian zone grazing could mean the difference between staying on the allotment and taking the cattle home early and purchasing alternative forage.

In a separate study conducted by Bailey at the Ross Ranch and Thackeray Ranch in the Bear’s Paw Mountains of north-central Montana, placement of low-moisture blocks on rugged uplands reduced the time cow-calf pairs spent within 50 yds of streams during the summer without herding.

“Strategic supplement placement without riding is most effective during the fall and winter,” Bailey says. “But low-moisture blocks are another tool for improving cattle grazing patterns during the summer as well.”

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Individuals Honored for Commitment to Angus Breed

Five long-time Angus producers have been honored for their commitment to the Angus breed and programs of the American Angus AssociationSM. Jesse Bontecou, Millbrook, N.Y.; Eddie Sydenstricker, Mexico, Mo.; Dale Runnion, Longmont, Colo.; and Robert Weaver, Peoria, Ill., were inducted to the Angus Heritage Foundation, during Angus activities at the North American International Livestock Exposition, Nov. 11-14. Collin Kennedy, formerly of Webster City, Iowa, were inducted posthumously.

Each year the American Angus Association honors individuals who have made significant contributions through their time and dedication, financially, via research efforts to enhance the breed or through their breeding of superior Angus cattle. A committee nominates and selects the individuals for induction to the heritage foundation, which was started in 1983.

Inductees and their families receive a framed certificate for their achievement;

their name is engraved on a permanent plaque hung in the Association headquarters; and their brief biography and photograph are included in a book, which will next be published in 2010.

Following is a biography of each of the inductees highlighting their contributions to the Angus breed. Photos are available upon request or you can request photos of the individuals with their awards following the Angus awards banquet, Nov. 13.

Jesse Bontecou

Jesse Bontecou, Millbrook, N.Y., has been breeding and promoting purebred Angus Cattle for more than 60 years in the heart of Dutchess County. Rally Farms was established by his father Senator Fredric H. Bontecou in 1929, and is today one of New York's largest and oldest Angus farms consisting of 2,800 acres and has about 135 mother cows. Rally cattle have been shown across the country, and they showed the grand champion bull in Denver in 1982. Exported cattle and semen have gone abroad to Europe

and South America. Jesse is a past president of the New York Angus Association and served for two terms as a director of the American Angus Association.

Dale Runnion

Dale Runnion joined the Aberdeen-Angus Journal as a fieldman in 1952, after a short stint with the Drovers Journal and serving in World War II. During his 16-year career, which included time as advertising manager and general manager of the Angus Journal, he revitalized the field staff, and they contributed to the breed's rapid growth in the 1950s and 60s. He was brought back to serve as general manager of the Journal in 1981 when the Journal was purchased by the American Angus Association, and today, many of his policies and key staff promoted by him are still serving the Angus breed. Dale is a native of Ohio and attended Ohio State University. He currently resides in Longmont, Colo., with his wife June, who also served as a service representative to Journal advertisers.

Eddie Sydenstricker

Hereford Leads the Efficiency Charge

Hereford breeders throughout time have bred efficiency into their herds. Expected to do more with less — or be sent down the road — Herefords have naturally excelled in converting grass and grain into dollars of profit. So, as the tools become available to scientifically select for efficiency, it is only fitting that the Hereford breed is leading the charge.

The American Hereford Association (AHA) is pursuing genetic progress through a feed efficiency trial composed solely of Hereford cattle. Monty Kerley, University of Missouri-Columbia animal scientist and professor, is utilizing Hereford cows in a study designed to explore the possibilities of selecting for feed efficiency, as well as to understand the physiology that determines residual feed intake (RFI) — the amount of feed an animal eats, more or less than what's expected for its weight and gain.

Kerley has begun to select for efficiency in the cow herd. Eventually he will look at the effects of selection pressure on other performance traits, calf efficiency and pasture carrying capacity.

