

Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy Magazine

The vital resource of the Ag Industry

Southwest / Four Corners • spring edition 2004

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

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Telemetry System Helps Scientists Study Heat Stress In Cattle • Pg. 8

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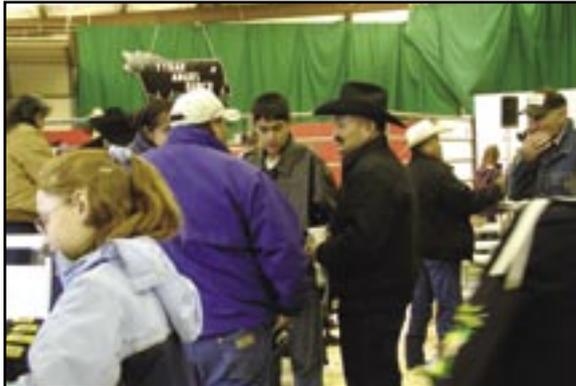
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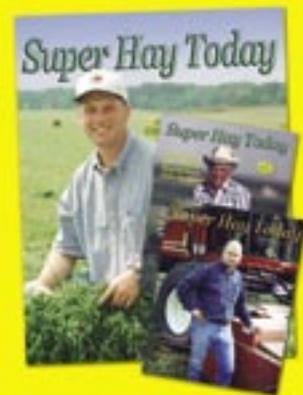
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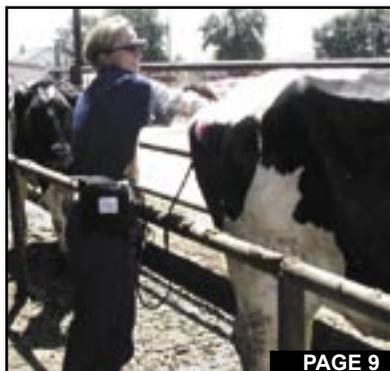
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On The Cover

Photo courtesy of Hakmet, Ltd.
For more, see page 31. Inset
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Steel. For more, see page 5.

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Why Stampede Steel Mfg.??

This may be a question you ask yourself before making your next major purchase of cattle handling equipment. We at Stampede Steel, manufacture a diverse line of cattle handling equipment. You may wonder, "What makes Stampede Steel different in the market place?" Well, ask yourself these questions.

Have you ever:

Had to work your cattle alone?

Had your cattle turn on you in the alleyway?

Had a bull or cow that did not fit in your Squeeze?

Wished you could nurse a calf in your squeeze chute?

Implanted or ear tagged and wished you had a way to restrain the animal's head?

Had cattle turn backwards on you in the tub and get wedged in the "V"? Which meant you had to open the tub door, so the animal would turn towards the alley.

When feeding your cattle, have you looked at all the hay around the feeder and thought "What a waste of money"??

If you have answered YES to any of these questions, then you need to talk to us at Stampede Steel! Our equipment is designed to work with the natural instincts of cattle as well as efficiency for the cattle handler!

We have designed cattle equipment that one person can operate from the back of the working area! This alone sets us in the forefront of the industry! By being able to run the squeeze chute from the back, we can stand out of the flight zone and in the comfort zone of the cattle. This allows the cattle to flow smoothly through the system with minimal hesitation. The need for multiple people in the handling area is no longer a necessity!

Our equipment is built heavy, and user friendly so you will get many years of use out of your dollar. We, at Stampede Steel Mfg. are not just manufacturers. We are Cattlemen and Ranchers as well. We understand the need to handle our cattle quietly and safely! By being as involved in the industry as we are, we realize the value of a dollar, and the need to stretch it as far as possible! This is why we have developed the equipment as we did. More value for your buck! We are constantly listening to fellow producers who bring us new ideas that better our equipment. These are the reasons why we are staying in the forefront of our industry.

By bringing new concepts to our forever changing industry, we are able to offer the producer new and improved ways of handling cattle. In an industry that has been around for centuries, we have taken older concepts and brought them to the new millennium.

At Stampede Steel Mfg. all we ask is for the chance to speak with you and offer our comments and expertise. You will find that we at Stampede, are manufactures of steel products and our strength is in our personnel and their pride of workmanship! Let Stampede Steel help you handle your cattle more efficiently and safely.

Stampede Steel is located in Linden, Alberta a small community one hour north of Calgary, AB Canada. Established in 1992, Stampede Steel is a young, but progressive and aggressive company which is currently expanding our dealer network. We look forward to hearing from you, so watch for us at your local ag trade shows and ag publications in your area. We wish a prosperous 2004 to all Farmers, Ranchers and Cattlemen!



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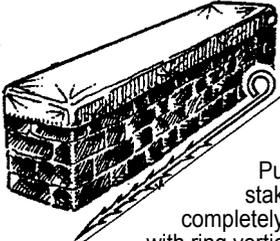
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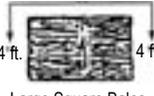
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IONO-LYX® B300 is the best method to deliver an ionophore to pasture cattle. Like all CRYSTALYX® products, IONO-LYX® B300 is designed to be fed on a free-choice basis.

IONO-LYX® delivers:

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- Improved forage utilization
- Economical cost per-head, per-day
- Excellent return on investment

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Telemetry System Helps Scientists Study Heat Stress In Cattle

A temperature sensor and transmitter, placed inside a small capsule inserted into a cow, will help researchers more effectively measure the animal's core body temperature, according to Agricultural Research Service scientists and cooperators who studied the technology.

Gaining accurate information on an animal's internal temperature is important for researchers who are conducting long-term heat stress experiments on livestock. Heat stress can kill livestock or reduce their productivity, causing losses for producers.

Agricultural engineer Tami M. Brown-Brandl of the ARS Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Neb., worked with agricultural engineers from sev-

eral domestic and international universities to evaluate a commercially available telemetry system from HQ, Inc. of Palmetto, Fla.

The system consists of a capsule containing a temperature sensor, battery and transmitter, and a data recorder. For short-term measurements in pigs and poultry, the animal can swallow the capsule. For longer-term studies, the capsule is surgically inserted into the animal, where it can last for up to a year, an important advantage for long-term heat stress experiments. In cattle that Brown-Brandl studied, for example, a veterinarian inserted a three-inch-long capsule in each animal's abdominal cavity. The data recorders were placed on their backs to record body temperatures.

