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On The Cover

Photo title: Horses Looking Over Hill. Inset photo courtesy of PolyExcel.

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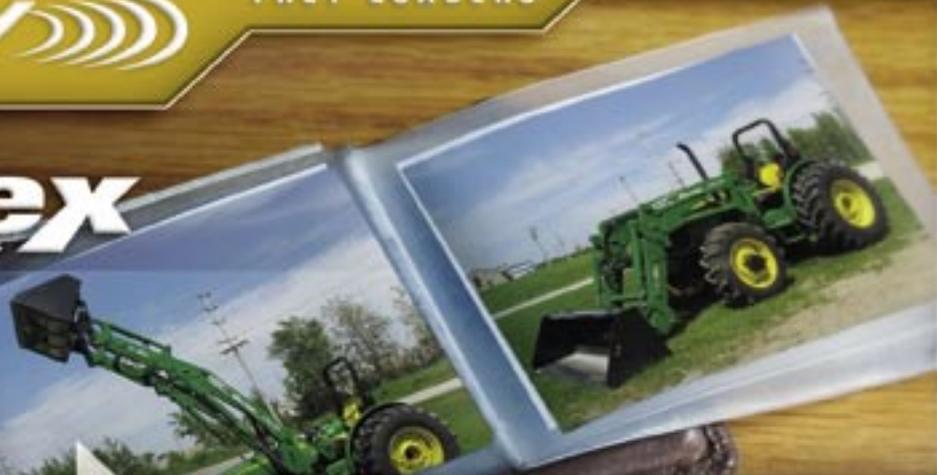


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agriculture

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 assortments 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.eflightmg.com. 📞

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- 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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Now offering three models from which to choose, MIL-STAK is able to fit any size of operation, from the family farm to the large commercial operator.

- 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.

All three models are designed to easily switch to and from mid-size bale loading with a few bolts and hydraulic quick couplers. Everything is either bolted on or plugged in – there is no welding on your bale wagon and no wires cut. By utilizing



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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 freez-

ing 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 ev-

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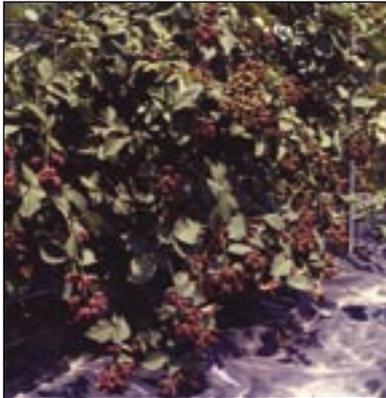
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ery day during growing season he would take his measuring bucket, pick the ripe berries, and write the amount in a book. But he made one mistake. He had planted the berries close to a road that was heavily traveled by walkers. One day he noticed kids walking by eating some of 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 grow-



ing 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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Adapts to patios and small yards—a big plus



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compares to the Doyle!
Great for commercial
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ZERO TOYS, INC.

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 vapourizes 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!!

See the Zero Toys family of toys, plus a host of other very cool toys on the company website: www.zerotoys.com Order online or call us up. We are friendly folk. Two numbers for Zero Toys: toll-free 866-937-6869 Alt tel: 978-371-3378

Or, if you happen to be anywhere in Eastern Massachusetts, come by for a visit: Zero Toys, Inc. 23B Bradford St. Concord, MA 01742 ☎

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Some people may prefer the bracing effects of bare feet on cold tile instead of morning coffee for a quick wake up, but most of us would rather start our day on a warm, radiantly heated floor.

Radiant floor heating has been around for almost 2000 years. It is probably one of the oldest known methods of central heating. The Romans used (by our standards) a crude radiant system to heat their baths. In these early systems a fire was built below the living space and the heat from the fire traveled through passages or channels under the floors. European kings and queens used a similar system during the "Dark Ages" to try to heat their castles.

Today we have the benefit of plastics, and the tubing used in most radiant floor systems is cross linked polyethylene tubing. The cross linking pro-

cess makes the tubing very strong at high temperatures and pressures, and the flexibility of the plastic allows it to move with the natural movement and settling of a house without leaking or otherwise being compromised. Most radiant floor heating systems are hydronic because they circulate water through tubes embedded in the floor. The warm water then turns your floor into a large radiator that sends waves of radiant energy in all directions, warming everything in the room.

Radiant Floor Company of Vermont builds and designs radiant heating systems especially for do-it-yourselfers and small contractors. As a result, they have engineered their systems to be straightforward, easy to understand, efficient, and effective. This design service is free and includes a Zone Calculation Worksheet that in-

cludes heat loss calculations for each zone; pump types and sizes, tube spacing, circuit lengths and the full list of components included in each customer's specific system.

In addition, a 37 page Design and Installation Manual, written in non-technical language is available free of charge. Section one of the manual offers the customer an easy to understand overview of radiant heat, section two provides hands-on methods and techniques for installing a first rate radiant system. A highly trained technical support team, available 66 hours a week to answer any questions or issues, rounds out the package.

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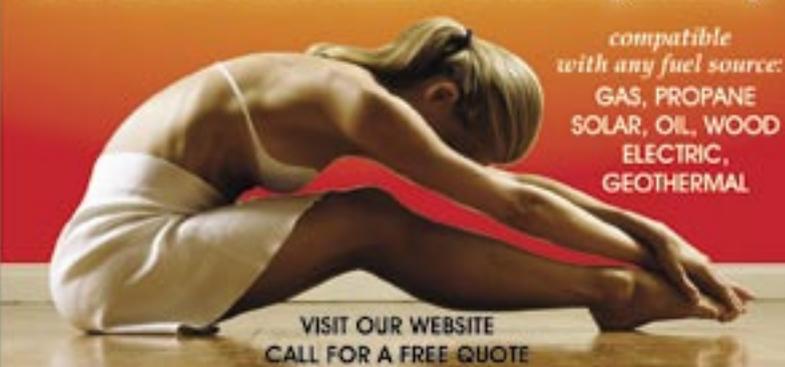
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got pivots?

When you already know the challenge of keeping your irrigation on schedule for maximum profit. More than ever, high-energy costs make pivot management a critical task. In the early 90’s Jerry Abts was selling a sophisticated and expensive remote monitoring and control system for center pivots; but most irrigators declined and simply asked, “what’a’ya got that will just tell me if my pivots are on?” The answer came in 1995 when Abts founded Pivotrac.com and 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.

Today Pivotrac combines text messaging and Internet connectivity with special radio telemetry that works everywhere to deliver on-the-go status of multiple pivots to anyone, anywhere. Pagers are still used, but most subscribers receive the text messages on their digital cell phones. In addition, the system provides remote start and stop options from any telephone or the Internet.

There are many reasons for on-site visits to fields with growing crops being irrigated by



center pivots. The difference with Pivotrac is you and your hands know immediately when a pivot shuts down (and you know when it starts back up). Priorities change with new information. Now pivot status information delivered to everyone needing it can help adjust priorities to avoid costly downtime that can result in crop stress and yield loss. Why wait until the last of the day to find out a pivot is stuck? With Pivotrac the problem is immediately known

before all the help goes home and you get “stuck” with the problem.

The service is simple, reliable and at just \$295 per year, very affordable. Subscribers can view their pivots on a secure website from anywhere, and the website includes summary and detailed records of all pivot activity (www.pivotrak.com). For a dealer in your area, contact Jerry Abts by phone at 888-872-2360 or e-mail: jerry@pivotrak.com. 📞

Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy

Burrowing Rodent Control by Rodex®

Rodex® is the registered trademark of an electronic igniting of gases for rodent extermination. The Rodex® brand has been in use for over seven years, while going through some changes. It now is the most user friendly system on the market; made with quality material, assembled by experienced craftsmen and tested to insure quality and safety. After the original Rodex company went bankrupt, investors purchased the Rodex® trademark and intellectual property from the bank, (with authorization of the bankruptcy court) and it became "Rodex® Sales & Service" in December of 2003.

Rodex® Sales & Service has three models to meet the needs of our user; from the professional pest control operator, with remote firing capability, to the rancher/farmer or a small land owner that needs only to maintain their property. Rodex® has not compromised its quality for price or safety.

One of Rodex® Sales & Service biggest accomplishments is the reengineering of the Rodex® 4000 Plus, while reducing the price equal to 1999 pricing. The Rodex® 4000 Plus is geared toward the small to mid size user, making it affordable for the small vineyard or orchard grower.