Kerley explains how RFI dramatically affects production economics. Researchers at the University of Missouri Beef Research and Teaching Farm fed a group of calves that originated from a single herd and were produced as artificial insemination (AI) progeny from one sire. Measuring intake and efficiency during lean growth (up to 950 lb.), the three most inefficient calves had an average intake of 3.7 lb. of feed to 1 lb. of gain, compared to the three most efficient calves with an average feed to gain ratio of 2.1. The inefficient calves consumed 814 lb. of feed compared to the efficient calves, consuming only 462 lb. Estimating \$145 per ton of diet, the efficient calves consumed \$25 less feed

up to 950 lb.

In another experiment at the Missouri farm, the most efficient calf in the feedlot consumed \$92 less feed than the most inefficient calf at the \$145 per ton of diet estimate. "The potential for improvement in feed efficiency can be greater than the potential profit margin of feeding the calf," Kerley says.

He adds, "Researchers have shown that the range in RFI among animals is large, and that it is a moderately heritable trait similar to growth and carcass traits. Thus, with selection pressure substantial improvements (in efficiency) can be made."

The AHA is excited to be involved in this cutting-edge research that has the potential to be of significant benefit to commercial users of Hereford genetics. For more information, contact AHA staff at (816) 842-3757. 📞

Article courtesy of American Hereford Association

Eddie Sydenstricker served as the first president of the first junior Angus association ever formed in 1956, helping set the direction for modern-day junior Angus programs. About 25 years later, daughters Kim and Lee Ann both served as officers in that same Missouri Junior Angus Association. Eddie has maintained a leadership role both in farm machinery and Angus cattle in Missouri, receiving the University of Missouri Livestock Person of the Year award in 1995, the Certified Angus Beef Seedstock Award in 1997, and the BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year in 2001. Eddie served on the boards of the American Angus Association and the Missouri Angus Association. He is a founding partner in ORigen, Inc. and serves on the Advisory Board to the Angus Foundation.

Robert Weaver

Robert Weaver, co-founder of Weaver Angus Farm in 1935, is a well-known breeder and exhibitor of Angus cattle. The operation based in Peoria, Ill., hosted the first Illinois Junior Angus field day in 1965, and Robert has been a positive influence for the breed in Illinois and across the nation through the years since. Weavers have exhibited a grand champion at the National Western Stock Show every decade since the 1960's. Since exhibiting at the inaugural NAILE in 1974, he has missed exhibiting at only one. In addition to being a successful Angus breeder, Robert and his wife Virginia share a passion for their carriage collection and teams of Hackneys and Gelderlandes. He is a member of the New York and British Coaching Clubs, and is involved with the Salvation Army and the Youth Home, a home for troubled young men.

Colin Kennedy

Colin Kennedy was a well-known and highly regarded livestock journalist and photographer based in Webster City, Iowa. He started his career in journalism in 1929 with the Drovers Journal, and later worked for the Aberdeen-Angus Journal, where he served as managing editor. Colin is likely most remembered for his regular column in the Journal, "Along Angus Trails," where he displayed his deep love for the Angus cattle, along with his thoughtful insights and keen wit as he documented the story of the Angus breed throughout the second half of the 20th Century. 🐾

Article courtesy: American Angus Association

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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 Sid-

ing, 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.

For over 40 years, we have selectively bred our cattle for performance, easy calving, desirable carcass traits, sound structure and good disposition. In addition to collecting carcass data on progeny, we have taken ultrasound measurements on our sale bulls for the last four years and on our heifers for one year.

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American Meat Goat Association

By: Marvin F. Shurley

With the weather having been cold and windy lately I've had some time to look at our A.M.G.A. membership archives. During the search through our old, along with our current membership list, some interesting facts have come to light. As of November 14, 1993, when the goat industry to a large extent was centered in Texas, approximately 13% of our members lived outside of this state. Since that time there has been a growing expansion of the meat goat industry across the United States. In 1993 approximately 85% of the goat population

was in Texas. Within the past thirteen years that number has shrunk so that only 60% or so of the total U.S. goat population is currently residing in Texas. What is so unique about these percentages is the fact that the A.M.G.A.'s non-Texas membership numbers have risen also to where they now comprise approximately 47% of our A.M.G.A. membership as of November 3, 2006.

