

Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy Magazine

The vital resource of the Ag Industry

Southwest / Rocky Mtn. • fall-winter edition 2007

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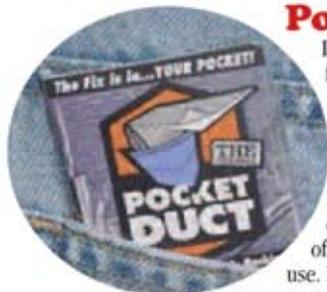
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WHAT TO *DEPEND* ON.

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Photo courtesy of USDA. Inset photo courtesy of National Senior Pro Rodeo Association.

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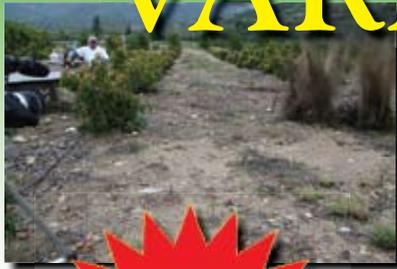
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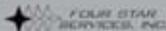
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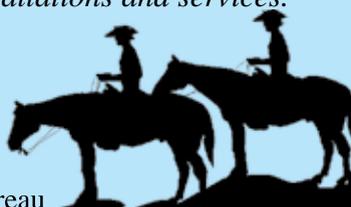
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MIL-STAK Mid-Size Bale Loaders Fast, Simple, Affordable

MIL-STAK has taken great care to design a mid-size bale conversion that does not damage your New Holland bale wagon. Conceived and invented by a custom hay stacking operator, the goal was to design a fast, simple way to single-handedly load and stack mid-size bales with a New Holland bale wagon. Yet equally challenging was to try to retain the ability to quickly switch back to small bale loading. In their Mid-Size Bale Loader, MIL-STAK has accomplished just that.

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 your bale wagon's existing controls, the operator can quickly and easily load a tight, uniform stack of mid-size bales. And with features like the Air Bag that virtually eliminates any side roll of the bale wagon, a specially designed Cushion Valve, which allows operators to

- Adjustable for 3x3 or 3x4 bales
- Quickly & easily removed to allow for small bale loading
- On the go loading, no stopping necessary
- Bolted on mounting bar ties both sides of frame together causing LESS frame and spring breakage
- No welding on your machine
- Delivered to your yard and mounted on your machine
- Plenty in stock



Bale Wagon model no.	1068 1078	1075 1085	BW38 BW28 1095 1089
Total no. of 3x3 bales per load	10	12	15
Total no. of 4x3 bales per load	5	8	10
No. of bales high when in stack	5	4	5

(cannot be mounted on a 1048, 1049 or 1085 because of the engine placement)

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gently place bales on a second table, and the second Table Booster that helps lift the extra weight of the mid-sized bales by lifting toward the front of the second table, which greatly reduces the stress on the pivot pins, the MIL-STAK Mid-Size Bale Loaders are not only a joy to work with, but will help keep your bale wagon around longer by lessening wear and tear. Add in the matching yellow and red paint job, and it's evident that MIL-STAK is the leader in quality and appearance.

MIL-STAK...fast, simple, affordable. For more information call (208) 452-6045, fax (208) 452-6065, or write MIL-STAK INC. at 1350 Glenway, Fruitland, ID 83619. 🐾

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The Safest Burrowing Pest Control Device, Featuring A Wired Remote Control !!

The new VARMITgetter does not use torch handles and mixing tips (they are fine if you are cutting metal). VARMITgetter has designed a consistent mixing technique for the gas to be injected in the tunnel that is three to four times faster than other hand-held devices on the market.

Advantages

- 1 Our wand is meant to be back filled to keep the concussion in the tunnel/burrow and keep the noise level down.
- 2 If you hear a bang you are losing 50 to 70% of your concussion that should be in the tunnel/burrow.
- 3 Saves on your oxygen.
- 4 Hand held devices are DANGEROUS.
- 5 VARMITgetter gets the gas in the tunnel/burrow 3 to 4 times faster than the handheld devices.
- 6 Our device does not have to be cocked and valves to be turned each time you fire it like the handheld that are out there.
- 7 VARMITgetter can be fired repeatedly over and over again, simply by applying the gas and hit the button without being near the blast.
- 8 In VARMITgetter's owners manual it tells you how long to apply the gas depending on what varmint you are dealing with.
- 9 VARMITgetter is priced hundreds of dollars less than the handheld devices on the market and doesn't break down.
- 10 Wired remote control -- up to 25' away from the blast site.
- 11 Operator DOES NOT hold onto applicator, which produces

the blast.