More Cattle May Be Tested For Mad Cow Disease

After doubling its testing for mad cow disease in response to the first case in the United States, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman says the government may expand its survey beyond the 40,000 animals as planned.

Testifying Feb. 25 before the House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on agriculture, Veneman did not specify how many more animals might be tested as part of what she called "a very aggressive surveillance plan." The tests will include some apparently healthy animals, she said, in addition to those thought to be at high risk.

An international review panel had recommended an aggressive surveillance program to determine the risk of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE in the United States. Although the disease has been found only in one U.S. cow, the panel said an unknown number of other animals might be carrying BSE's infectious protein.

Testing for the brain-wasting disease currently focuses on slaughterhouses and live animals that show some risk factors for BSE, such as twitching or other signs of nerve disease. The BSE protein can lay dormant for years, so cattle 30 months of age or older also are tested.

Consumer and health groups have been calling for expanded testing. Some U.S. trading partners, including Japan and South Korea, have said they will not lift their import bans on American beef and cattle until all animals are tested.

Rosedale Farrier Supply

Rosedale Farrier Supply opened its doors in Bakersfield California in 1998. It is owned and operated by Brad Allen an American Farriers Association Certified Journeyman Farrier with 24 years of experience. Brad is also a tester for The American Farriers Association certification program.

Although when Rosedale Farrier Supply originally opened, it was primarily a horseshoeing supply store. It has evolved into a full ranch supply with feed, tack, panels, gates, chutes, fencing supplies,

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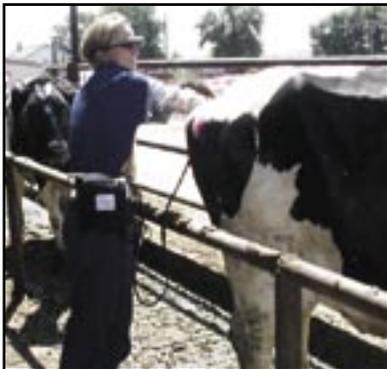
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"Dairy, Swine, and Equine breeders are realizing that they can be more efficient in their own herd's reproductive management when using ultrasound" says Mia Pettek sales manager for E.I. Medical.

Robert Strack's Dairy, Ft. Lupton, Co said, "I was hesitant to use ultrasound myself. I thought it would be too difficult and take too much time for me to use. But E.I. Medical has shown me the benefits, and now with a little training and some practice, I feel confident in my skills".

E.I. Medical a World Leader in animal ultrasound technology since 1984, presents the NEW 'Bantam' Portable Ultrasound Scanner. The 'Bantam' takes



mobile scanning to a whole new level in portability and durability. The entire scanner weighs only 30 ounces and includes the on-board lithium battery pack. This scanner is designed, built, and accepted in the animal industry for its total mobility and extreme accuracy in

pregnancy detection of dairy/beef cows, sows and horses. Owners and herds-men are able to reduce non-productive days of their dairy herd by scanning during lock-up and sow farms scanning crate to crate where mobility is not only important but also occasionally mandatory to the scanning procedure.

"I'm using my own time and staff more efficiently and my vet is able to focus on more important things" says Chris Wagner, Towle Neighborhood Farm, Franklin, VT.

The 'Bantam' utilizes the latest 'high-tech' electronics available in one multi-layer printed circuit board to ensure the highest quality image. The scanner also comes standard with the lightweight, 100% digital 'ei-site' glasses, which become your viewing monitor. This feature allows the user both 'hands-free' for scanning purposes as well as being able to keep the scanning area in clear field of view even in bright sunlight conditions. The 'ei-site' glasses are completely digital with a total of 480,000 pixels or equivalent to viewing a standard 62-inch TV monitor.

For early pregnancy detection, under typical on-farm conditions, a realistic time frame would be 25-28 days post



breeding for cows, 18-21 days for sows, and 12-14 days for equine. Universities have reported accuracy reaching in the 99% percentile with the 'Bantam' Ultrasound Scanner. Universities have also reported reducing non-productive days by 15 days per cow per year and 10 NPSD's in swine. "If you put a dollar amount on every non-productive day saved in a breeding herd the math is quick evidence of how a machine pays for itself and starts contributing to the bottom line," says Mia Pettek at E.I. Medical. Not only is ultrasound a management tool, it is an investment in the future.

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Zapata Seed Company

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

In 1993, Michael K. Horton was employed as the General Manager of Zapata Seed Company bringing 19

years of seed production experience to the operation. Mike was previously employed for 12 of those years as a Research Farm Technician at the Colorado State University San Luis Valley Research Center. The Greenhouse Manager is Chris Padilla with seven years of greenhouse experience.

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

The mother plants for the greenhouse cuttings come from Colorado State

University's clone bank to ensure that they are free of disease and genetically true. The cutting process seems endless, as over 110,600 plantlets are needed to fill the next greenhouse crop. Two visual inspections are made on each greenhouse crop as well as an Elisa Test on tubers of each lot grown. Strict sanitation has and continues to be a key to Zapata's success in both the greenhouse and the field.

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

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

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

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Woodpecker Truck

Full Service Truck Dealership

Woodpecker Truck & Equipment is a full service heavy duty truck and trailer dealership founded in 1960 by Woody Clark in Pendleton, OR. With over 300 medium and heavy duty trucks to choose from, Woodpecker Truck is one of the largest new and used truck dealerships in the United States, representing Navistar International and Western Star Trucks. Woodpecker Truck is an authorized sales, parts, and service facility having additional locations in Troutdale, OR and Yakima, WA.

Woodpecker Truck has a large selection of late model, low mileage tandem and single axle AG rental trucks for sale. We sell trucks with or without beds. Check out Woodpecker's rental and leasing department's large inventory of trucks (highway, water, dump) and trailers (belly dump, pups, grain, flat) for rent for all your farm and construction needs.

Woodpecker Truck's goal is to continue the tradition of hard work, honesty and fairness to our current customers, as well as aggressively seeking out new opportunities to serve the American Trucker. We are very proud of our parts department which carries over 1.5 million dollars in medium and heavy duty computerized brand truck parts and large used parts with salvage and rebuilt components you can rely on.