When you look at these numbers you quickly see that the membership composition closely mirrors that of the goat population here in the United States. As the demographics

of the goat population distribution have changed so have the membership distribution numbers. While we were aware of these changes here in the office, never had we run an actual comparison of today's membership composition to that of thirteen years ago.

Our awareness of the changes in membership demographics though is evidenced by our growing outreach program and "outside Texas" efforts to reach producers. A prime example is that we held our 2004 annual membership meeting and conference in Cookeville, Tennessee and the 2005

Walker Texas Ranch Raising Healthy Boer and Kiko Goats in East Texas

Here in East Texas we raise beautiful Boer goats. We concentrate on raising show and breeding stock with our Tarzan T66 son, Tarzan's Gold. Gold is a fantastic paint buck that has greatly enhanced our Boer goat herd. Using Gold with our does from great bloodlines such as Tobias, Tabu, Powell Holman Classic Count Down, P/H Classic Ten, Bingo, Eggs Ryals Magnum, Ubor, Bodacious Simba, and Gus has given us many great kids.

After a few years with Boer goats we found that our greatest challenge in a humid climate was parasites and hoof rot. We combat this with pasture rotation, copper supplements, garlic and

fecal exams, holding our worming program to a minimum, but still it is a challenge. Thus we decided to introduce Kiko goats into our herd.

Kiko goats are extremely hardy. They seldom need to be wormed or have their feet trimmed. They have great mothering skills, do not need supplemented before or after kidding, and require less general maintenance. They kid in the pasture and the kids stay by the dam's side without creep until weaning. The weakness of the Kiko is they are not as big and pretty as the Boer goats. Therefore, we are crossing to breed Texas Genemasters to achieve the best of both the Boer and the Kiko.

The Texas Genemaster is a mix of 5/8

Boer and 3/8 Kiko. They retain the beauty of the Boer and the hardiness of the Kiko. We are using our best fullblood Boers with our best Purebred Kikos to produce the Genemasters.

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conference in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Along with this we are also working towards holding an A.M.G.A. judges training course in one of the far Western states this year. For a long time there has been a perception by many goat producers that the A.M.G.A. is a Texas only organization. Nothing could be further from the truth as our efforts benefit all goat producers across the U.S., although I will admit that in the past the largest percentage of our efforts in terms of meetings were held in Texas; however, one must consider that early on 87% of our membership resided in that state.

That plus the fact that around 85% of our U.S. goat population was also centered in Texas dictated that our efforts be focused there, to the largest extent. It is with great pride and expectation that I look forward to holding our future membership meetings outside of Texas. In recent years Tennessee, Nebraska, Kansas and Kentucky have experienced a phenomenal growth of the goat industry within their respective states, which

will act as the main driving force in our decisions as to the location choice for our future annual conferences.

During the research through our membership archives another discovery was that there are numerous members who have been in the A.M.G.A. since that November, 1993 date and active in the association for over a decade. Out of these very few of them were focused on Boer goats at that time, most producers were focused heavily on Spanish goat production, with several falling into a mixed production category. There were also at that time a large number of Boer breeders/speculators who were members of the A.M.G.A. but are no longer involved in goat production in any form. As the industry has grown and expanded so has the A.M.G.A. and we look forward to continuing this positive trend and also towards providing representation to you the United States meat goat producers. The A.M.G.A. is the only nationally recognized, non-breed specific goat association of its

type here in the U.S. that represents the interest of every single goat producer whether they raise Dairy, Fiber, or Meat goats. While "meat goat" is in our organizations name the end product of every goat breed is meat as they all enter the food chain at sometime in their life, if they don't die on your farm or ranch.