- 12 Operator is not fatigued by the constant concussion of the blast.
 - 13 The other hand-held units cause some operators to flinch, causing not enough gas to be used for proper application.
 - 14 You are able to see the blast from a safe distance at the control box and know how effective it is, versus just hearing it.
 - 15 Able to cover firing cone with loose dirt to help keep gas from escaping and to snuff out possible fire.
 - 16 More portable, easier to move from burrow to burrow, it is smaller and better balanced.
 - 17 Well built to protect sensitive parts, yet readily accessible for easy repair.
 - 18 Extra safety measures are built in, so in the event that the unit has been damaged or misused, you are protected by check valves, flashback arrestors and pressure relief plugs.
 - 19 The firing cone is made smaller, therefore, easier to use on small rodents, such as the gopher and mole, etc.
 - 20 Some repairs can be done while in the field, such as the check valve and wiring.
 - 21 The single dispersion hose provides better gas mix, giving more effective and consistent blasts.
- If you have any questions, would like more information or to purchase call our toll free number 1- 877-XVARMIT or go to www.varmitgetter.com 📞

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!!

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

FARM POND WATER QUALITY MAINTENANCE

By Jim A. Keeton, Fisheries Biologist

A major challenge on the farmstead is maintaining a pond for not only aesthetic appearance, but also a balanced fishery and good water quality. Many ponds are plagued with poor water quality that can result in major algae blooms, fish kills and poor water transparency. Poor water quality is the root of all evil concerning ornamental ponds, resulting in low oxygen; excessive algae and weed growth and not so nice looking water.



Before Microbes

Many of us wonder what are the causes of such conditions and how we can correct them. Most biologists know that excessive nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are the culprits of poor water quality. Even small amounts of these nutrients in water can make a major difference between a clean pond and an unsightly pond.

NUTRIENTS

Sources of nutrient entering a pond come from a variety of sources that we call non-point source pollution because it is hard to identify all sources in particular pond water shed. In agricultural areas, run-off from fields, corrals, barns etc. can contribute large amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen if your



After Microbes

pond is down stream. Even wells can be a major contributor to algae growth if they are loaded with nutrients. Many people assume if the water from a well is clear and cold, then it must be good when in fact, testing many times reveals high levels of phosphorus and even nitrogen.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The key to a successful farm pond management and a beautiful pond are maintaining water quality through a variety of options. The best management approach is solutions that are biological and mechanical, without the use of chemicals. In many cases we cannot control sources of nutrient entering a pond, so in-pond methods can be used to reduce nutrients and maintain good water quality and clarity.

These methods include:

Subsurface aeration, consisting of fine bubble diffusers to increase oxygen, freshening water, reducing nutrients and creating a better aquatic habitat for beneficial organisms to return to the pond. Subsurface aeration is the best as these aerators can circulate large volumes of water from the bottom up with low power consumption when compared to fountains. There are even solar powered aerators for lake and ponds that are as good as an electric unit, with no power costs "ever", but will cost more up front.

Beneficial microbial additions, a new technology that is very effective and a very promising aquatic management tool. Microbes can effectively reduce nutrients to low levels, digest bottom sludge and reduce all forms of nitrogen. Various beneficial microbes are now available for different functions, depending upon pond conditions.

Artificial substrates can be added for ponds that are very eutrophic (heavy nutrient levels), to grow beneficial organisms and absorb nutrients maintaining clear water.

To summarize call a professional biologist that can assess your ponds state of health and make recommendations based upon sound science. In the next article we will expand on aeration, biological management procedures and fishery management. 🐟

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One-Call of Wyoming

In the beginning, Wyoming had several county and regional one-call centers run by a number of coordinating councils serving the State of Wyoming. Many of the centers had been in existence for over 20 years with a loyal following. New federal legislation concerning DOT regulated utilities brought a one-call system issue to the forefront. Contractors had to call a separate number in each county they were working in creating confusion. Underground facility owners with facilities all across the state had to belong to every call center where they had facilities, often requiring them to belong to a number of centers. In 1977 a coalition effort was launched to try to meet the new DOT requirements, and simplify things for the underground facilities owners.

The coordinating councils realized the validity of some of the concerns of the wide area underground facility owners and started to coordinate their efforts in a statewide approach. A statewide toll free number was set up so the contractors only had to call one number. They would then listen to a recording of the counties and press the appropriate number for the county they were digging in. This is the period when the councils joined to form Wyoming Association of Local Utility Coordinating Councils (WALUCC), also doing business as Call Before You Dig (CBYD). At this time there was also some animosity established between the two groups. WALUCC had been in business for many years with happy members.

The creation of two statewide one-call centers was complete. This creation fractionalized the State. Many members in central and northeast Wyoming stayed with their local councils and WALUCC that supported their efforts. The southwest and southeastern portions of the state moved toward

Continued on page 13

Look up, look out, and look around.