The sales department's hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday (Pacific Time). The service department's highly trained Cat, Cummins, and Detroit Diesel Engine Technicians also offer front-end alignment, frame straightening and body shop services. Hours of operation are 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday (Pacific Time). Check our ad to call a dealership near you to check out our inventory.

After hours road service is also available. You can now apply for your rental lease application online at www.woodpeckertruck.com/rent

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Wilson Wheel Corral

The Wilson Wheel Corral, created and built by Wilson Mfg., Inc. of Cherokee, Oklahoma, is designed to save you, the rancher time and money with an easier method of setting up panels for loading cattle or horses to move to market. One man can easily set up the corral in only seven (7) minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Wilson Wheel Corral can be pulled by one pickup and set up by one man in seven minutes on rough ground.

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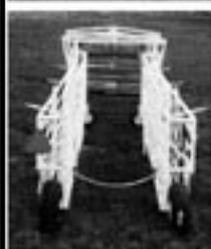
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Harleman Mfg. L.L.C. builds Ground Force Post Hole Diggers, Heavy Duty Rock Diggers and Augers to fit any application. Home of the most powerful Ground Force Post Hole Digger that has ever been built, Harleman Mfg designed this digger for years of trouble free service. It is built tough to last and will perform beyond your expectations. The Ground Force Post Hole Diggers were built to drill holes where you need them and will drill in solid rock, concrete, compacted and frozen soils.

This down pressure post hole digger diverts the weight of the tractor to the drilling surface of the bit, increasing drilling performance. The Ground Force is a complete down pressure post hole digger for a Category 2-Three-Point Hitch. It comes with an 88 HP Gear Box, N35 series PTO Shaft, and Carbide Bullet Tooth Rock Augers that will drill in rock conditions, including SOLID rock. Augers are available from 6 inch to 24 inch diameters.

The Ground Force Diggers Model F8C are designed to be used on 60 HP and larger tractors, and should not be attached to smaller tractors. This also applies to the Conversion Kit.

Mounting Digger to Tractor. The Ground Force Diggers come equipped with side adjusting links, used to lock the three-point hitch in a rigid position. The side adjusting links should be used to determine the height the digger will be carried on the tractor. Shortening the side arms will result in the digger being carried at a higher position. Lengthening the side arms will result in the digger being carried at a lower position. The higher position will increase ground clearance. The lower position will increase drilling depth.

Once the bolts are installed in the side adjusting links, the three-point hitch is locked from moving up or down. The three-point hitch control lever on the tractor is to be placed in a lowered position and not used as long as the digger is attached to the tractor. The Remote hydraulic lever is used to operate the digger, not the three-point hitch.

A Down Pressure Conversion Kit comes with a New Frame, Lock Down, Hydraulic Cylinder and a Hose Kit. The only parts you use from your old digger is PTO Shaft, Gear Box and auger will convert all post hole diggers to a digger that will drill rock when fitted with a Rock Auger.

Harleman Mfg. offers the whole spectrum of leasing. Lease purchase options include:

- Fair Market Value/Technology Refresh Lease - provides options for continuing Equipment upgrades.
- First Amendment Lease - features purchase or renewal options.
- Leases that include service and /or supplies.
- Tax Exempt Municipal Leases (offering extremely low rates to state and county Authorities, cities, public schools districts, etc. Call for special rates).
- Master Lease Agreements (for larger customers with ongoing equipment needs).

For your safety, always use EXTREME CAUTION when using any type of equipment! Accidents can happen in the blink of an eye. Never allow anyone to stand within 25 feet of digger when in operation and always make sure tractor is in a level position!

Harleman Mfg. has your digger waiting for you. Contact them today at 660-598-2227 or Fax: 660-598-6870. Online ordering is available. Please contact them for shipping charges before ordering. Truck freight is available to all locations, or can be picked up on-site at Harleman Mfg. L.L.C. Factory.

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Fehr Cab Interiors

Is your cab environment healthy? Have you ever noticed how the wall and ceiling foam deteriorates into powder, sifting into dusty particles, making your cab environment dirty and noisy? Or have the mice chewed up all the foam in your combine cab? Fehr Cab Interiors has manufactured replacement acoustical cab kits to renew the cabs on most tractors and combines since 1988. When the foam disintegrates, the acoustical sound control is also lost that you need to cut down on the noise decibels that can damage your hearing.

Fehr Cab Interiors kits consist of new pre-cut parts to replace the old, deteriorated acoustic foam on the walls and headliners of agri-equipment, to make the cabs quieter and to improve appearance. FCI kits also include the best aerosol adhesive made for foam to metal contact and easy-to-follow instructions. Precut floor mats are available for most cabs,

composed of industrial quality matting bonded to closed-cell insulation. FCI has expanded their product lines to include most pre-formed headliners, which are vacuum-formed on-site, including the AC 8000-series, Ford 7700 & TW-series, the Case-IH Magnum, JD 30, 40, 50, 55 & 60-series. They now also offer the newer JD 7200 and JD 8100-series and versatile Series 4 headliners in the original material. In order to ensure that all parts fit properly, many kits are installed for customers right at their shop, when farmers bring tractors there to replace the cab lining. In the past year, the inventory of on-stock items has been expanded, so your replacement kit can be shipped out to you the same day that you or-



der. Replacing the old, dirty foam panels with new pre-cut parts will also increase the resale value of your equipment. Call Fehr Cab Interiors today for a catalog and latest prices. Our farmer-friendly policy is: *your satisfaction or your money back.*