We are a recognized, respected, and well received, organization by the legislative and regulatory entities that set national policies affecting the U.S. goat industry and would like to invite you to join us in our efforts. As a fledgling industry the meat goat industry needs a centralized voice to represent our interest in governmental affairs and the A.M.G.A. is certainly poised to do so. If supporting "your goat" association appeals to you, you may contact our office at 325-387-6100 or by email at amga@sonoratax.net. We also have a website set up for your convenience at www.meatgoats.com which contains additional information about the American Meat Goat Association. 🐐



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American Boer Goat Association

A brief explanation of an expanding industry

The American Meat Goat Industry has experienced substantial growth in the last decade, and much of its growth is producer-driven. Improved genetics, agricultural policy, growing ethnic populations, marketing potential and movement to smaller acreage farms have also placed a significant impact on the industry. Additional production from the producer segment is a valued priority to satisfy the demand of goat meat and opportunities within the industry.

The journey of the Boer goat to the United States in 1993 positively impacted the meat goat industry providing improved production and carcass traits to the already existing goat genetics. This year also marked the formation of the American Boer Goat Association. At nearly the same time, due to the three-year phase out of the Wool and Mohair Incentive Payment Act, many Angora goat producers sent some, if not all, of their herd to market. This change in agricultural policy created a void in the goat meat trade. This void was fulfilled

by the introduction of Boer goats to the United States and direct meat imports from Australia and New Zealand.

Boer goats are a horned breed showing a variety of color patterns, and have a high resistance to disease adapting well to various climates and temperatures. Boer goats are also a valuable commodity presenting a stout build, lean meat, remarkable size and rate of growth, and gentle nature and fertility reached at an early age.

The main consumers of goat meat are members of a variety of ethnic groups. Hispanics, Muslims and Peoples of the Caribbean are the largest goat consuming ethnic populations in the United States. As ethnic groups become a growing segment of population, the demand for goat meat exceeds the current production capacities. Forecasts estimate that production in the United States may take ten years to meet the current goat meat demand.

The American Meat Goat Industry does not fit the business models employed in the beef and pork industries. The in-

dustry contains a network of smaller producers, defined end-consumers and non-traditional marketing channels. This business model allows producers the opportunity to directly market the end consumer, therefore demanding a higher price for quality products.

Utilizing small acreage farms for goats is more and more becoming to the American public seeking an agricultural avenue. Unlike some agricultural ventures, regardless the size, producers can impact the meat goat industry in their backyard.

To exceed the path to expansion, meeting the needs of the various segments within the industry is valuable and the journey begins with the producer.

With over 6,000 members nationwide, ABGA provides registry services to the Boer goat industry. ABGA also features a junior association providing opportunities in leadership, education and scholarship. ABGA is headquartered in San Angelo, Texas. Check out www.abga.org, or call 325.486.2242 to speak with an ABGA representative. 🐐

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 agree-

ment 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 42 loans to 32 entities in 19 states and has received 70 applications. More than \$15 million has been loaned to the sheep and goat businesses, leaving funds still available for new applications at a current interest rate of 5.25%.

“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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Our sales are by seal bid offerings - meaning that each buyer who bids on

a lot of wool is by sealed bid. When the bids are all in, I announce the high bidder, but not until the end of the sale do I announce what the bid was. Therefore, keeping the speculation on what each buyers is willing to offer secret, thus adding a bit of excitement when several buyers are needing the same types of wool.

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A program of the National Livestock Producers Association

Purchasing “Bottle Babies” as pets for New Owners

Most people have heard that you must raise your baby goat from a bottle in order for them to be friendly and personable. The truth is that most Pygmy Kid Goats are very curious and are friendly at an early age if they have been socialized and handled regularly by the breeder or owner.

A true “Bottle Baby” just sees the bottle and does not really care who or what is attached to the nipple. I have raised many kids; some by bottle feeding and others by just picking them up and loving on them between their feedings from their dam (mom.)