The oxygen/propane system for burrowing rodent control has become one of the best systems on the market for organic farming. Parks and schools like it since they don't have to deal with poison and traps.

Rodex® Sales & Service knows that any oxygen/propane system is not 100% fool proof, so call and talk with one of our Rodex customer service personnel. We have more than 65 years of combined experience in the rodent control business. 🐭

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equipment

PFM Introduces New Tine Bucket

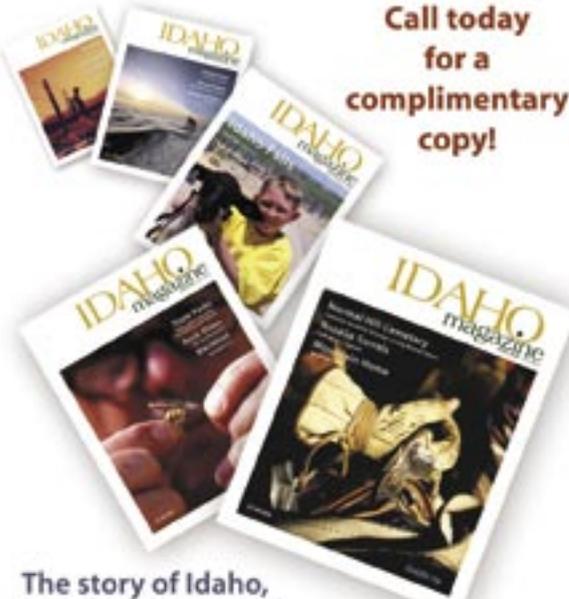
Precision Farm Machinery (PFM), a division of ABCO Engineering Corp, is pleased to announce their new rock-digging bucket with replaceable tines for mounting on skid steer loaders.

The Series 570 Tine Bucket is designed for digging large field rocks, pieces of concrete and rubble at demolition and landscaping sites while allowing dirt and fines to pass between the tines. The 1-1/2" dia. special hardened steel tines with 2-1/2" spacing are held in place with one bolt and are easily replaced. The segmented stone dam holds rocks in back of the bucket while allowing fines to escape. A rock shield protects the skid steer operator. The bucket carries a full two-year warranty.

PFM manufactures a full line of rock pickers, bale slicers, fork buckets, ditchers, bean cutters, vibrating screen buckets and post/tree pullers for the agricultural, landscaping and construction industry. For more information on any of PFM's fine products, contact PFM at 319-283-5695 or toll free at 877-736-2226. You may also check out PFM's products at www.abcoveyor.com/PFM. 📞



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EMERSON DOUBLE VICON DISC MOWERS

There are designs that work and designs that work well. Equipment that is built to use and equipment that is built to sell. We know the difference.

Emerson Equipment combines a lifetime of ranching experience with 47 years in the implement business.

We have been manufacturing equipment for ranchers since 1979 when the Emerson Hydra fork originated. The first Emerson stack mover was completed in 1982 and the Double Disc Mower Hitch followed in 1984. To meet changing demand, the Emerson Bale Processor was introduced in 1992. We build a 4-bale processor, a 2-bale processor as well as the 6-bale processor. Our products are not just field tested in ideal situations; they are used under all conditions in our own ranching operations.

In the beginning we experimented with several ideas to unroll or process large round bales. In the late 1980's we made a few using a manufactured processor that is still being used by some multi processor manufactures. We stopped and decided that in order to sell and have a machine that had a long and trouble free life we needed to build it all together as a unit (rather than put several ideas together and work around each one). We have tried to keep everything simple with less working parts that are standard and can be obtained from a local machine shop or Ag supplier. To load the bales on our bale mover/processor there are 2 cylinders that tip the loading rails. A hydraulic motor runs the loading chains. The tractor and chains on the mover should run at nearly the same

speed to load. The first of six bales will be in the processor when the loading rails are lowered to transport position. Each time the rails need to be lifted enough to move another bale forward and into the processor, bales are never rolled or tumbled until the processor rollers are turned on. The processor has a rotor in the center bottom that chops the hay and throws it out the left side. We feel with the left hand discharge you are eliminating several moving parts due to the direction of the tractors PTO.

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“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,



Spray 30 feet wide with no boom

Banjo, and more. They also lead the way in designing and manufacturing new and advanced products such as their C&R Foam Marker, Spot Sprayer, and the EZ ATV Sprayer featured in this ad. C&R is a provider for precision ag products such as GPS guidance systems, variable rate controllers, mapping, steering assist systems, and chemical injection units. C&R prides themselves on the knowledge and experience that is required to keep up with today's technology. 📞

Rim Guard™ Meets Renewed Need for Tire Ballast

When tractors transitioned from steel wheels to rubber tires, there were significant benefits: A much smoother ride, less road damage from steel lugs, and traction was at least as good or better because of the increased number of lugs on rubber tires.

Then horsepower increased and there was a greater need to maintain traction. This triggered the development of both iron wheel weights and liquid tire ballast. Iron wheel weights were expensive, and calcium chloride brine was used as liquid ballast because it was heavy, didn't freeze and was relatively cheap. Rubber tires all had tubes anyway, so the corrosive effects of calcium chloride was somewhat controlled.

Then technology improved again. Tires went tubeless. Iron weights were made in slabs by the manufacturers to provide

a universal fit for all models of tractors and to mount on the nose of tractors to prevent front-end lift as pulling power increased. At the same time tractor owners became disenchanted with calcium chloride because of rim damage. Without a better alternative, they were forced to go to “suitcase” iron weights at \$1 to \$2/pound.

In the late 90's the market began to change. There was a large growth in compact and utility tractors under 100 h.p. with front-end loaders installed. This altered the weight distribution of the tractor drastically. Weight was again needed in the rear, not the front, to counter balance the weight and lift capability of the loader. As the loader was raised, tractors became highly unstable and top heavy. The center of gravity had to be lowered to improve safety. This spawned a demand for a new and

improved liquid tire ballast – one which was environmentally friendly and non-corrosive.

In 1998 Rim Guard™ was developed to meet the need. Rim Guard™ is heavy – 10.7 to 11 pounds/gallon; it doesn't freeze, and best of all, it is non-corrosive and non-toxic. A good match with tubeless tires. And Rim Guard™ is relatively inexpensive considering its benefits – no corrosion, no tubes, non-toxic and easy leak repair. (Tires can be plugged rather than broken down and patched.)

Rim Guard™ is sold through ag tire dealers and ag implement dealers. Contact your local dealer. If he doesn't carry Rim Guard™, have him call 866-792-3700 to get dealership information. For more information about Rim Guard™ visit our website at <http://www.rim-guard.biz>. Dealer inquiries invited. 📞

Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy

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. 🍄

MOVE'EM OUT...FAST!

Never has it been easier or faster to get your hay bales out of the field. The KUHNS ACCUMULATOR cuts labor by half. You'll wonder why you don't think of this.

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Optimum Bale size is 40-45 lb. Just right for increased marketability to the booming horse industry and other hobby animal enthusiasts.



Picks up the bales directly from the baler



The bales being accumulated



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Loomis Tank Centers' history reflects a century of family dedication to quality, service and value

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 pro-

gressed 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 success."

Loomis Tank Centers is a wholesale

and retail distributor of polyethylene and fiberglass tanks for the storage and transportation of water and the bulk storage and transportation of chemicals and fertilizers. They also feature fiberglass, and polyethylene septic tanks and the Infiltrator leach field system. Open-top fiberglass and polyethylene water troughs are also available.



In addition to Loomis Tank Centers' six company-owned stores in California and Arizona, they have a nationwide network of 80 independent distributors and over 25 manufacturing points. Delivery is available to any location.

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

Oteco Mfg. Eliminate Your Center Pivot Wheel Track Problems

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. 📞

Wachtman Agri Supply Makes Equipment To LAST!

For the past 21 years, owner Loren Wachtman and his crew have been manufacturing and selling long-lasting, competitively priced plastic fertilizer augers for use with gravity wagons, trucks and planters.

“We offer fertilizer and seed handling auger systems, using plastic to reduce corrosion and maintenance,” Loren says.

And now, as part of their commitment to keep up with the latest trends in agriculture, they’re offering seed-fill systems which feature flexible, polypropylene bristle flighting to move soybeans and other fragile seeds quickly and easily while still maintaining high quality.