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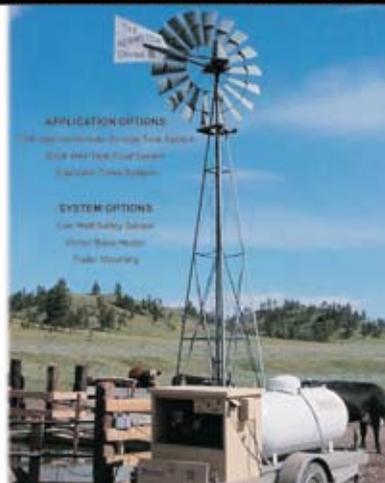


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Egbers on Super Edge



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

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

problem, we can ship pretty much all the replacement parts a customer needs from here." States Laura "That way all your parts come from one location instead of several,"

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

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

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One-Call

Continued from page 11

WOC's operation in Kansas. Most of the rest of the State was undecided and had utilities split between both groups.

In the early days of one call, almost every county had a call center. There was little sophisticated if any software associated with the center. When a locate request was received by the center it was distributed county wide, so there was no sorting or mapping of locate requests. There was not a need for restricting the number of locates, because the numbers were small. The centers offered voice recording, computer tracking, and basic elements and requirements of a call center without the sophisticated software we now so commonly associate with call centers.

The Wyoming Legislature past a law that there would be one call center and



one number. Board Members from both centers were on the Board for the new center and the name of the center would be One-Call of Wyoming. A Request for Proposal was submitted to interested vendors with One Call Systems, Inc., (OCS) out of Pittsburgh, PA, being chosen. The mapping is initiated in Pittsburgh. OCS opened an office in Casper, WY to receive locate requests for the entire State of Wyoming. Holidays and after hours the locates are received in Pittsburgh.

In 2005, the Federal government mandated a national N11 number for "call before you dig". FCC designated 811 as the number and it would be implemented by May 2007.

The 811 number will target diggers, professional excavators and do-it-yourself homeowners.

The 811 number is in service throughout most of the State. 🛠️

Submitted by One-Call of Wyoming's Administration Office

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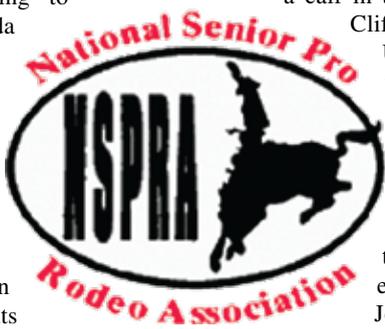
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National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals returns to Winnemucca, Nevada!

More than 350 contestants and their families will be heading to north-central Nevada when Winnemucca again hosts the 2007 Senior National Finals Rodeo, October 31st thru November 3rd. The National Senior Pro Rodeo Association (NSPRA) contestants compete all year long for more than \$1 million in prize money and awards and the chance to be called

“World Champion”. Imagine being over 50 and roping a calf in a time of 9.2 seconds. Cliff Keller from Fairview, UT did just that this year. What about 43 year-old Ross Murrell from Pasco, WA who earlier this year threw his steer in a time of 4.5? Then there are the team ropers—Travis Bard and John MacKenzie from Arizona who roped their steer in 5.9 seconds. This is all just a small part of the excitement the Senior



National Finals Rodeo has to offer! Changes in the format for this year's final will also increase the excitement for contestants and spectators alike. This year, for the first time at the SNFR, spectators will get to see the race for the title of World Champion unfold before their eyes each night. The top four contestants in each timed event will be competing each night, allowing the spectators to closely follow the race for the title of World Champion. Of course, there will also be the top 15 Bull Riders, Saddle Bronc Riders, Bareback Rid-

Senior National Finals Rodeo
October 31st thru
November 3rd, 2007
7:00 p.m. each night

Winnemucca Events Center
Winnemucca, Nevada

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Email: info@seniorrodeo.com Web: www.seniorrodeo.com



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ers, and top 20 Steer Wrestlers in age groups 40-50 and 50+. Timed events will include Calf Roping, Ladies Barrel Racing, Team Roping, and Ribbon Roping with age groups 40-50, 50-60 and 60+, with a special 68+ category in Calf Roping and Ladies Breakaway.

World famous announcer, Don Jesser, from Twin Falls, ID will be announcing this year's SNFR and vendors from all over the west will be set up with a wide variety of items for sale during the week.

For more information on the 2007 Senior National Finals Rodeo, please contact the NSPRA National Office at 406-375-1400 or toll free at 866-831-5432. You can also email at info@seniorrodeo.com or visit the website at www.seniorrodeo.com. 📞

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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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Are you looking to replace your combine or corn head but don't have to capitol to update both? Or do you need to have a specialty head custom built? Or rent a head for harvest? Or are you looking for a Bin Extension? Or wanting to find an easier way to harvest Down Corn? Or do you just want to adapt a newer head to an older combine or an older head to a newer combine. – Either way, we have you covered!

Harv's Farm Supply, manufacturer of BISH brand products – including Bish Head Changers, Bish Bin Extensions, Bish Down Corn Reels and Bish Custom Built Corn and Row Crop Heads – has been in business for 31 years at it's original location 4 miles west of Giltner, Nebraska. Harv's Farm Supply started business in 1976, with the introduction of the Bish Head Changers.