I have found that it is really the young goat’s personality... some want attention and love to be held and others quickly out grow the need for a bottle and only

want to see you if you have feed in the bucket. I have many that have never been bottle-fed that are nicer than some that were bottle-fed.

If time is spent with the newborn kids at an early age they become socialized and are like a new puppy, you can handle them and love them and they respond with affection.

Many people that were given or sold newborns as “Bottle Babies” develop problems. The young kids can die several days/weeks later if not properly handled. New owners usually do not know how to start the kid on a bottle and sometimes the kids will not accept a bottle after they have been taken off their Dam (mom.)

Newborns need special care, worming & vaccination schedules and time with

other goats to learn to eat and graze. Most people do not realize that young herd animals learn eating/drinking behavior from their Dam and/or older animals.

Bottle babies are sometimes the hardest to get to eat and drink on their own from a feed/water dish or bucket. All they want is a bottle and this can cause growth problems if they do not start eating and foraging. There is a fine line when you start cutting back on the number of bottles and the amount of milk that the older kid gets each day.

If they are not eating solid foods along with the milk by the age of 6-8 weeks, then you may have some problems. Kids must eat and drink on their own; the bottle at this age should be extra nutrition, not the only nutrition! Most



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We believe that conformational problems and weak bodies most often stem from using inferior animals as breeding stock, just as temperamental problems and vices are a result of unnatural diets, environments, and prolonged confinement. For that reason we travel the country to procure the best breeding animals and spend lots of time studying genetics and dietary information. Furthermore, we operate as organically as possible and do not unnecessarily expose our animals to dangerous chemicals or pesticides.

The best resource we have though, is our own eyes and observation. Through our hands-on management process we can see when our animals are feeling off or need special attention. If something we are doing isn’t working we find out why and change it.

We are not a factory farm. We do not have herds so large we cannot give every animal some personal attention each day. While this does make it hard for us to get away, when you get an animal from Alpha Omega you can rest assured it was bred carefully and cared for well.

Please visit our websites for more information and lots of photos of our stock and our beautiful ranch. www.nigeriansandicelandics.com and www.alpha-omega-ranch.com 🌿

kids, even nursing on their Dams, are eating on their own by this age.

Many people do not offer fresh grass, hay or pellets to their bottle babies because they think all they need is a bottle until they get older. Grass, hay, pellets and water should be available at all times to your new bottle baby. Kids are curious and put everything in their mouth. This is how they learn and start sampling foods. They may not be able to eat at 1-3 weeks of age, but they will sample and play with the pellets, hay and water when they get hungry between bottles. This is how they will learn to eat on their own and learn to graze. Just be careful to place small shallow bowls down for the water so the kids do not fall into the bucket and drown.

One of the most important things is to allow your bottle baby to be outside in a secure area for several hours during the day. This allows him to learn and develop his eating habits by grazing and browsing on grass and leaves from the yard or pasture and helps him learn to be independent. Even goat moms leave their kids in a safe place and walk out into pastures or fields to graze during the day for several hours. Keeping bottle babies inside and not allowing them to move around and learn to graze can be detrimental to his digestive health and nutritional needs. Goats must move and graze to develop and maintain healthy stomachs and digestive systems.

Beware if you decide to purchase a newborn "Bottle Baby."

Many people will take newborn kids away from their dam just to have a "Bottle Baby" to sell. I only have "Bottle Babies" when the Dam dies during kidding problems or if she has too many kids and she refuses to nurse one or more of the babies. Many problems can occur with a new owner trying to raise a newborn bottle baby.

Possible Problems:

- Newborns **MUST** get colostrum from the Dam's milk within the first 12 hours (after 24 hrs kid's system is unable to absorb the large proteins.) This insures proper immunity from many diseases; and kids can die up to a week or two later from complications if not given colostrum.