“We’re concerned about the quality and durability of our systems,” Loren says.

“Having grown up on a farm, I know the importance of high quality and durable equipment.”

Wachtman Agri Supply offers horizontal crossaugers for most popular 4- to

16-row planters and 15- and 20-foot grain drills; mounted truck and gravity wagon augers; and such accessories as 6-inch steel-core bristle flighting and 6-inch plastic flighting with a stainless-steel core.

Loren is especially proud of his new radius-track drill-fill auger.

On this unit, a single vertical auger is taken out of the transport cradle and the hopper is placed on the ground behind the center of the drill.

The upper portion of the auger is held in place by a trolley, which travels from side to side on a radius track that’s mounted behind the drill.

As the auger travels from side to side, the intake hopper remains in its original position on the ground.

This auger features PVC tubing, a plastic hopper and either steel-core bristle flighting or plastic cupped flighting. Loren’s Rust Evader Auger Systems have been formally recognized as Showstoppers at the National Farm Machinery



Show in Louisville.

Loren is planning a larger building in the near future to accommodate his growing business and he’s looking forward to offering new products for the constantly changing agricultural equipment market.

And while his business IS going strong, it’s not too big to care about the individual farmer.

“We feel we’re still small enough to provide our customers with personalized, helpful service,” he says.

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2007 National Clydesdale Sale

April 27th & 28th, 2007 – Illinois State Fairgrounds – Springfield, IL.
Sponsored by the Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A.

Make sure to check out the schedule so you can mark your calendars so you won't miss a single event! The National Clydesdale Sale is the largest offering of Clydesdale Horses in the world! This sale is the only annual breed association sponsored sale in the industry! Vendors will be open during the entire course of events selling horse tack, equipment, feed, jewelry, are, and much more!

Schedule of Events at 2007 National Sale & Annual Meeting:

Thursday, April 26, 2007 - At 7:30 A.M. – 9:30 A.M., a breakfast will be held in the Livestock Center at the Fairgrounds, open to all who wish to attend. At 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Educational Seminars will be held, also open to all who wish to attend. More Seminar information can be obtained through the Clydesdale Breeders Office. At 1:30 p.m., a voluntary halter show of sale horses will begin. At 4:00 p.m. or immediately following the halter show, a hitching preview of sale horses will be held in Arena Lot 146. Then at 8:00 p.m. the Board of Directors will hold a business meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. CBUSA members are always welcome to attend.

Friday, April 27, 2007 - At 7:30 a.m., the day starts off with a mandatory preview of the sale horses, allowing potential buyers another chance to select their favorites. At 12:00 p.m., the sale begins, starting with Geldings and possibly the Yearling Stallions. Then at 6:00 p.m., join the membership and guests at the Crowne Plaza for a delicious banquet. The Annual Meeting of the Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A. rounds out the evening with Association reports & awards. Following our Annual Meeting will be an auction with the proceeds going to the World Clydesdale Show.

Saturday, April 28, 2007 - The National Clydesdale Sale begins at 7:30 a.m., with the sale of Stallions and Mares. With over 200 horses entered,



this is the largest offering of purebred Clydesdales in the world!

Catalogs for this sale will be available by mid-March from the Clydesdale Association office for \$5.00, and will list all horses consigned to our sale. The Clydesdale Education Foundation will also be holding its Annual Silent Auction where successful bidders will take home unique and useful Clydesdale related items.

** Win a Registered Clydesdale Filly **

There will again be a raffle for a fine registered yearling Clydesdale filly to be given away on Saturday, April 28, 2007, at the National Sale. The winner can either keep the filly or put her through the Sale as his or her own horse. Tickets are available now at \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for a book of six tickets. **You need not be present to win.**

Congratulations to All-American Clydesdale Exhibitors and Breeders! Thank you to the Draft Horse Journal for sponsoring the All-American program and to all the

judges who participated in the selection process!

The 2007 Clydesdale News is available now for \$15 (\$20 out of country) – This issue is bigger and better than ever!

For information on the Clydesdale Breed, National Sale or Sale Catalog, Clydesdale Store Items, Clydesdale Publications, or raffle tickets contact:

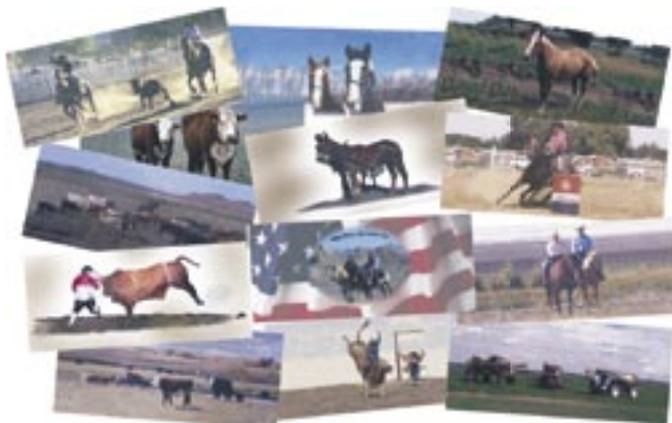
Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A., Betty Groves, Cathy Behn, & Cathy Ludeking, Secretaries, 17346 Kelley Rd., Pecatonica, IL 61063 - Phone: 815-247-8780 - Fax: 815-247-8337, E-mail: secretary@clydesusa.com or see our Web Page at: www.clydesusa.com

The Clydesdale Breeders Association of the U.S.A. is open to all people interested in the well being and advancement of the breed and has a membership reaching into the four corners of the country. Its purpose is the collection, revision, preservation, and publication of the history and pedigrees of purebred Clydesdale horses. ♣

Kansas Bank Note Company

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Have you ever looked through page after page of personal check designs only to find that you weren't satisfied with any of them? If so, then Kansas Bank Note Company has the solution. Use your favorite photo and create your very own, one of-a-kind personal checks! What? No favorite photo you say? KBNC also has many stock designs available. But why not take your own picture and make your checks truly unique? KBNC offers Full Color stock design checks, Standard B&W checks available in Parchment, Denim, and White paper and Custom Photo checks using Your picture. Kansas Bank Note Company has been in business since 1906 and specializes in printing of secure documents for financial institutions and government entities. KBNC has taken this knowledge and expertise and put it to work in their personal check division and their staff is thoroughly trained and experienced professionals. Their finely detailed checks are acceptable for use with your account at any bank and are printed on "CHECK PROTECT" safety paper, a product with limited availability that incorporates numerous safety features. Checks are top bound and imprinted with Name, Address, Consecutive numbering and Bank MICR encoding. Deposit



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The Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A. announce.....



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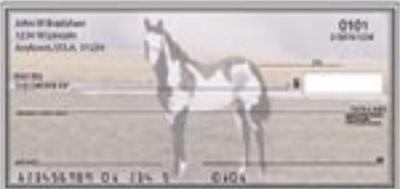
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 Drawing held at National Sale - need not be present to win -
 Tickets \$1 each or a book of 6 for \$5

WORLD CLYDESDALE SHOW - OCTOBER 12-14, 2007
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For schedule of events, breed information, sale catalog, raffle tickets, Publications, Clyde Store, or World Clydesdale Show information please contact:

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Tuttle Blacksmith & Welding in New Plymouth, Idaho is the home of the MANE STAY “Real” Horse Stalls. We are Jerry and Jeanette Jones, creators of this custom built, maintenance free, indestructible and safe stall fabricated in our shop to the highest quality possible. The stalls are tailored to your needs and style with such specifications* as:

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We at Tuttle Blacksmith & Welding, having horses our-



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selves, know that maintenance can be a problem with other less durable facilities and we also understand the costs involved with continuing repairs. That's the reason we've developed the stall system we use. There is nothing the horses can touch inside the stall that is destructible. Thus, the on going expense and concern from chewing/cribbing, leaning, rubbing or kicking can be forgotten forever. Wall padding is available.