Bish Head Changers are packages which enable producers to place John Deere corn and row crop heads onto the combine that best fits their operations. Originally targeting the John Deere heads to be mounted onto combines of other manufactures, we now mix and match heads of nearly all brands onto combines of the most popular manufactures. This ability to serve the hard working men and women that take grain from the field to the table has lead this business to evolve into a leader of quality products and services that we provide each and everyday.

As the farming practices changed across the country the business grew. Sales of John Deere row crop heads followed shortly after the introduction

of the Bish Head Changer, the two went hand in hand. As farming practices changed and the flex head was brought into production, proving to be a very adequate tool for harvesting soybeans, particularly those planted in rows narrower than 30".

John Deere's decision to discontinue the row crop head, has caused demand to slightly increase, improving the used head market particularly in the hard to find row spacings. Soybeans, sorghum and sunflowers are the crops of choice for these heads.



Originally selling 8 row and smaller row crop and corn heads, we now focus on the needs of producers that require heads not offered by original equipment manufactures. With 100 corn and row crop heads in stock we offer a wide variety of row configurations to meet your needs.

With the introduction of the New Holland – CR Series and the Case IH 70 and 8010 combine -' feeder house widths have increased. Harvs Farm Supply has created a frame with adjustable filler plates to accommodate the New Holland – CR and Case 70 and 8010 as well as many other brands of machines.

We can currently fit our new frames on almost any New Holland, Case IH,

John Deere, Cat Challenger, Cat Lexion, Massey Ferguson and Gleaner combines. This universal feeder house opening on various machines can be obtained with minimal changes to the head due to the use of a Bish Head Changer and allows producers to "share" a head with combines of different manufacturers.

In addition to this newer feeder house opening, we are building a frame specifically designed to accommodate the row units from Case IH 900 and 1000 series heads to be used on the newer

Case 70 and 8010 combines as well as the 21, 23 and 2500 series combines, as well as the John Deere combines. This is very beneficial for a producer that wants a row width up to 40" to have a corn head that will do the best job of cutting up the stalk while being reasonably priced.

One of the main products of our company is our Bish Head Changer, we offer over 70 different possibilities. We welcome your challenges to adapt your favorite combinations of heads and combines. The Bish Head Changer can save you money, as many producers can not afford to update to a newer combine and corn head or cutter bar at the same time.

The Bish head changer allows you to use your existing head to your newer combine. Please call before you make your next leap to a newer piece of equipment as not all combinations are compatible. While we specialize in head changers, but we do not have the same expertise in the wiring for your header height control. For your wiring

needs for your header height control and sensors please call the friendly wiring experts at Headsight Inc. – www.headsight.com.

Harv's Farm Supply has in stock over 50 combinations of drive lines and parts, and we also offer Field Tracker and Contour Master Drive conversion kits, to place your level land head onto a lateral tilt feeder house. We stock custom made stub adapters- such as 1-1/8 hex female to 1-3/8 21 spline male as well as many others. We offer bolt on stub shaft adapters for your John Deere combines which enable you to attach a new head to an older combine via. Telescoping power shaft. These components can all be viewed in detail on our website – www.harv-farmsupply.com

From the 30+ years of experience of building corn and row crop heads we have tried a lot of things, made many business contacts, created products that have had major impacts in the way people harvest and most of all have made a network of not just customers but FRIENDS!

Our website offers most of our inven-

tory at your fingertips, as well as the details of the other great products we offer. Please take a moment to explore our company at www.harv-farmsupply.com and let us help you make your dream a reality.

Harv's Farm Supply is owned by Brad

and Christy Bish. Our address is 508 South "D" Road Giltner, Nebraska 68841. Please contact us at harvs@harv-farmsupply.com or phone 402.849.2674, if you have any questions or comments, we welcome your thoughts. 🍀

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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 progressed to a feed mill with several

retail locations, the development of Loomix liquid feed supplements, and later, the manufacture of fiberglass troughs and tanks.

Dan Loomis joined Loomix, Inc. in 1981, starting in service and, later, moving up to regional sales manager. When the business sold in 1991, Dan purchased the fiberglass division, which has included polyethylene wa-

Pressurized Exhaust Kills Underground Rodents

The patent pending H & M gopher control system uses carbon monoxide from pressurized engine exhaust to kill burrowing rodents such as gophers, ground squirrels, moles and voles.

According to the company, exhaust gas has long been one of the most lethal and least expensive methods to kill burrowing rodents. But until now there hasn't been an economical, efficient delivery system.

Company owners, Allen Hurlburt and Virginia Massey, said that the PERC system (Pressurized Exhaust Rodent Controller) involves a 1/4 inch diameter steel wand that is used to probe the burrow and injects pressurized exhaust via a hand piece valve that fills the burrow with lethal concentrations of carbon monoxide before the rodent has a chance to either escape or block the burrow.