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30 series	2WD \$124, 4WD \$149		
40 & 50 series	2WD \$149, 4WD \$189	700, 800, 850, 900	\$184
3 part headliner for 30,40 & 50 series	\$189	700 to 900 series II	\$144
30, 40 & 50 series post kits	2WD \$45, 4WD \$55	555 to 975 series III	\$409
30 series pre-cut floor mat	2WD \$74, 4WD \$109	756 to 976 without headliner	\$349
IH		WHITE	
56 series deluxe cab	\$159	2-105, 2-135	\$149
86 series	black \$99, brown \$104	2-135, 2-180	\$269
88 series	\$109	4-150 + 180	\$174
86 & 88 series headliners	\$104		
4386, 4586, 4786	\$294	JD 3300, 4400 & 4200	\$154
CASE		COMBINE	
70 series	\$219	JD 66 & 7700 w/headliner	\$164
90 series	2WD \$209, 4WD \$219	JD complete 20 series kit	\$284
94 series in gray 13, 14 & 15	\$199	IH 715	\$199
18 & up \$224, 4WD	\$229	IH 815 & 915	\$139
FORD		1400 series	
8600 & 9600	\$299	NH TR70	\$165
7700 & TW series sm. tool box	\$189	NH TR 75, 85 & 95	\$175
lg. tool box	\$209	Gleaner "shortback"	\$99
headliner	\$250	Gleaner "longback"	\$149
AC		MF 750 & 760	red \$194, silver \$219
200	\$189	MF 850 & 860 brown	\$219
7000	\$134	w/padded steering post	\$338
7010-7080	\$239	White 8600 & 8800	\$154 black dash \$204
8010-8070	\$199	White 8700 & 8900	\$249

This is just a partial listing of items we have available. Some other items are sound barriers, door seals, floor mats & heat deflectors. Please call and check with us for any applications not listed. Call for Custom Installation.

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Press Technology was founded in 1992 by industry design expert Mr. George Berner P.E. who offers more than 40 years of experience in engineering,

manufacturing and product development. His credits include the design and development of screw presses for several leading manufacturers of pulp and paper equipment.

Contact us regarding questions, more information, sample testing, or to schedule an equipment demonstration or consultation at your facility. Phone: 937-327-0755 Fax: 937-327-0756 Website: www.prestechnology.com

Maze Innovations • Get Rid Of Nuisance Pests For Good

The GOPHINATOR is a sixty gallon Anhydrous ammonia tank designed to control rodents like gophers, pocket gophers, rats, ground hogs, moles, and prairie dogs. It poses no threat to livestock and pets, just effective control in hay/pasture land, till/no-till land, wooded areas and yards and buildings.

Units come complete with the tank, 50 feet of hose, a specially built wand, frame, mole probe, gloves and goggles. The wand is equipped with a spring-

loaded valve that for safety reasons has to be held open when in use. On the end of the wand is a hose to be placed in the hole, or a probe can be installed if you are after pocket gophers.

The purpose of this unit is to eradicate rodents for good. This is done by placing the end of the wand into the burrow of the rodent and injecting the NH₃ down the hole. It only takes about five seconds per hole, and one tank can last up to 500 holes.

The unit is designed to be loaded in the

back of a pick-up truck, on a trailer, or whatever the operator chooses by either a forklift or a front-end loader.

The price is \$3,100.00 (U.S.) plus applicable taxes. Price is quoted FOB Unity, Saskatchewan. A wheel unit is also available for this unit. It allows to be towed behind a four-wheeler or any ATV. The price for this option is \$550.00 (U.S.)

To place an order, phone Maze Innovations at (306) 398-2637 or Fax: (306) 398-2638. Website: www.gophinator.com

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Ram Company – Cost Effective Way To Pump Water Without Electricity

The Fleming Hydro-Ram is a tireless, energy saving water pump. The Ram Pump, which is powered by falling water, has been in existence for almost 200 years. The RAM pumped water to households, farms, industries, railroads and towns until the advent of rural electrification and the electric pump. With today's emphasis on alternative energy sources, the RAM pump has surfaced as a viable means to pump water when falling water is available.

In 1978, Richard Fleming developed and marketed the Fleming Hydro-Ram, a lightweight low friction pump made of PVC material and requiring little or no maintenance. The Fleming Ram will pump a portion of the falling water uphill as high as ten times the "fall" or "drop" of water to the pump. Numerous variables, such as vertical lift, size of pump, rate of ram pulsation, length of drive pipe and discharge pipe will affect the amount of water a Ram will pump.

In addition to the efficient lightweight Fleming Hydro-Rams which are designed to handle falls of water to the pump of up to 20 feet and lift the delivery water up to 100 feet, the Ram Company also offers a high volume Hydro-Ram made of heavy cast aluminum with an input pipe diameter of 3 inches. The heavy-duty pump is designed to meet the needs of lift irrigation and other applications where either larger volumes

of water are required or extremely high lifts of water are needed.

The only source of power necessary to run the pumps is the kinetic energy of falling water. Enough water must fall two feet or more through a pipe ten feet long or longer to the Hydro-Ram for it to operate. That's all that is needed. Working on a ten-to-one ratio, the higher the fall, the greater the height the water can be pumped. The smaller plastic pumps will pump up to three gallons per minute. The 3 inch PVC pump will pump over 5 gallons per minute and the 3 inch metal pump will pump over 10 gallons per minute with proper installation and the right natural conditions.

What can the Fleming Hydro-Ram do for you?

The Ram uses the force of falling water to pump water uphill without using any additional source of energy and with only two moving parts! Ram pumps are in essence hydraulic engines designed to move water and are capable of supplying up to 4,000 gallons a day. Properly installed Rams can be used to supply water during periods of cold weather. If your water source is a flowing stream that never freezes, the pump may be used to supply a constant stream of water to your cattle.

Solar-powered Water Pumping Systems are practical and cost-effective in areas where the sun shines. Solar-powered

water pumps can be placed next to the pond or other source of water and the water can be pumped where it is needed with heads of 200' or less. Solar electric pumping cuts down on waste because it's based on natural cycles. Your panels give the most pumping power on the sunniest days when you need the most water. Solar power is clean. You never have to worry about polluting the groundwater or air with a gas-powered pump.

Solar-powered water systems take very little maintenance because they have only a few moving parts. Solar panels have a long life, usually 20 to 40 years, and solar water systems never run out of fuel as long as the sun is shining. Pump life and maintenance depend on the type of pump, usage, and water quality. Our pumps have been tested and improved to pump the most water for the least cost and with the least amount of trouble. Each pump carries our name and we stand behind every one sold.

Call about our brochure and video, which explain how the pumps work and how to buy one. If you have any questions concerning operation or pricing, please write to Ram Co. 512 Dillard Hill Road, Dept. WFRD, Lowesville, VA 22967. Phone (800) 227-8511 or Fax: (434) 277-8333.