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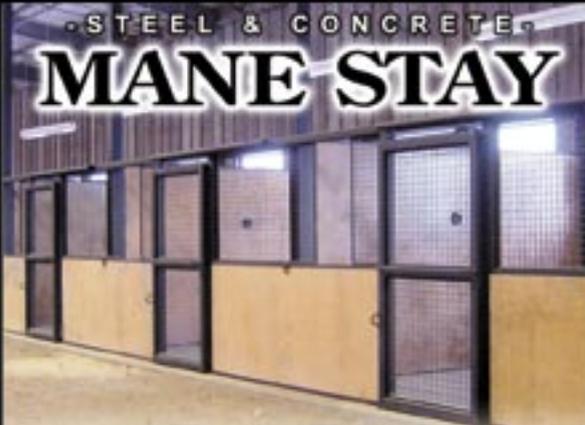
The quality and lasting value of your investment is another of our goals and we pride ourselves in being able to stand behind our MANE STAY Guarantee of top quality, workmanship and elegance. We won't build “crap” just for the all mighty dollar!!

Steel and concrete construction makes MANE STAY “Real” Horse Stalls able to live up to the name and they will be here long after we're all retired or gone. Life can be made much safer and easier with no repairs or vet bills from cribbing, together with low maintenance and ease of cleaning.

Call (208)-278-5846 or (208)-371-9315 and/or stop by our site at 116 West Maple in New Plymouth, Idaho for a personal tour of the ‘Ole Tuttle Blacksmith & Welding Shop’ while we discuss your needs and thoughts of what it takes to make the ‘best horse stall in the world’. We're wise enough to know that there is never one completely right answer to most questions and never only one completely right way to do something. Anyway, two heads are always twice as thick as one. See ya soon! 🐾

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A Short But Imaginative History Of Bonnie Shields, The Tennessee Mule Artist

My art career started with a black and a green crayon on my grandma's kitchen wall. Fortunately for me, a four year old can't reach up too high and the thing being basically out of the adult's eye, I survived execution. Besides, my grandma LOVED me. I took the whole thing to mean I must be a real R-TEEST. There are those that will argue it was the high point of my career, but I refuse to believe that.

Anyway, my heart wasn't so much into art as it was horses and cowboys so my artistic adventures tended to follow suit. Unfortunately, my parents had the audacity to NOT live in the West, creating instant hardship in my young life. You see, in truth I grew up in Southern Indiana (Corydon) instead of Cody, Wyoming, so my perception of the west and cowboys was influenced by my weekly infusions of B Westerns at the Dream Theatre. (Cost-25 for entry and popcorn). In retrospect, it wound up serving me well as it set my imagination free at an early age. Reality and Fantasy. Never could tell the difference.

Some of my earliest successes in the art world came from pen and ink assignments of family and friends. And, once again, the opportunity to simply kill me over such things passed and I forged on.

In the 60's, I had a regular cartoon feature in a national Charolais magazine, along with many, many forgettable commercial assignments. Nothing to take seriously. I held down a few legitimate jobs and started a family with my first husband. Then in the late 60's fate stepped in. I met the MULE!

Finally, a MATCH! The mules fascinated me both as a horse-man and as an artist. They were NOT long-eared horses. Little did we both know that a career was born in the hills of middle Tennessee.

I began drawing mules and learning all I could about them and the wonderful people that loved them. Showing my wares at local art shows and country fairs, it became obvious that everyone had an opinion of the mule, whether they knew anything about them or not. There is an empathy between us humans and this creature that goes deep. My sympathetic and realistic renderings of the mule and the life they implore began to garner attention all over the South as I traveled the mall shows and art fairs. When the Tennessee state legislature could stand it no more, they drew up a bill naming me the "Official" Tennessee Mule Artist in April of 1977.

Now, you'd think I'd be so grateful, I'd never leave home, wouldn't you? Wrong. I immediately married a guy from California and moved lock, stock (a mule, horse, cat, two dogs and a kid) to Bishop, CA. Then, in 1980 we moved again. This time to the wilds of Northern Idaho where I still thrive to this day.

Life up here is most interesting and sometimes challenging and it has been the perfect impetus for my funnybone to stretch to it's limits. Add some mules and some fellow cartoonists and you have lots of grins and adventures to pull from. One of my better opportunities has come by being a Leanin Tree artist since 1982. Bet you've seen my work for years and just never knew it.

I'm also on the Board of the American Donkey and Mule Society and am a founding member of the Cowboy Cartoonists International.

My association with the mule and the people who love them

has been so rewarding. Then, to fall into a pack of like-minded and totally goofy cartoonists was like icing on my cake. Both associations have been so rewarding, I will never be able to repay any of them, but I try everyday.

Currently, I am involved in the production of the "Jasper" series of children's books written by the famous mule trainer, Meredith Hodges. She lets me illustrate them. Meredith has a regular program on RFD-TV and it sometimes shows me, too, talking about the mules. We both agree that mules require a healthy sense of humor and the ability to be humbled sometimes. We think it all keeps us real and we know it keeps us happy.

Well, I guess this is all what you'd call history now. The "serious art career" remains elusive, but I know I've fallen into something far better. Oh, I can paint and draw with the big boys if I choose, but Lordy, they are boring! I know I've found my place in the "art world". Yes, you are being addressed by the world's leading half-ass artist, and proud of it.

Hope you enjoy my work, wherever you find it. Just remember, watch where you step. You might get some on you, but don't worry. It's all good stuff and it'll make you grow.

I can be found on that infernal new machine at: www.bonnieshields.com www.cowboycartoonists.com and on www.LuckyThreeRanch.com Meantime, like my hero mule, Leroy, always said: "Keep your traces tight." 🍌

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The Appaloosa Museum

The story of the Appaloosa Museum and that of the Appaloosa Horse Club is comparable to siblings growing up in the same family. While they have many



experiences in common and even share physical characteristics, there are distinctive features to both. Like the Horse Club, the Museum had its birth in the basement of the home of George and Iola Hatley in Moscow, Idaho in the early 1940's. Claiming one corner of what was to become the early office of the registry, a collection of Appaloosa horse related artifacts and archival material began to grow. These items chronicled the critical involvement of the horse in both Native American and Western American history.



When the ApHC had grown beyond the confines of the Hatley home it moved to larger quarters on First Street in Moscow in 1958. The growing col-

lection of Museum items could then be displayed on more wall and floor space. Three years later and growing like a teenager the Club moved to a storefront location in downtown Moscow on Jackson Avenue. Following its older sibling the Museum moved with the Club.

The Museum now had space prominently located in one of the storefront windows of the reception area of the Club. The initial space, which had seemed so large, compared to the basement corner, over time, filled



both walls and the floor to overflowing. Fortunately for the Museum the ApHC was experiencing a similar phenomenon. So, in the late 60's plans were discussed, commitments were made and ultimately a new ApHC building was built at its present Idaho/Washington state line location in 1974.

Included in the new building was a distinct and separate, but attached, "Museum Wing" of about 1850 square feet of space. This new space seemed enormous at the time. The move also marked the transition of the Museum from "younger" sibling to becoming an adult. The Museum became incorporated as an IRS 501 (c) (3) corporation in 1975.

By the early 1990's it was evident that once again we had outgrown our

home. An active and major fund raising program was begun and with the help of literally hundreds of loyal Museum patrons and members, funds and materials were gathered and construction on the Museum addition was begun in 1997. This marked the first large scale construction project by the Museum. The Museum made the leap into the cyber age in the late 1990's and now has a beautiful website, www.appaloosamuseum.org, where web visitors can explore Appaloosa history, view many of our exhibits,



and shop in our internet gift shop. In 2006, the Museum added on yet again by fencing in a one acre pasture behind the Museum and Horse Club where two colorful Appaloosas reside from May to October of every year.

We hope to "see" you at either our real or "virtual" museum in the near future.

The collection includes:

- Early evidence of the spotted horse around the world
- Native American artifacts
- Early settler & Cowboy artifacts
- Appaloosas in the media and pop culture
- Appaloosa Horse Club memorabilia and history
- Horse show, rodeo, and race artifacts
- Children's hands-on learning area
- Live Appaloosa exhibit (May – October)
- Extensive Library and Archive

The Appaloosa Museum is located at 2720 West Pullman Road, Moscow, Idaho ~ at the Idaho-Washington border. (208) 882-5578 ext. 279 ☛

The Idaho Horse Council Presenting Horse Expo 2007

My Kingdom For A Horse

The Idaho Horse Council is proud to present the 21st annual Idaho Horse Expo this year on April 20, 21 and 22 at the Idaho Horse Park in Nampa, Idaho. This year's featured clinicians are Curt Pate, Alice Trindle, Jeff Spencer and Dee Craig. The Expo offers a wide variety of events, shows, seminars and sale horses.