An internal combustion engine, that also drives a compressor pump that pressurizes the exhaust gas to 125 psi in a storage tank, generates the carbon monoxide.

Two models are available. The PERC 412 is a trailer-mounted unit with a 13 hp motor and four reels each with a 50' hose and the hand probe. The 412



features turf tires and is designed to be pulled behind an ATV. It sells for \$6,595 plus S&H.

The PERC 206 is a skid-mounted unit with a 6.5 hp engine, two reels with 50' hoses and hand probes. It sells for \$3,695 plus S&H.

"No special use permits are required and crop stands are not damaged," Hurlburt says. "It is simple to use and safe

for the operator as well as wildlife since there's no poison bait or explosions involved. No other control method is as effective, efficient and as inexpensive to operate as ours."

A PERC system can treat moderately infested alfalfa fields at about 3.5 acres an hour with a single operator, he adds. Each probed location requires only about 20 seconds injection time.

"We have shipped units from Southern California to central Canada and as far east as Kentucky. Though most of our market has been with alfalfa growers, orchard and specialty crop growers have also purchased units. A school district purchased a PERC 206 for their

athletic fields and several government entities are very interested," Hurlburt says.

Contact: H & M Gopher Control
Allen Hurlburt and Virginia Massey
1979 Co. Rd. 106, Tulalake, CA 96134
Phone (530) 667-5181

Email: hurlburt@cot.net
For more information,
www.handmgophercontrol.com

ter 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.

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John Gismondi
Director of Operations

AnBo's rakes designed to help farmers move waste

The hydraulic grapple rake, a versatile new tractor/loader attachment, is giving farmers and ranchers greater control and efficiency in cleaning up, moving, loading, and stacking tasks.

While the dirt bucket has been the standard tractor or loader attachment, it has drawbacks in a variety of tasks requiring control and efficiency such as raking, carrying, or stacking.

Because it's more efficient and adaptable than the bucket, the grapple rake, which hydraulically opens, closes, and moves its jaws of spaced metal tines, is becoming indispensable. It can remove trees and brush or surface rake limbs and debris without piling up unnecessary dirt. It can dig out roots, stumps, and rocks. It can pick up, move, and stack logs and hay bales. It can even lightly plow and efficiently tackle a variety of tasks requiring more control than the typical bucket provides.

Dorman Walser, who farms and ranches 4,000 acres in Crowell, Texas, used a standard bucket attachment on his Caterpillar loader, as well as other implements, to remove trees/brush, move firewood, and haul hay. He was less than satisfied with the results.

"The bucket could pile stuff up, but couldn't rake or stack," Walser says. "It dug into the ground and picked up a lot of

trash and dirt that we had to sort out. It wouldn't hold things in place."

To dig out roots, Walser resorted to plowing. "The plows would hang up on roots and tear up shanks," he says.

While hayforks could move hay bales, they lacked the control necessary to stack them. Says Walser, "When the bale rolled off the fork, I'd have to hope it rolled where I wanted it."

A firewood side business was also too manually labor intensive, requiring sorting through logs and debris.

Walser needed a tool strong enough to pick up stumps, logs, and hay bales, controllable enough to stack them, and versatile enough to efficiently rake up twigs and limbs without piling up dirt. It also had to be strong enough to withstand long wear without breaking teeth.

He turned to a hydraulic grapple rake by Colville, Washington-based AnBo Mfg., which specializes in high quality designed products for tractors, loaders, and skid steers.

AnBo built the grapple rake to fit Walser's Caterpillar loader so no brackets were needed. The grapple rake operates with the loader like a bucket. You can raise and lower it, roll it forwards or backwards. Opening and closing its jaws of spaced metal tines is controlled by a third hydraulic function.

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Walser chose an 8-foot grapple rake with 6-inch tine spacing to allow dirt but not brush to sift through the rake's tines. AnBo uses a special type of steel that has twice the yield strength (resistance to bending) and a much higher Brinell Hardness rating (resistance to wear) than T-1 steel.

When he uses the grapple rake to remove trees, stumps, and roots, he's confident it'll pick up the load without bending teeth or cluttering things up with debris.

"I can pick up whatever I want with it, from stumps as big as people to brush, without picking up dirt," he says. "It's great for grubbing out stumps and roots, and can do the work of five men moving and stacking logs in our firewood business."

He uses the grapple rake not only to rake up tree limbs, brush, and trash, but also to lightly plow the ground in preparation for planting improved grass seed for cattle pasture. "Because you can do everything with it from removing stumps, to raking, to light plowing, it makes for a fast, easy way to get a clean pasture," he says.

Walser uses the grapple rake to pick up, place, and stack square and round hay bales on a truck trailer, in addition to taking hay straight to the cattle from a haystack. "The grapple rake gives us more control than a hay fork," he says. "With it, you can pick up, turn, set down and stack bales wherever you want. It's a great tool for so many applications, and is quick to change over from a bucket."