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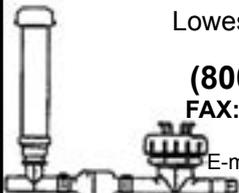
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Graymont is committed to excellence

and leadership in the protection and preservation of our natural resources, the environment and sound human health. We at Graymont view ourselves as an industry leader in environmental protection and recognize this commitment as a critical component of our success. We aggressively strive to anticipate and comply with all environmental and safety regulations governing our businesses. Within the next five years, Graymont intends to replace six of our oldest, least efficient kilns, with modern kilns designed for maximum lime production and minimum

fuel consumption. This translates into not only more efficient lime production, but a reduction in the consumption of coal, and lower emissions of nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide per ton of lime produced. Graymont will continue to work with communities and government agencies to minimize our impact on the environment while providing the best possible products and service to our customers.

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The original multi-layered insulated curtain was developed and patented in 1984 by Carolyn Henderson, American Agra Curtain’s current president. Since then, many modifications and improvements have been incorporated into our insulated curtain which is marketed under the name of Insulated MAR-CO-LITE. Most of our curtains are still on the job after seven or eight years of service.

In addition to our insulated curtains, we have many other products designed specifically for the agricultural building industry such as room and shop dividers, fan covers, bird barriers, pulleys, stainless steel cable, rope, cord, split bolts, curtain clips, and insulated curtains with no film for dairies, concrete blankets, sidewall insulation for garages, door covers for basement rooms, and crawl space covers. Installation instructions are included with all orders.

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Electronic Registration Papers

American Angus Association members and affiliates now have the option to electronically store their animals' registration certificates. The new procedure will allow more flexibility when transferring papers and will eliminate the typical "paper shuffle" some cattle breeders experience. From June 1 to September 30, members can choose the electronic storage feature free of charge to store the paper registration certificates of existing registered Angus cattle. After September 30, printed registration papers electronically stored will be assessed a \$2 correction fee. Producers can request a printed copy of an electronically stored registration paper at no charge. Members who participate in Angus shows will still need to provide original registration papers at check-in.

UDY Corporation

UDY Corporation manufactures and sells coring tools for sampling baled hay, alfalfa and other baled forages. The product line is known as the Colorado Hay Probe. There are five models to choose from depending on your needs. These coring tools allow you to properly sample your forage lots. With good sampling methods and the right equipment your testing will accurately represent the quality of your bales.

These models are highlighted on our web sites, www.udyone.com and www.udycorp.com.

After reviewing our web sites, please contact us at (970) 482-2060 with any questions.

Ruxton's Trading Post

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

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

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

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

The trading post is filled with artifacts of the Western frontier. Antique spurs, saddles and Indian crafts hang from the walls and ceiling. Nearly every square inch holds interesting relics.

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

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

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

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West Nile Virus Expected to Return - Prevention Vaccinations Recommended

Horses are affected by West Nile Virus (WNV) much more often than any other domestic animal. Infection with West Nile Virus can cause encephalitis, affecting the nervous system, and can cause severe complications and death in horses. The disease also affects humans.

Many horses infected with WNV do not develop any illness, but of horses that become ill, about one-third will die or need to be euthanized, according to Dr. Tom Linfield, Montana State Veterinarian with the Montana Department of Livestock. The disease is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected by feeding on infected birds. The virus is not spread from horse to horse, from horse to person, or from person to person.

There are USDA licensed vaccines available from two companies, Fort Dodge Animal Health and Merial Ltd., to help prevent equine cases of WNV encephalitis. The manufacturers of both

vaccines recommend two initial doses given three to six weeks apart. An annual booster is also recommended. Linfield noted combination vaccines are also available for the first time this season. Combination products provide protection against multiple diseases including West Nile Virus; Eastern, Western, or Venezuelan equine encephalitis; and tetanus.

A conditional license issued last year by the USDA to Novartis Animal Vaccines Inc., Larchwood, IA for an equine-origin antibody product intended to aid in the treatment of horses with the disease caused by WNV is also available. Supportive veterinary treatment such as anti-inflammatories, administering fluids, and the use of a sling to keep the animal upright have also been used in equines diagnosed with WNV.

Clinical signs of encephalitis in horses include loss of appetite and depression, in addition to any combination of weakness or paralysis of hind limbs, muzzle

twitching, impaired vision, lack of coordination, head pressing, aimless wandering, convulsions, inability to swallow, circling, hyperexcitability, or coma. These are also symptoms of Western and Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

Rabies cases may also be present with similar neurological signs, and should always be considered as a differential diagnosis. These diseases also affect humans. Vaccination and mosquito control continue to be recommended as methods to help protect horses against the virus.

For mosquito control, thoroughly clean livestock watering troughs on a regular basis, remove any potential sources of water in which mosquitoes can breed, dispose of water-holding containers such as discarded tires, and do not allow water to stagnate. If possible, horses should be stabled inside from dusk to dawn to reduce contact with mosquitoes. Horse owners are encouraged to contact their local veterinarian for more information regarding WNV vaccine and treatment.

Tillamook Concrete Grooving Inc.

Tractor Tires Get New Use By 'Going To (Farm) Waste'

Bob Merten, a concrete groover in Parkdale, OR recognized a good idea when he saw one, and now he can't keep up with the demand. He saw a picture in a dairy magazine of a manure scraper a dairyman made from

an old tire. Merten then built one with a friend who liked it so much he decided to build and sell the device.

"I travel all over the U.S. and Canada and have only seen about 20 and they're all handmade. I don't know anyone who

manufactures them", Merten said.

To build the scraper, Merten said he gets an old tire, usually the common 33 x 35-inch variety, cuts it to form an eight-foot arc and slices a section off one side to form a blade.

He then mounts it on a metal brace that attaches to the three-point on a tractor. A tractor then can make one pass through an alley and scrape all the manure out. "It works like a giant squeegee", he said "And you don't bank up your walls and you don't smooth off your concrete".

Tires of any size can be used, but they should be at least 24-ply or they will fold up. The blades can be custom-made to fit any manure alley. Merten said he used to carry two or three and carry them in the back of his truck when he went out to make calls. By the end of the day, they would be gone.

For less wear and tear on concrete floors, scrape your dairy with an all rubber manure scraper. Save time, fuel and energy. For a dealer in your area, call Bob Merten at (503) 352-6926 or Brini Merten at (541) 352-6422. Fax: (503) 352-6635.