The Private Treaty Horse Sale has become a very large part of the Expo. Owners with horses for sale bring them to the Expo, and anyone interested in buying is able to deal with the horse's owner face to face. No other involvement is necessary, and – best of all—no commissions to pay. Sale horses are pre-viewed in the Northwest Dodge Arena each day. There are stallions on display, and they are also shown all three days in the Northwest Dodge Arena in the Stallions on Parade.

The Round Pen Challenge is always an interesting event, with three clinicians exhibiting their skills in starting young horses. A test ride in a round pen is available to all who want to experience what it's like to ride a well-trained horse. There are also many youth activities available for the kids, as well as educational seminars and symposiums put on by the College of Southern Idaho all three days.

A Ranch Rodeo will be held in the outdoor rodeo arena on Saturday, and on Sunday there will be an Extreme Cowboy Race in the Esther Simplot Eventing Arena. In addition to all of these great events, we will offer over 100 vendors – so shopping will be great! Silent auction items are on display all three days and on Saturday evening the Expo will offer a Scholarship Auction and Freestyle Reining.

If you like, love or are passionate about horses, this is the place for you! The Expo is open Friday, 12:00 to 9:00; Saturday, 9:00 to 9:00; and Sunday, 9:00 to 5:00. For more information, please visit: www.idahohorsecouncil.com

The Idaho Horse Council
presents
horse expo 2007
my kingdom for a horse

april 20, 21, 22
times: fri 12-9 • sat 9-9 • sun 9-5
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renown clinician
curt pate
"common sense horse sense"

new this year:
freestyle reining
& ranch rodeo - saturday
extreme cowboy race - sunday
college of southern idaho
equine symposium

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private treaty horse sale,
round pen challenge,
stallions on parade,
youth activities
& test rides

local clinicians
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and dee craig

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Why Buy Gypsy Horses?

Gypsy horses' owners will tell you the same thing: few breeds can boast such a winning combination of qualities as Gypsy horses do. If you are new to the breed, you will quickly discover that Gypsy horses are extremely intelligent and learn quickly. Besides being easy to train, they are exceedingly handsome animals. They have wonderful personalities. And they love being around people!

Best of all, these high-quality Gypsy horses are very affordable. We breed our stock of Gypsy horses using our own broodmares, with stallions that have established Gypsy bloodlines, to produce beautiful fillies & colts — which are for sale.

Gypsy horses sold at Blarney Stone Acres are purchased from private Romany families in England who have been breeding these Gypsy horses for generations. Working strictly within

established family lines, we have made it our goal to maintain the quality and proper lineage of the Gypsy (or "Romany,") horse. At Blarney Stone Acres, we breed with equal emphasis on the conformation, movement, and temperament that are the hallmark of an outstanding Gypsy horse.

Our Website, www.blarneystoneacres.com is full of information about Gypsy horses, so feel free to browse. If you would like to learn more, or if you are interested in purchasing one of our Gypsy horse foals, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Our farm is located on 8 beautiful acres in a lush, green corner of northern New Jersey. With a mix of woodland and paddocks, there are plenty of turnouts for our Gypsy horses to graze. The animals are housed in a spacious, well-lit, 12-stall barn that can only be described as state-of-the-art, with hot and cold running water,

special birthing stalls, and even a heated floor. This makes this a perfect facility for breeding these fine Gypsy horses. There are both indoor and outdoor arenas, so the Gypsy horses can be worked year-round. In addition, we often use outside trainers that are available for on-site consultation.

Blarney Stone Acres is a private facility, open for visits by interested buyers by appointment only.

Keeping with this heritage, we continue to breed established linebred horses, culling where necessary. We use only Gypsy horses with original foundation bloodlines and history, which decreases the likelihood of passing along genetic defects and other undesirable traits. Thus, with the true blood stock that we have acquired, we are able to maintain the strong foundation that has already been laid by past Gypsy horse breeders. 🐾

STI Safety Breakaway Stirrups

By: Becky McCoy

Every time I put my foot in a stirrup and jump on a horse, I am in danger. Danger, what kind of danger? What ever goes up must also come down. Will I be stepping off my horse just as easily or will something dreadful happen on this ride? Did I wear boots that will slip off easily? Do they have a good heel? If my horse falls, will I have a chance to slip my feet out? If my horse bucks, will I stick with him? There is now a product that takes the fear of draggings out of riding.

You might be thinking it'll probably be just another gimmick, a stupid little thing that doesn't really work. Well, let me tell you they do work. STI Breakaway Stirrups are designed to release when a rider is hung up in a stirrup. A couple of old cowboys got together and made a stirrup that has a highly precision-engineered bi-directional release mechanism. It looks and rides normally in the harshest conditions yet breaks

away when the stirrup makes a drastic enough angle with the stirrup leather; it won't break when it's not supposed to. From personal experience, the stirrup breaks right before you hit the ground. After dusting yourself off and picking up the stirrup, you just re-cock it, set it back in your leathers and hop back on.

My dad, Mike McCoy, was one of those old cowboys that had an idea. He knew the inherent danger of riding but it didn't bother him until he had us kids riding through the hills. We grew up riding these stirrups and know they aren't just for kids. They are for any person, cowboy, trail rider, competitor who puts their foot in a stirrup. A little added insurance to help your guardian angel. The hardest part about the stirrup is that every time there is a dragging we seem to hear about it. Someone sends us a news clipping or writes a letter telling us about someone's little girl or someone else's father. The pain of losing



someone you love is too great to let your foolish pride hold you back from riding with us. You can reach STI toll-free at 1-888-308-0848, or on the web at www.breakawaystirrups.com 🐾

Miracles Do Happen

a testimonial by Rachel Hawes...

I had always been told that if I found my mare it would be from a phone call received out of the blue. Though I had always hoped this would be the truth, believing it would be the hard part. Almost two years later, on Tuesday June 20th I received that phone call. The man on the phone started off by telling me he thought he had my horse. Previous disappointments had taught me not to get excit-



ed. He lived in Vale, Oregon and said that he had seen my ad in the “Western Farm Ranch and Dairy Magazine.”

Back in April of 2005 Chuck Pater-

son, of the “Western Farm Ranch and Dairy Magazine,” contacted me because he had seen my flyer. Chuck really felt like he could do something to help. He ran a free colored ad. The first ad came out in their April issue. Admittedly by then my hopes of finding my horse had started waning. About four months later Chuck called back again and asked if I’d found my mare. I remember feeling ashamed at myself for not being more excited to receive his assistance and amazed at his persistence to continue helping. I had given up looking. A year and a half of searching with countless ads, flyers, phone calls, and emails to no avail had caused me to give up searching. Chuck wanted to give it one more try, so he ran my ad again in the Fall/Winter 2005 issue.

To me the amazing part of my story is the chance that someone would see an ad in a six-month old issue and recognize that it might be my stolen mare. Somehow one of my flyers made it to Chuck’s sight, and if

he had never contacted me with an offer to help, my mare would not be home with me right now. I am often asked how it feels to have her home. My word choice is usually “great,



or wonderful,” but how can I possibly explain the comforting peace of mind I now have. Being able to feed her every morning and evening, to listen to her nickers, and not having to worry if she is being cared for, abused, or loved is a great relief. A huge load has been lifted off my mind because of the generosity provided by the “Western Farm Ranch and Dairy Magazine.” 🐾

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.

Probiotic effectiveness depends on concentration and viability. Proper handling and storage will insure maximum response. 🐾

THE NMDA MINIATURE DONKEY Gelding Incentive Program

The NMDA Board of Directors are happy to report that the Gelding Incentive Program is a success – no longer a trial Program, but a permanent part of NMDA's offerings to the Miniature Donkey community. Your tax-deductible donations, along with NMDA's original \$5,000 backing is allowing us all to make a very real difference in the genetic heritage of Miniature Donkeys.

The start of the NMDA Miniature Donkey Gelding Incentive Program was announced as a trial Program in the Spring 2002 ASSET. A unique aspect of the trial Program was the partnering of NMDA and the membership in the goals of promoting geldings as true "Ambassadors of the Breed" by demonstrating their endearing, gentle qualities and at the same time having a positive effect on the overabundance of jacks in the population. One hundred percent of your tax-

deductible donations to this Program are used exclusively for gelding Miniature Donkeys. Rebates of \$50 are offered to owners who agree to fulfill a few simple requirements.