Dennis Sherer, who grows corn and soy beans and runs a cow/calf operation on 2,000 acres southeast of Kansas City, Mis-

souri, had removed trees from a hedge row that was damaging a fence, and whose roots were jutting into a field. He was frustrated with pushing the trees on the ground with a dozer bucket for burning disposal. Trying to remove the roots with a chisel plow wasn't working, and he disliked how waste hay fell from the bucket when cleaning around the cow racks each winter.

He turned to a 7' AnBo grapple rake as an attachment for his tractor loader, and found the going much easier.

"Instead of pushing trees along the ground, I pick them up with the grapple rake and carry them to the pile," says Sherer. "It grabs everything like the fingers of your hand, and gives you more control. With it, you can pick up just about anything off the ground. It saves lots of time picking up waste cow feed to spread over the pasture."

Sherer has used his grapple rake to pick up, move, or load items that are difficult or inconvenient to do by hand. He's used it to pull trees back from fence lines. He's used it to load wood posts. He's used it to pick up scrap iron, old tires, and concrete foundation pieces. With it, he plans to tear down old wood buildings and load them onto a truck for removal.

"It's a great time saver," concludes Sherer. "I wish I'd heard of it earlier."

For more information, call 866-684-3330 toll free; fax 509-684-1997; email sales@anbomanufacturing.com; visit www.anbomanufacturing.com on the internet; or write to AnBo Manufacturing, Inc. at 685 S. Elm, Colville, WA 99114. ☎

The Columbia Basin Farmer, September 2006

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Agro Trend Mfg.

Agro Trend Mfg. has been serving customers in Ontario for the past 16 years. Like their product, their service is solid and built to last. Strong ties have been forged with customers based on integrity and a pledge to deliver a quality product on time and at a fair price.

The Schildroth family of Listowel has owned Agro Trend Mfg. since 1991.

“The company had a pretty good product line—the product was well-designed,” said managing director Rodger Schildroth.

Agro Trend Mfg. is best known for its blowers which rate amongst the top models in the market. The company’s 14 models from the 3’6” to the 9’ heavy duty have proven track records. The newest model is the heavy duty 102” single auger.

However, the company has expanded its equipment line considerably and improved existing products. In addition to snow blowers the company sells a range of cutters, dump trailers and sprayers.

At Agro Trend Mfg., product changes are precipitated by customer feedback or competition. “Our customers are the expert

son the equipment and we listen closely to what they say. As well, if we see a good idea in the market, we improve on it,” Schildroth said.

One of the products the company recently upgraded is a big dump wagon called the Big Mudder. It has been upgraded to an 18-ton capacity with a new undercarriage to handle the increased capacity.

Agro Trend tends to be loyal to their suppliers because that relationship is very important. “If we build a long-term relationship, when a problem arises, it gets solved quickly. Also, we get to know the supplier’s product—we know the limits to which it can be pushed and we don’t have to worry about it. If you look at a piece of shafting in a gear box, you can’t tell the quality of steel by looking at it. The only test is when it is under load,” he said.

Loyalty, however, doesn’t mean Agro Trend is blindfolded.



The company is looking carefully at offshore suppliers for opportunities.

Aside from the manufacturing end, the company is also experiencing changes in the sales process. “We run our business a little differently from some. We try to have dealers set up without any other dealers in the area,” Schildroth explained. However, as the big tractor companies consolidate their dealers, it becomes more difficult to give dealers an area to themselves.

“For instance, we may deal with one company that has five locations, but the other two dealers they bought are right beside our best dealer. This is out of our control,” he said.

Consolidation of dealers is one of Agro Trend’s concerns for the future. With fewer independent dealers, companies like Agro Trend have less choice of where their equipment can be sold because some of the big companies don’t like their dealers to sell short line products. There is some consolation that growing offshore tractors are gaining market share and are willing to include other products in their dealerships. Agro Trend currently has dealers in Ontario, Quebec, The Maritimes and the Northeastern United States.

As with many businesses, the continuing success through all the changes, negotiating and selling comes down to people. “The best part of the last 16 years is the people we deal with. We rely on our employees who produce and sell the best quality equipment. In turn we supply it to our dealers, who we expect are proud to sell our products,” he said. “That’s what makes this business enjoyable.”

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Alpaca Farms Celebrate First Ever “National Alpaca Farm Day”

On September 29 and 30, alpaca breeders from across the United States and Canada will invite the public to come to their farm or ranch to meet their alpacas and learn more about these inquisitive, unique animals for the first National Alpaca Farm Day.

Alpacas, cousins to the llama, are native to the Andean Mountain range of South America, particularly Peru, Bolivia, and Chile.

Alpacas were first imported into the United States in 1984. Since then, the alpaca industry has grown steadily, according to the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA), the backbone of the alpaca industry. Current estimates total over 100,000 registered alpacas with the Alpaca Registry, Inc. (ARI) in the United States and more than 4,000 AOBA members in North America.