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E-Z UP • Stirrup Leaders Join Forces

The world's leaders in stirrup technology have merged! E-Z UP Stirrup Extender and LegSaver Stirrup Swivels have merged their two companies based in the Western United States into a powerhouse of stirrup technology. They have also come on the market with a new product called the E-Z UP LegSaver.

Bill Mullenbach, the president of E-Z UP Stirrup Extender Company in Las Vegas, Nevada and Thad Beal, the President of LegSaver Stirrup Swivel Company in Lehi, Utah announced the merger of their two companies last fall. The merger talks were completed on horseback during a four day ride in the Rocky Mountains.

Both companies occupy the leading spot in stirrup centered technology for the knowledgeable horse rider. E-Z UP provides a stainless steel extender that drops the stirrup down three inches for ease and safety in mounting a horse. LegSaver produces a stirrup swivel that takes the pain out of leg and knees on horse rides by eliminating the twist of saddle fenders. Both products are made in the United States using technology old west cowboys could never have dreamed about. The processes include computer controlled machining, anodizing, investment casting and stainless steel.

These products have gained great respect from horse people in all phases of



horsemanship from English to Western and from competition to pleasure riding. They have been tested to be outstanding by tough cowboys, outfitters and professionals. Word has spread of the quality and usefulness of these two products and they currently are the leaders in rider comfort and safety.

The merger introduces a marriage of the two products in the form of new patented technology called the E-Z UP LegSaver. This device lets a rider use the benefits

of the three inch drop that E-Z Up gives along with the good feeling of having swivels on both stirrups.

Horse riders in a test market done in Utah, Nevada and Arizona were overwhelmingly positive about this new product. It not only helps them into the saddle easier but keeps them there in comfort for hours.

Contact Info: www.ezupstirrup.com, www.leg-saver.com, www.ezuplegsaver.com, or Toll Free: 1-877-865-1497

U.S. Consumer Beef Spending Offsets Decline In Consumption

Despite the mad cow scare, beef industry officials say last year was a good one for cattle growers as prices reached record highs and helped offset a 4 percent decline in consumption.

Protein-hungry U.S. consumers spent a record \$67.3 billion on beef last year, up from \$65.2 billion in 2002, according to the Centennial-based National Cattlemen's Beef Association and government figures.

However, the single case of mad cow disease in Washington state decimated U.S. beef export markets as dozens of countries shut their borders to American beef.

 <p>Makes your ride more pleasurable by lowering your stirrup 3 inches with the push of the button for easier mounting, then locks back into place with the lift of the toe.</p>  <p>\$89.00 + \$11 S/H www.ezupstirrup.com</p>	  <p>Rotates 360° or Locks into Any Position</p> <p>For 2 1/2 or 3" Stirrup</p> <p>Getting comfortable on your horse has never been easier! Your stirrup swivels completely allowing you to place your legs in the most natural position for you.</p> <p>\$49.95 + \$8 S/H www.leg-saver.com</p>	 <p>Combines the technology of both products. Lowers your stirrup 3" for easier mounting plus allows stirrup to swivel 360° for a more pleasurable ride with less leg and knee strain.</p>  <p>For 2 1/2 or 3" Stirrup</p> <p>\$139.00 + \$11 S/H www.ezuplegsaver.com</p>
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NEW PRODUCT

EnergyCel™ Improves Fuel Mileage

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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Americans Meet With Iraqi Wheat Buyers

Long shut out of Iraq's market, U.S. Wheat Associates took an important step recently to bring open competition to Iraqi wheat purchases. USWA joined other commodity groups in meetings, held in Jordan, with members of Iraq's Grain Board, Foodstuffs Trading Board and the Ministry of Trade. The sessions and presentations allowed the Americans and Iraqis to get re-acquainted, both personally and professionally.

Since Saddam Hussein forbade any purchases of U.S. wheat in 1998, others had a virtual lock on the closed market, working through an Oil for Food Program (OFF) that increasingly appears to be more corrupt than originally feared (as reported in the Feb. 29 New York Times). Then after the fall of the regime, AWB (Australian Wheat Board) officials were advising the Iraqis on wheat trade while the U.S. government refused to allow

U.S. marketing groups entry into the country.

Now, however, with the strong support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Coalition Provisional Authority, USWA and the other groups are introducing competition for future trade.

U.S. Wheat Associates Vice President Paul Dickerson brought encouraging reports from the meetings. "I think everyone was very pleased with the outcome of the seminar at all levels," he said. "I was very impressed with the enthusiasm of the Iraqi delegation. They were interested, attentive and clearly wanted to learn as much as they could about the U.S. marketing system. There is no question that they want a competitive purchasing system, and they want to have the U.S. as a supplier and competitor."

Dick Prior, USW regional vice president for the Middle East, reported

on the progress that was made when people started examining specific quality factors. "We made a lot of progress, and it will only get better as the Iraqis become re-acquainted with the U.S. marketing system and the role of the Federal Grain Inspection Service in providing for official certification of quality at loading," Prior noted.

U.S. Wheat Associates has already received initial support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service on requests to bring Iraqi trade teams to the U.S. this year. "We are anxious to provide them the opportunities for courses offered by the International Grain Program in Kansas and the Northern Crops Institute in North Dakota," Prior said. "The better informed they are, the better our chances on a long term basis of gaining a significant market share."

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National Junior Hereford Association Planning For Rollin' On The River

National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members and their families will be Rollin' On the River," July 25th to 31st for the Junior National Hereford Expo. (JNHE). The Paul Battle Arena/Tunica Exposition Center, Tunica, Miss., will serve as headquarters for most of the activities. One of the largest junior breed shows in the United States, the JNHE is the highlight of the NJHA's year-long activities. As national junior show hosts, the Mississippi Junior Hereford Association, along with Mississippi Hereford Association have pulled out all the stops to host an awesome event.

This summer's spectacular provides an opportunity for competition among

both kids and cattle. The hands-on programs for youth provide educational, leadership and motivational training. Scholarships will be awarded to junior members based upon their scholastic, leadership and industry involvement. Social events such as an award dinner, dances, a 3-on-3-basketball tournament, fun rodeo, trip along the "Mighty" Mississippi and other unique activities are being planned for juniors and adults.