As the strengthening of the Gelding Incentive Program has become apparent, so has the opportunity of expanding the Program to facilitate the goal of gelding Miniature Donkeys not only for owners, but U.S. registered charities that have Miniature Donkeys under their care.

While the Gelding Incentive Program is primarily intended for those who need assistance with veterinary expenses, the fundamental goal is to actively promote the gelding of as many Miniature Donkeys as possible – everyone is invited to participate.

NMDA Gelding Incentive Program Requirements:

- Applicant must be a current NMDA member.

- Each farm will be limited to one rebate each year, however a second rebate will be granted as long as funds are available.

- Owners will be required to provide a Veterinary Statement of Castration (provided by NMDA) along with a copy of the veterinarian's original billing statement.

- The gelded jack must be registered and a copy of the Registration Certificate indicating he is a gelding is required.

Inquiries, donations and applications for rebates may be directed to the NMDA Central Office: 315-336-0154; 315-339-4414 (FAX); nmdaasset@aol.com; 6450 Dewey Rd., Rome, New York 13440. www.nmdaasset.com

BE ASSURED THT 100% OF YOUR DONATIONS TO THIS PROGRAM ARE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR GELDING MINIATURE DONKEYS!

NMDA Board of Directors 🐾

Hillside Farms

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 it-

self. 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. 🐾

Rio Hondo Livestock & Farrier Supply

Rio Hondo is family owned and managed by Richard and Lynn Brook. Rio Hondo is Spanish for the "deep creek" running through the Brooks' ranch situated in the Snake River Valley of southern Idaho, 4.5 miles west of Buhl, along Scenic Highway 30.

The Brooks have been in the ranching and farrier business for 35 years, having complete knowledge and expertise pertaining to the horse shoeing industry

including distinctive brand name tools and supplies. They also include their son and daughter, Rick and Surya in the daily operation of the business emphasizing friendly service and customer satisfaction.

The Brooks' thorough knowledge and experience in cattle ranching has prompted them to offer consumers Hi-Hog, "The Outstanding Brand" in farm and ranch livestock handling equipment. Rio Hondo

will be the only provider of Hi-Hog equipment in Idaho. An "onsite" equipment display offers consumers a "no obligation" demonstration with the opportunity to check out the high quality and ease of handling this exclusive equipment offers.

Rio Hondo would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our customers for their support and patronage. We appreciate your business, and look forward to supplying your needs in the future. 🐾

beef – dairy

Pre-Marinated Beef

LYNNE CHAMBERLAIN – Aegis Farms

Life is a Cabernet in Spofford Station. The cow may be of the bovine ilk, but these cows are wine-ing and dining before their final round-up. The Cabernet cowgirl, Lynne Chamberlain has taken the bull by the horns and is producing cattle that are sustainably grown and are given a happy ending as they head to the big pasture in the sky.

A Walla Walla Appellation wine grape grower and winemaker, Chamberlain is utilizing the pomace, or skins from the pressed grapes to feed out cattle. After pressing the berries, the skins and seeds are mixed into a winery blend feed of molasses, corn, grain, hay, wheat and flax to round out the flavors for this rich and bold beef. Flax is a broadly

heralded health benefit. Researchers are finding it improves the health of stocker calves and increases the value of fat cattle. Flax is nature's richest source of omega 3 fatty acids and lignan. In humans these attributes appear to play a positive role with cholesterol, heart disease and the autoimmune system. In cattle, it increases the alpha linolenic acids (ALA) in the meat and improves the marbling. "We don't use growth-promoting antibiotics or hormones," says Chamberlain. "The cattle are strictly vegetarian...no chicken litter, fish meal products or the like."

The winery blend came about to utilize the by-product of the wine and to head off old fences and curious cows. As the autumn begins, the nutrients

in the pastures deplete as plants begin to shut down for winter. Cows look to those proverbial greener pastures. In one most frustrating year, about 12 head of cattle "split," heading south. These bovines hid under the trees. It took trackers days to locate them. "An impromptu neighborhood barbecue seemed the best answer to the problem at the time," jokes Lynne.

Chamberlain also farms wheat, hay and varietal peppermint. Being a farmer means looking for ways to vertically integrate a crop. She established a greenhouse for certified plants, integrating production from the greenhouse to roots to distillation

Continued on page 35

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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.

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.

The Weaver Ranch program has been a consistent participant, leader and winner in the very competitive Great Western Beef Expo. We have concentrated on calving ease, performance, predictability, and carcass quality for years. You can be assured of some of the breed's most predictable profit genetics, that will add to, and move, any program progressively forward.

In December 1996, Weaver Ranch was selected as one of eleven seedstock suppliers for Farmland Supreme Beef Alliance. We were selected on the basis of our past carcass testing and our use of bulls with positive carcass traits.

In June of 1998, Weaver Ranch received the Colorado Cattlemen's "SEEDSTOCK PRODUCER OF THE YEAR" Award. 🍷

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Continued from page 33

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Located in Colfax, WA, Pearson Fence is a family business, run by John and Debbie Pearson. They have been in business since 1986. They resource products that aid in pasture renovation and long-term animal management. In addition to a full line of fencing supplies and tools to erect fences for all classes of animals, Pearson Fence also carries Kinghitter post drivers, a full line of Stampede Steel cattle handling equipment, K-Line Irrigation systems and pasture seed drills.

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"Calf Claim" helps new cattle mothers and their calves get off to a compatible relationship. "Calf Claim", a granular product, encourages even the most apathetic cows to respond appropriately to their newborns. It is smeared or sprinkled on the calf during the tough bovine debut when there's extra stress usually involving a young, first-time mother who can't get the calving job done on her own. In livestock, sometimes you have a problem with the mother claiming the young, and some will even attack them. Heifers are the worst. It's a mess if a heifer doesn't claim her calf. If the calf doesn't nurse, it can't absorb the antibodies it would get from the colostrum.

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.

This spring, there's even more of an incentive than usual to do everything possible to save newborns. Each fresh, young bovine face emerging on the scene represents a pretty valuable addition. The market for young calves is hot, and perhaps has never been hotter. It's a good time to take precaution and care. So having something that prevents calf abandonment is essential. "Calf Claim" is an answer to an old problem. Order "Calf Claim" today from your veterinary distributor. You may phone (641) 464-2202 or Fax: (641) 464-2254 for more information.

History.

Through the years, we at the Mt. Ayr Veterinary Clinic have manufactured and distributed a flavored powdered product "Calf Claim"™. "Calf Claim" is a bonding agent that is sprinkled on and rubbed into the hair of a newborn calf. The aromatic scent from the product attracts and entices the cow to lick and clean the calf stimulating bonding. It is highly successful in cattle and horses and somewhat successful in sheep and swine.

We are very proud of the article written about "Calf Claim" and the many letters received from people telling of their use of

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the product. However, nobody has ever asked about its history. "Calf Claim" is a formulation of a product worked up by Joe Graham, D.V.M. of Milo, Iowa. Dr. Graham has been practicing veterinary medicine since the 1940's and compounded his product one dose at a time, as there was a need for it.

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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goat – sheep

There is Life After Hogs

Illini-Acres Dairy and Boer Goats

Who would have thought an Alpine/Nubian doe purchased at a stockyards would be the beginning of a passion that would eventually replace a 250 sow hog operation?

That is how Illini-Acres Dairy and Boer Goats owned by Leland and Alice Marriott came to be the largest dairy goat herd in southeastern Illinois. Illini-Acres is located 10 mi. west of Mt. Carmel, IL on the Indiana border.

The Marriotts first dairy goat purchase was in 1986 when they brought Nanny and her twin doe kids home from the local stockyards. The Alpine/Nubian crossbred became the source of milk replacer that Alice used in the farrow to finish hog operation she and her husband, Leland were running. The Marriott's found the goat milk to be the the best milk replacer they had found for the extra pigs being produced. At that time, the commercial milk replacers were not the quality they are by today's standards, and the goat milk boosted their weaned pig average.

And while Nanny was earning her keep as a milker, her daughters became the Marriott's young sons, Tim and Matthew's 4-H projects. Those two kids (four-legged) were the hit of the fair that year. If anyone wanted to find their youngsters,

they need look no further than the goat pen. The interest was so high in goats as a project that Alice became the Goat Superintendent, and a new division was added to the fair the following year. She still holds that position today, long after her sons have been out of the 4-H program, conducting workshops and being a project leader. She had participated in many seminars and workshops in the surrounding counties.