There are two types of alpacas in the United States today. Although almost physically identical, what distinguishes the two types of alpacas is their fiber. The Huacaya (wa-Ki'-ah) is the more common of the two and has a fluffy, extremely fine coat. The Suri is the rarer of the two and has fiber that is silky and resembles pencil-locks.

Adult alpacas stand at approximately 36 inches at the withers and generally weigh between 150 and 200 pounds. They do not have horns, hooves, claws or incisors. Alpacas are alert, intelligent, curious, and predictable. Social animals that seek companionship, they communicate most commonly by softly humming.

Alpacas are shorn, without harm, every twelve to eighteen months. They produced five to ten pounds of luxurious fiber. Long ago, alpaca fiber was reserved for royalty. Today it is purchased in its raw fleece form by hand-spinners and fiber artists. Knitters buy it as yarn.

Because of its soft texture, alpaca fiber is sometimes compared to cashmere. Making the fiber even more coveted, it has the luster of silk. Alpaca is just as warm as, yet 1/3 the weight of wool. It comes in 22 natural colors, yet can be dyed any desired shade.

Containing no lanolin, alpaca fiber is also naturally hypoallergenic. Most people who are sensitive to wool find that they can wear alpaca without the itching or irritation they feel from wool because alpaca fiber is smooth.

Additional performance characteristics include: stretch, water repellency, and odor reduction. For travelers, clothing made from alpaca is desirable because it is wrinkle-resistant.

The alpaca industry has seen a continued growth over the past 23 years. The secret to a lucrative alpaca career is constant education. There are a number of resources for those interested in starting their own alpaca business, such as attending alpaca local, regional and national AOBA certified shows and events. To find a complete list of these events, go to www.alpacainfo.com and click on “Calendar of Events.”

Another great way to learn is to join AOBA as an associate

member, which will give you a subscription to Alpacas Magazine and the OneVoice newsletter, plus access to the AOBA lending library. The AOBA lending library is one of the largest alpaca-related libraries in the world. AOBA’s marketing Committee has produced several resources to purchase or to borrow. Topics include everything from care, feed and nutrition to how to raise you alpaca in general.

The best way to learn about the alpaca business, however, is to visit alpaca farms in your area. The breeders will gladly answer all your questions and share helpful information about their experiences of starting up.

While most alpaca farms open their doors to visitors any time, National Alpaca Farm Day is sure to include special activities and educational opportunities at a farm or ranch near you!

To find out more about National Alpaca Farm Day visit www.NationalAlpacaFarmDay.com. To locate a farm or ranch near you to visit any time, visit the Farm and Ranch Locator at www.AlpacaInfo.com or call the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association at (800) 213-9522. 🐾

NATIONAL ALPACA FARM DAY
September
29 & 30, 2007

Meet the alpacas!
Find a participating alpaca
farm or ranch to visit at
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beef – dairy

Oxy Blast Plus

Oxy Blast Plus, produced by Essential Water Solutions, Inc. of Story City, IA, is an economical water treatment and health enhancing alternative for dairy cows. Oxy Blast Plus is a base of 50 percent hydrogen peroxide with a proprietary blend of over 30 herbal antibiotics and over 70 trace minerals that work synergistically to potentize the hydrogen peroxide.

As a water treatment, Oxy Blast Plus does two things: 1) It rids the water of the common contaminants such as sulfur (causing a rotten egg smell), manganese (the black stuff) and iron slime. It also helps to precipitate out the iron so the iron can be effectively removed with an optional sediment filter producing better quality water. Better quality water means that cows will drink more water which in turns encourages more dry matter intake, which usually encourages higher milk production. 2) It cleans up the water lines, spray nozzles and stock tanks.

As a health enhancing alternative, producers tell us they see more milk production, lower somatic cell counts, less incidences of mastitis, better conception rates while lowering vet bills. Oxy Blast Plus may also be used as an effective and economical teat dip, a topical application use for hairy wart, and the use as a natural dewormer. Oxy Blast Plus can dissipate chlorine

out of municipal or rural water supplies and is approved for organic dairy farming use. Oxy Blast Plus is injected directly into the water system by a peristaltic squeeze pump that administers Oxy Blast Plus into the water supply. The proper level of Oxy Blast Plus to be used depends on the ORP (oxidation reduction potential) level of the water which is directly influenced by the pH of the water.

The perfect companion for the Oxy Blast Plus to reduce pH is also available. It is called Perfect Companion 7. Combination ORP/pH meters are available to measure ORP levels so you can get the most effective use out of the Oxy Blast Plus as possible when lowering the pH to 7.0.

Oxy Blast Plus is very economical to use. Depending on the size of container, the volume you purchase and the maintenance level you run it at, it could cost only 2 – 4 cents per cow per day. Dairy producers have seen this investment pay back as much as twenty dollars to every one dollar invested! Oxy Blast Plus is represented by distributors and dealers from all over the U.S. The system comes with a buy back guarantee on the pump within a period of four months. Contact Essential Water Solutions, Inc. today so that you can start your animals drinking the best quality water possible. 🐄

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AGRI-TRAC

More Than Just Traction... It's Profit For The Farmer!