The show ring will garner much attention throughout the week. Clint Rusk, West Lafayette, Ind., will evaluate the owned heifer show. Terry Burks, Frankfort, Ky., will place the bred and owned and steer entries. Bob Goble, Alto, Michigan, will officiate

the peewee and junior divisions of showmanship, while Kyle Colyer of Bruneau, Idaho will sort the senior and intermediate showmanship entries.

The juniors will hold their national membership meeting in conjunction with the show. Other activities will include the NJHA officer elections, state advisor and presidents meetings, a Poll-Ette breakfast and queen orientation.

For further information on the 2004 Junior National Hereford Expo, contact Chris Stephens at the American Hereford Association, Director of Youth Activities, P.O. Box 014059, Kansas City, MO 64101, or by phone at 816-842-3757.

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

Egbers still offers a wide variety of auger flighting and recently they opened up their other stock items for resale. "In the past, we did not heavily advertise our stock of tube, shaft and auger accessories. There are so many companies that require minimum orders, we opened our stock items to better accommodate our customers," says Laura Egbers. Egbers has no minimum order requirements.

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

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

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

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Beret Contract Calls For Australian Wool

U.S. Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle's (D-S.D.) letter to President Bush stressed his concerns about the Coalition Provisional Authorities (CPA) apparent favoring of Australian products over U.S. products in their letting of contracts.

The CPA's most recent contract for dark blue berets are intended for the troops in Iraq. According to the

New York Times, the contract states, "Specifications for the berets are 100 percent wool (Australian), without emblem and 2 holes for ventilation." While any contractors supposedly are allowed to freely bid on this and other contracts, the specifications clearly call for 100 percent Australian wool.

Daschle stated, "This matter of preferential treatment for Austra-

lian wool is a serious concern that deserves immediate attention." He urged that the contract be curtailed and re-let "the least you can do is ensure that contracts let by the Coalition Provisional authority in Iraq do not give a preference or competitive advantage to other nations—none of whom have already contributed as much as the United States to the effort in Iraq.

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For cash farmers unable to rely on a steady income check throughout the year, proper tax management can make all the difference.

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

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

AgriPlan draws upon a little-known tax provision, Internal Revenue Code Sec-

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

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

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

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

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

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

To learn more please call us at: (970) 867-9040.

Angus Foundation To Sponsor Golf Tournament

Beef industry leaders who are golf enthusiasts should mark their calendars for the fourth annual Angus Foundation Golf Tournament, set for July 13 at the Shiloh Springs Golf Club in Platte City, Mo. The Angus Foundation hosts the tournament, held in conjunction with the 2004 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

Teams of four will compete for various prizes. Four-player teams can be formed before the tournament or players will be placed on a team that day. Registration fee is \$400 per team or \$100 per individual golfer. Junior golfers, National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members under the age of 21 can play for \$75.

All proceeds raised from the event go to the Angus Foundation, which is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization that supports youth, education and research.

For more information about the tournament, go to www.angusfoundation.org or contact the junior activities department at the American Angus Association at 816-383-5100.

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L & M Mfg. Inc.

L & M Mfg. Inc., creator of the popular DRIP-WELL automatic turbine pump oiling, has added more items to their line of quality irrigation equipment. If your turbine pump is oil lubed, you will want to take a look at L & M's reliable and convenient oiling system. DRIP-WELL automatically lubricates the line shaft bearings utilizing the patented valve and specially designed large volume tanks. Another plus is that it is inexpensive and easy to install. Remember: if you're pumping it's dripping!

In addition to DRIP-WELL, L&M Mfg. owns the patent on the handy MUD-LUG which clamps onto the drive tire of a stuck pivot to help walk it out without digging or towing.

The GATEMATE is another popular item with the flood irrigator to open and close gates. It was designed and is made by the same man who created the MUD-LUG. GateMate is lightweight and handy to use. Its Red grip handle is easy to see next to your spade in the back of the pickup!

Recently they have taken on the

MACH II line of airless tires, the most reliable permanent flat free tire on the market. As your pivot tires go flat, bolt the MACH II onto your existing rim and never have to visit that tower for a flat again! You'll soon wish that you had them on all of your towers. An added plus here is that in most soil types you will find added traction as well as a less severe wheel track.

For any of these fine products, or for information on other irrigation related subjects, contact: L & M Mfg. Elsie NE. (1-800-676-DRIP)(3747) Ask for Marlene.

Beef Industry Offers Help To Dieters

With more than two-thirds of Americans classified as being overweight or obese, consumers are looking for new ways to lead a healthy lifestyle, while still eating the foods they love. Iowa's beef producers have a list of lean beef cuts that can help consumers make healthier choices no matter what kind of weight-loss program they are on.

"The latest USDA Nutrient Database shows 19 cuts of beef meet government guidelines for being lean, including many of America's favorites like tenderloin, T-bone steak, and 95 percent lean ground beef. Twelve of these beef cuts have, on average, only one more gram or less of saturated fat than

a skinless chicken breast, per three-ounce serving.

"This new data illustrates how beef is changing. According to USDA data, many cuts of beef are 20 percent leaner, on average, than they were 14 years ago," said Nancy Degner, executive director, Iowa Beef Industry Council. "In fact, many people are surprised to learn some of their favorite beef cuts are lean."

The 19 lean cuts, beginning with the leanest, include eye round roast, top round steak, mock tender steak, bottom round roast, top sirloin steak, round tip roast, 95 percent lean ground beef, brisket (flat half), shank crosscuts, chuck shoulder roast, arm pot roast, shoulder

steak, top loin (strip or New York) steak, flank steak, ribeye steak, rib steak, tri-tip roast, tenderloin steak, and T-bone steak.

"Research shows lean beef can play the same role as skinless chicken or fish in a cholesterol lowering diet," said Dayle Hayes, MS, RD, member of the Council for Women's Nutrition Solutions. "In addition, beef provides essential nutrients that can have a positive affect on some of today's major health issues, like weight management and bone health."

For more information and recipes including the new 19 lean cuts of beef, contact the Iowa Beef Industry Council at 515-296-2305, or beef@iabeef.org or www.BeeftsWhatsForDinner.com.