"Goat projects are a wonderful beginning animal for young 4-Hers", Alice explains. They can be the next step up from rabbits and poultry. They are small enough and have the kind of personality that a young child can handle. The 4-Her learns responsibility in caring for the animal, teaching it to lead, and at the same time has an animal that will respond to them with constant affection. The goat project works well before going on to the larger animal projects.

Alice's first experience with what she calls "real" goats was at the Illinois State Fair. There was an ADGA goat show going on the day Tim competed with his 4-H entomology project, and they saw their first registered animals. "They were just beautiful and the people exhibiting were so willing to answer questions. I had no idea there was such a thing as a purebred goat", she explained. "I was raised in town and in a time that

Funds Available to Help Sheep & Goat Industries

Since 1999, the National Livestock Producers Association's Sheep & Goat Fund has helped a variety of innovative projects come to fruition. Currently the Fund has \$9.4 million in loan commitments with 45 loans to 33 entities in 21 states. The Fund Committee continuously reviews applications that serve the goals of this program.

"Most recently the Fund has been used to help establish a livestock merchandising center, expand several goat dairies, build a consolidated goat association, develop a sheep meat supplier, and create a weed control and fire protection program using sheep," Richard Drake, chairman of the NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund Committee said. "Our loan program is unique in its ability to evaluate each applicant's specific needs and create a flexible financing plan. We also offer a very competitive interest rate, currently 5.75 percent."

The Sheep & Goat Fund was established in 1999 when an agreement was signed between the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (Sheep Center) and the NLPA that enables Sheep Center funds to be used in the sheep and goat industries

through a revolving loan program. The NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund 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).

For more information or an application please contact the National Livestock Producers Association at 1-800-237-7193 or visit www.SheepandGoatFund.com. 🐏

goats were portrayed as being smelly animals that ate tin cans and clothes of the line.” Seeing those goats at the show was the beginning of her goat passion.

It was at this time she began to research the marketing of goats. Any animal on the farm had to produce enough to pay for it’s keep. Either by milk, meat or sales. It was during this research she discovered the option of exporting to foreign countries. It sounded like that could make the goats a lucrative enterprise. So she purchased some registered Nubians and began to raise goats with a purpose. She made the right connections and her animals were offered to buyers from around the world.

The family continued to raise hogs and added Toggenburgs to the dairy herd. The Marriott’s herd was up to 30 head or so in 1998 when the bottom fell out of hog prices. It was a tough decision to get out of hog production –Leland and Alice had worked at it together for 25 years, and Leland’s parents had established the herd long before that; but looking back the Marriotts’ say it was the right choice. Leland says the last year they raised hogs Alice goats made money – the hogs didn’t. Alice went to work full time off the farm in 1999; but continued to increase the herd by adding Boer Goats to the mix. The meat goats peaked Leland’s interest – he didn’t have to milk them; and they had a fast rate of gain. Something a hog farmer could relate to. But once again, before making the purchase, Alice did research to see where the market might be, and how far she would have to drive to deliver them. Little did she know at that time how the demand for goats was going to

change. Or what a huge part they would play in her life – with the addition of farm acreage, and one son remaining on the farm; it allowed Alice to return to the farm full time and care for and produce goats.

Today you can find 250-300 head of goats at Illini-Acres. One old farrowing house has been converted to the milk barn and loafing area for the does and dry animals. Another farrowing house is used for birthing pens and grower pens the young animals. The gestating Boer does are now occupying the open sow lots. And much of the hog pens and equipment have been utilized in the conversion.

The Marriotts’ have added Alpines, Saanens and Lamancha Dairy goats to the herd; as the Swiss breeds seem to be more in demand for the target market of replacement animals to commercial goat dairies. The Marriotts are hundreds of miles from goat milk processing plants; but Alice has found a niche in raising quality replacement animals. The meat goat market is much closer to home. When she first started with Boer goats 7 years ago she had two markets one at Easter and one in December. She currently can sell meat animals year round and not have to travel more than a half hour from home.

“The goat industry has grown by leaps and bounds in the last 7 years. And the past 3 years have been phenomenal; with the demand for goat meat and cheese. I am living a dream come true – back on the farm; raising goats; and making it profitable. I couldn’t ask for anything more,” Marriott stated. “Will I continue?” “You bet. If the demand dies down, I can downsize; but there will always be goats.” 🐐

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Get a Loan to Develop Your Idea Through the NLPA

The National Livestock Producers Association (NLPA) has money available in its Sheep & Goat Fund to loan to industry participants to strengthen and enhance the sheep and goat industries. For more information, go to www.SheepandGoatFund.com or call 1-800-237-7193.

Get the money you need for your sheep and goat projects from the National Livestock Producers Association today.



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alpaca – llama

How to Begin Your Alpaca Business Successfully

Raising alpacas is a growing industry. It's easy to see why. The animals are gentle in nature, require minimal land, and can provide an exciting business opportunity. Educate yourself and take advantage of the many alpaca resources available.

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

Originally from South America, the United States first commercially imported alpacas in 1984, and today there are more than 100,000 registered in the United States and Canada. Once an Incan civilization treasure, alpacas provided clothing and transportation.

Although almost physically identical, the two types of alpacas are distinguished by their fiber. The Huacaya (wa-Ki'-ah), the more common, has a fluffy, extremely fine coat. The Suri



(surrey), the rarer, has fiber that is very silky and resembles pencil-locks.

Shorn every twelve to eighteen months, they produce a luxurious fiber. Alpacas produce a luxurious, soft fiber that is as warm as wool at 1/3 the weight. It is a specialty fiber, being both rare and extremely fine. Pure alpaca fiber is hypo-allergenic. Additional alpaca performance characteristics include: stretch, strength, wicking properties and odor reduction. It comes in 22 natural colors.

Alpacas do not have horns, hooves, claws, incisors or upper teeth. Alert and curious, they are social animals that seek

companionship. They communicate most commonly by humming. Neck posturing, ear and tail positioning, and head tilt are other communication methods.

The average lifespan of an alpaca is 20 years, with a gestation period of 11.5 months. Female alpacas normally give birth, without assistance, in the daylight hours. Single births



are typical, but twins are possible. The most recent figure notes that 1 in 2000 is a twin.

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

First visit alpaca farms in your area. Local breeders will gladly answer all your questions and share helpful information about their start-up experience. To find an alpaca farm near you, visit www.alpacainfo.com and click on the "Farm and Ranch Locator" link. You can also order a Farm and

Ranch Guide by clicking the “Request Information” link.

The Farm and Ranch Guide is a must for potential new breeders. This handy reference book includes the fascinating history of alpacas and alpaca fiber and the financial aspects of the alpaca business. You will begin to understand what the alpaca community is all about; alpaca breeders are a unique, dedicated group. They have made alpacas a major part of



their lives. Some owners raise alpacas for companionship. Others use alpacas as a 4-H animal that teaches their children compassion and responsibility. Fiber artists and enthusiasts often raise alpaca for the multiple end-products - intricate sweaters, scarves, hats, mittens, to name a few. Whatever the personal reason, alpacas undeniably are pleasurable and can bring the potential for a rewarding lifestyle and business opportunity.

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

The biggest alpaca event of the year is the AOBA National Conference, showcasing over 1,000 alpacas. It will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on May 18, 19 and 20, 2007 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. Admission is FREE and open to the public. The National Conference is the largest AOBA certified halter and fleece show. Breeders and guests witness the inner-workings of a billion-dollar industry and learning never ends. Education seminars range from alpaca care to marketing techniques. Artisans compete with hand-crafted items. And, there is no better place to buy, sell, and learn about alpacas, apparel, and a variety of alpaca-related materials.