For years the dairy industry has been searching for the solution to lameness issue with cattle. There have been attempts made to eliminate or reduce



lameness through altering floor designs such as grooving, the use of rubber, scabbling etc. All of these efforts may appear to be the fix in the short term but over time they have not proven themselves.

AGRI-TRAC, a patented process and anti-slip surface, milled into existing concrete floors is proving to be the fix for slippery floors which leads to hoof and leg injuries which lead to lameness.

Tom Woodall, the founder of AGRI-TRAC, worked with the slat manufacturers to come up with a process which would allow the prefabricated material to be resurfaced when they became slippery. At the time, Woodall was using a concrete planer attachment on a BOBCAT to resurface dairy barn floors in southern Ontario. This process was far too aggressive to be used on slat floors completely

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destroying them when tested.

Two years of design and testing lead to the development of the AGRI-TRAC process which was endorsed by the slat manufacturers and lead to the current patent. The end result was a surface which has a corduroy texture and is more suitable for hoof health than the planer's surface.

That was ten years ago. Today AGRI-TRAC is making a name for itself with dairy herds in 9 states and 9 provinces benefiting from the finish. Until just recently Woodall has been a one man and one machine show which has provided the finish to over 550 different barns covering over 1.2 million square feet or 27.6 acres of solid floor coverage.

With the word of mouth advertising AGRI-TRAC is getting from the farmers, hoof trimmers, veterinarians and nutritionists, the demand has grown to a point where he can no longer support the demands of Canada let alone the



added demands from states like Wisconsin, New York and Minnesota. The added hurdles imposed on North America as a result of 9-11 have also created problems with AGRI-TRAC's abilities to provide service into the United States.

Why the demands?

Results and information provided by the dairy farmers who have had the AGRI-TRAC finish machined into their floors to date show:

- **Milk productivity increases of up to 18%**
- **Heat detections increased by up to 50%**
- **Hoof and leg injuries reduced by up to 55%**
- **Cull rate reductions of up to 22%**
- **Payback on cost in as little as 7 months**

Hoof trimmers have indicated that they have seen a reduction of income from farms having been AGRI-TRACed by up to 35%, stating that they are generally providing a manicure service rather than having to block and repair hoof damage suffered from previous flooring conditions. They are finding that the hoof is wearing evenly and at a rate slightly slower than the rate of growth.

AGRI-TRAC also aids in preventing and fighting off strawberry foot and other viruses. When comparing the manure storage of a grooved floor and that of an AGRI-TRAC floor, the AGRI-TRAC floor holds 1/4 the amount of manure reducing the amount of bacteria left on the floor after having been scraped.

All of this equals PROFIT to the farmer.

Woodall has recently hired on two crews to provide the Canadian dairy farmers a more timely service. He has cus-

tomers that have waited for up to 10 months to have their barns completed after having had a trial area finished in their barns and then requesting the remainder of the barn be completed after experiencing the benefits of the service. New customers have been patiently waiting knowing that when AGRI-TRAC arrives a lot of their hoof health, lameness and heat detection issues will be addressed and taken care of.

For the dairy farmers in the United States, Woodall is looking to develop a dealer network to provide services to them. The affects of 9-11 have virtually shutdown the border and his ability to get into the country. He has many customers in the Wisconsin area and New York state who have been demanding his services.

AGRI-TRAC has recently started to work with 2 recognized and respected non-partisan groups who are in the dairy industry to substantiate the data that has been provided by the farmers. The goal is to change the theory of power trowel and grooving new barn floors to provide a defense against slipping. Woodall believes that a good quality surface finish can be put into freshly poured concrete using a rollerbug tool will provide a good stable no slip surface for up to 4 to 6 years at no cost to the farmer. When that surface wears and becomes slippery then call AGRI-TRAC.

For information pertaining to AGRI-TRAC call 1-877-966-3546, visit the web site www.agritraction.com or visit us at the World Dairy Expo in Madison Wisconsin. 🍷



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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. 🐏

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Mexico wool we handle has grown. We are now the largest wool warehouse by volume, under one roof, in the United States. Therefore we attract wool buyers from all over the world. We offer our wool on consignments to all wool buyers at our regularly scheduled wool sales each year. We have sales in January, February, April, May, October and December. Wool buyers who come to our sales have core information/grab samples/sample bales from each lot of wool offered for sale to make their visual inspection of each lot.

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

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

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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.

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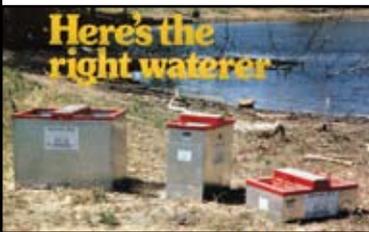
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