- Baby Goats need goat milk or goat milk replacer. Sometimes feeding kids

cow milk can upset their stomachs. Goat milk has smaller proteins than cow's milk. This is why many people use it for other animals and people who have digestive problems. Milk Replacer is balance for the needs of baby goats. Feed as directed on label. Most milk replacer powders can be purchased at your local feed store and the powder last for long periods so you will always have some on hand when needed.

- "Bottle Babies" can be dependent on the bottle and not learn to eat/drink on their own. This can be deadly and cause serious health problems from dehydration or urinary tract infections.

- Some kids can get diarrhea changing too fast from the bottle to feed & grass. This can also be deadly, remember a kid can dehydrate within hours.

- Kids can get internal parasites or even coccidia at an early age even if they are just on a bottle. Baby goats put everything in their mouth, so they can easily pick up worms or coccidia. These organisms can be deadly to a small body so scheduled wormings are a must with a safe product for kids. Have a medicated (for coccidia) pellet

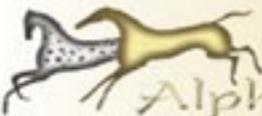
feed out at all times for kids to sample.

Baby goats do not have the live bacteria that help them digest grains, hays and grasses like adult goats. They are just developing their stomachs and need an added boost to help their little digestive systems start. Sometimes they can develop diarrhea from changing to solid foods too fast. There are several products on the market today that supply these vital microorganisms that help develop the young goats digestive system.

Most products can be purchased at your local feed store or cooperative. Probius & Fasttrack are some name-brand products of live bacteria that come in a paste. Placing a small pea-size amount on your finger and then in the kid's mouth once a week will help inoculate the bottle baby's digestive system with these much needed organisms. Probius products are also good to have on hand in times of stress or illness. 🐐

Article courtesy: Joy L. Rogerson, BS Animal Science, Texas A & M, "Class of 2003" (254) 723-4940
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By: Jack Cazier, Big Bear Lake

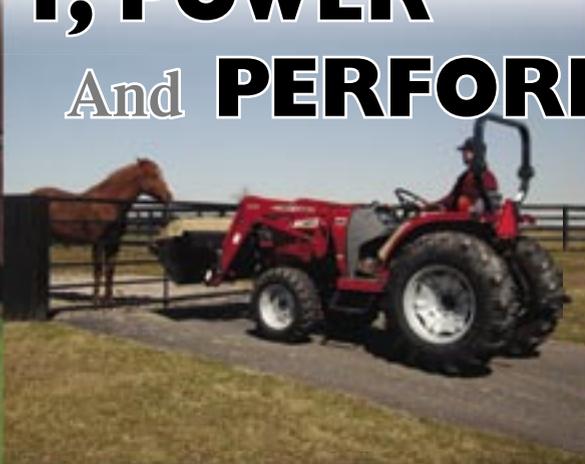
My name is Jack Cazier. I am susceptible to skin cancer. Having been concerned with my problem, I have spent most of my life on being healthy with real food. I also have had horses a good part of my life. Discovering with the help of others that the simple problem with horses and all kinds of flesh is placing in the body substances that cannot be digested. This simple problem can be found easily in horses because the horse food requirement is

simple. It is grass. When the horse is given many different kinds of feed and remedies and shots, it sets up toxins because of the inability to digest those different feeds and remedies. The toxin then goes to the weakest part of the flesh; in the horses, it is the feet. The very simple remedy is straight alfalfa, my tea and nothing else.

My tea and alfalfa will rid the body of the toxins and the body will rebuild itself. Doing this, the horse

will be healthy and cost much less to maintain for the remainder of their life. My horses have not been wormed for 8 years, and there are blood-sucking worms in the grass in Big Bear. My horses eat that grass every day. They also have the thickest hooves my shoer has ever seen and shoes are not put on my horses. The body rebuilds if the toxins are kept out and nutrients are provided. This process can correct most ailments. 🐾

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