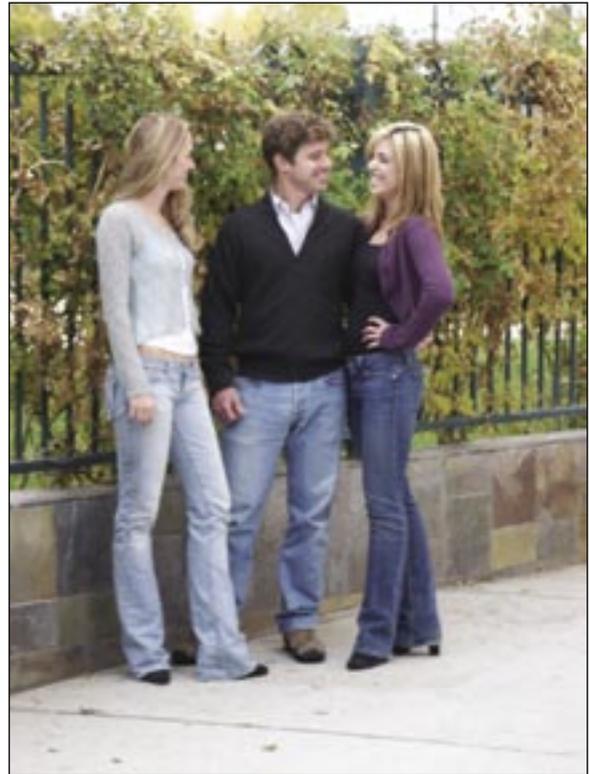
There are also several regional and local shows and events. To find a complete list of events, visit www.alpacainfo.com and click on “Calendar of Events”.

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

AOBA membership has many benefits. You can join as either an Associate Member or a Farm Member. Every member

receives a subscription to Alpacas Magazine. Established in 1990, this quarterly magazine is now 16 years old. Standard, in-depth articles often include topics of alpaca health, tax-related information, innovative ways to market your animals and end-products, and more. Besides the four standard issues, one issue is exclusively devoted to fashion, highlighting the latest alpaca trends and standard favorites. Alpacas Magazine also has several advertising opportunities, which is a wonderful way to market your farm or ranch, while staying in-touch with financial trends. Alpacas Magazine has a strong reputation within the alpaca industry and beyond. It's no surprise then to hear that this magazine has earned the coveted Crystal Communicator's Award – five times in a row. The Crystal Communicator's Award is given to the best of the best in print media.

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



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

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

Once again, the best way to learn more about alpacas is to visit a farm or ranch. Visit www.alpacainfo.com to locate one near you. ☛

Purchasing Your First Alpaca

After looking at ads and seeing the alpacas on TV, you decide you want to become an alpaca owner. The first thing you need to decide is whether you want pet animals, fiber animals or breeding stock. After the decision to purchase, there are basically four ways to purchase alpacas. 1). by private treaty 2). at alpaca shows 3). at an alpaca auction or 4). online.

My first and best way to purchase an alpaca would be by private treaty. Contact AOBA about animals for sale in your area or region. Then, place a few telephone calls about arranging a farm visit. After looking at their alpacas, visit with them about their barn, fencing, breeding program, breeding fees, vet care, ect. When visiting with alpaca farmers, look into their board-

ing fees and live birth guarantees. (Most people have between 2-7 days of live birth guarantees.) Also, visit with the owner about getting a health check from their veterinarian. It will put your mind at ease and you will need it to purchase insurance on your alpacas. Check on delivery of animals to your farm. Will the owner deliver your purchase? One last item to inquire about is if the seller has a finance program available for your alpaca purchase. These financing programs will vary from farm to farm. Discuss with the seller how much support they will give you if you have questions about the alpaca once you have them on your farm. It usually amounts to nothing. Do not be afraid to put miles on your car to see other people's animals, how they use existing building and what

they use for fencing. IT IS MONEY WELL SPENT!

My second choice would be to spend some time at the regional shows watching the judges and visiting with other alpaca owners. But remember the judge is strictly one person's option. Usually there are animals for sale at the show.

My third way to purchase an alpaca would be to buy at an alpaca auction. Look the animals over. Visit with the owners. Set a price you will pay and stick with it. Don't get caught up in the hype.

My last way to purchase an alpaca would be via the internet. But before spending your money, I would strongly recommend to purchase your first alpaca by private treaty. This allows you to see and feel the alpaca. 🐾

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Timnath Alpaca Ranch is located in Timnath, Colorado owned by Virgil and Pat Blackburn. Also, operated by Pat Alger. The ranch was established in 2003 with only a few animals. The ranch now has over twenty animals and attends many Alpaca events around the country. We offer sales, breeding, animal boarding, and a vast variety of products made out of Alpaca fiber. Our pride and joy is a beautiful animal named Bombo, a son of Hemingway who is willing to offer his services to other ranches. Some of the best benefits of having animals is the joy of their company and their fiber makes great products. The fiber is very soft but unlike wool it is not itchy. We can make almost anything from hats all the way down to insoles.

As a ranch we travel to different events such as Alpaca's at the Ranch here at our very own Events Center. These events are fun to all get together and compete with our animals in many different categories. We also get together to display, sell, and judge our fiber and fiber products. Once a year we will all meet up at the big event of the year, AOBA Nationals. These events are a great way to meet new people and just have a fun time.

Alpacas are fun, exciting, and a great way to bring together the family. At our ranch we welcome people who are interested in learning more about these unique animals or purchasing a couple. Next year when the gift-giving season comes around, rethink the ordinary gifts you see everyday. Instead see us for some unique hand made alpaca products and clothing. Please feel free to visit our website www.timnathalpaca.com or contact us by email (info@timnathalpaca.com) or call us at (970)-490-6088 or (303)-466-3794. 🐾

Prairie Sun Ranch Alpacas

Our goal at Prairie Sun Ranch is to produce an award winning herd of superior alpacas through the implementation of a high quality breeding program. We pay close attention to selectively breeding each of our precious females to a herd sire that will provide the best genes for top conformation and excellent fiber quality along with gentle dispositions. We are also striving to maintain the luxurious AMaroon@ color line that we were attracted to as new breeders. As we have researched, studied and worked with these wonderful and lovable creatures, we have gained a great deal of experience and knowledge that we would love to share with you. We encourage you to consider this rewarding lifestyle and let us help you along the way! Start your herd using our superior alpaca genetics! Our herd size currently stands at 31, and we are anxiously awaiting new additions due to arrive next spring and next fall!

Please come visit our ranch and meet our wonderful and friendly alpacas! We are just minutes from Denver less than a mile west of I-25. Call today to set up a time! Also visit our shop for a wide selection of imported and local alpaca apparel and products as well as imported Peruvian novelties. Our shop is located in Lafayette at 409 S. Public Rd in Goldies Gift Shop..

ALPACA BASICS

1. Alpacas are members of the camelid family. They are ruminants with a single stomach that is divided into 3 compartments..

2. Alpacas and their cousins, the llama, were domesticated by the natives of South America over 5000 years ago.

3. Alpacas were first imported to the US in 1984. We now have a national herd of over 100,000 animals.

4. Their life span is approximately 20-25 years, with a gestation period of approximately 11 2 months. The female normally delivers only one cria (baby alpaca) at a time. Most births take place between 7 AM AND 1 PM.

5. They produce a cashmere-like

fleece in 22 natural colors. This fleece is easily dyed and can be combined with silk, mohair and sheep-wool.

6. Alpacas are sheared once a year and produce enough fleece to produce several warm sweaters or other wonderful garments. Their fiber has become a



Donna with Jelena at the 2006 Great Western Alpaca Show in Denver, Colorado

luxury fiber and is sought after by the textile makers of Europe and Japan.

7. Alpacas are safe and gentle animals. They do not bite or butt. They will spit at each other, but seldom at a human. Humans do get caught in the cross fire on occasion, especially at feeding time, when some alpacas get aggressive about protecting their food from the other alpacas.

8. The primary thing alpacas eat is just plain grass or hay. One 60 pound bale of hay will usually feed about 20

alpacas a day. Female alpacas generally weigh from 120 to 180 pounds while the males weigh roughly 150 - 200 pounds.

9. They graze on grass and weeds, but do not destroy the roots. They have soft pads on their feet and are pasture friendly.

10. Alpacas only have teeth on the bottom palate and just a hard gum (dental pad) on top, against which they crush grain, grass and hay.

11. You can raise approximately 5-10 alpacas per acre.

12. Alpacas are intelligent, beautiful, quiet, clean and easily handled and trained.

13. Common uses include breeding stock, 4-H projects, pets and even in pet therapy programs.

14. Alpaca herds use a common dung pile, and often go at the same time! The alpaca Abeans@ compost well and make an excellent fertilizer.

15. They require minimal shelters, do not challenge fencing and are easily raised in most climates.

16. Alpacas are considered disease-resistant, which lowers insurance fees. They can be insured against loss.

17. They do not have to be butchered to make a profit. 🐾

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