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U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc. • Harvesting Crops That Feed The World

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

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

The input from their membership is channeled through designated committees that report to the elected board

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

It has been a goal of USCHI to provide funding for scholarships through various activities such as quilt sales and raffles, silent auctions, memorial donations, honorary and auction donations. To qualify for a scholarship, all applicants must have some direct family ties to a current USCHI regular member, or have been employed by a current regular member within the last year, or be making some direct contribution to the USCHI organization. In addition, applications are

considered if the applicant is directly related to a deceased member (son or daughter) that was a regular member within the last two years of their death. The strength of this organization is in its membership, which consists of not only custom harvesters, but also related businesses such as implement dealers, insurance companies and farmers. It is their goal to continue to enhance and promote custom harvesting so that it is a viable industry available to future generations of producers.

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

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

The Inosol "Band-It" Band Castrator Tool

Band Castration has been around for years. More recently growers have been using delayed castration to benefit from the natural male growth hormones that the animal receives from the testis. You leave the animal intact for several months before castration and the increased growth is significant. When you cut a larger animal the trauma to the animal is greater. It is not uncommon for the animal, after having been castrated with a knife, to go to the corner of the pen, lie down and not eat for days. Band castration has proven to be much less traumatic to the animal. We developed the Inosol "Band-

IT" band castration tool to be equally less traumatic to the owners. The tool is simple and yet surprisingly efficient. The clip with the attached rubber ligand fits in a notch in the tool. You firmly grasp the scrotal sac with the same hand that holds the tool. Holding the tool firmly against the sac, you reach around the back with the other hand and take hold of the free end of the tubing. Stretch the tubing away from you with about 15 to 20 pounds of force and with the tubing stretched, you pull the tubing around the sac and lock it down in the clip. You then release the clip from the tool and you are done. The whole process can

take as little as 10 seconds. We like to use a squeeze chute and apply the bands from the side for obvious reasons. With a little practice, you get to where you can do it by reaching down and under with both hands and keeping your head and face up against the side of the animal. By stretching the ligand before you pull it around the sac, you will find that you get more even tension all around the sac and less chance of any leakage and swelling. The sac dries up and will fall off on its own in three to five weeks. For more information call 1-800-847-2533 or 760-337-9244.

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Wheatheart Skid Steer Post Pounder

Wheatheart Manufacturing is pleased to announce the latest addition to its present line of 'High and Heavy Hitter Post Pounders'. The new Wheatheart High and Heavy Hitter Skid Steer Post Pounder will operate with ease on most conventional skid steer loaders. Wood and steel posts can be driven into place quickly and efficiently with Wheatheart's exclusive hydraulic post hugger and 660 lb. free fall hammer. A four way hydraulic tilt mast accommodates posts from 4'2" to 11'11" in length and up to 12" in diameter. The adjustable hydraulic hugger allows the operator to stand clear of the impact area while posts are being driven.

The new Skid Steer Post Pounder is operated with self-contained hydraulics or can utilize the skid steer/tractor hydraulics. On self contained hydraulics, a 10-gallon per minute motor drives the filtered and efficient high volume pump. The system is self-contained and uses the pound-

er frame as an oil tank. This feature allows the pounder to be evenly balanced while the steel frame dissipates heat effectively. The pounder unit will stand self-supported during storage and operation for ease of operation, hookup and added safety.

Our new skid steer model is manufactured along side Wheatheart's traditional line of High and Heavy Hitter Post Pounders. Wheatheart Post Pounders are now available in trailer type, 3-point, skid steer, and high mast versions. All Wheatheart Post Pounders are shipped with the standard hydraulic post hugger installed.

All models are available for the 2004 season. Come and see our new Skid Steer Post Pounder at a Farm Show or Wheatheart Dealer near you. Wheatheart strives to make fencing jobs safe, fast and efficient. Allow us to make your work easier. Buy Wheatheart!

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3-A-Day For You and Your Kids

The following tips are recommended to boost dairy and calcium intake in kids:

- Convenience counts: Single-serve, re-sealable plastic bottles are great for today's busy lifestyles.
- Serve it cold: Results from a 2002 School Milk Pilot Test showed that kids were more likely to choose regular and flavored milks if the milks were served at colder temperatures and in plastic packaging.
- Look for the logo: Milk, cheese and yogurt products with the 3-A-Day of Dairy logo are guaranteed to contain at least 20 percent of the daily calcium requirement.

For more information on the nutritional benefits of dairy foods, visit www.midwestdairy.com. In addition, parents and educators can get fun recipes and tips on how to get 3-A-Day of Dairy at www.3aday.org.



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As an alfalfa seed grower and dealer, I say, "Seed buyer beware!" It's the time of year with lots of ag shows. As you walk around the ag show, talking to reps and picking up big brand name brochures, keep track of the number of companies claiming their variety is one of the top three producing varieties. If it is a big show, you might run out of fingers and have to count with your toes! Claims of standing up to cattle traffic, hay equipment, standing water, low Ph soils, high Ph soils, having fine stem plants, being winter hardy, and anything else that sounds good. Don't get

me wrong, I'm not saying their varieties can't do what they claim. I am asking: Will they clearly out perform the other zillion varieties out there if planted on your farm?

Set your priorities in order. Every little thing is a trade off. Big yielder versus enduring variety. Heavy seeded stands make for fine stem hay versus a thin stand which makes for a coarse stemmed hay. There are different levels of disease resistances, fall dormancy ratings, percent of hard seed, seeding rates, accuracy of seeders, time of planting, soil types and temperatures, available moisture, ect.

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

Donation Heifer Sells At 2004 Western National Angus Futurity To Benefit 2005 National Junior Angus Show

Angus enthusiasts from the Western United States are already making plans for the 2005 National Junior Angus Show, scheduled for July 17-23 in Denver, Colo. Thousands of youth and adults from across the country will attend the weeklong event that has grown to be known as the largest single-breed beef cattle show in the world.

In effort to continue fundraising for the significant event, Silveira Brothers, Mendota, Calif., have donated a heifer to sell at the 2004 Western National Angus Futurity, Sunday, April 25 in Reno, Nevada. Darrell Silveira, Rick, Allison and Garrett Blanchard

have donated Silveiras Reba Pride 3438, an October 2003 daughter of G Bar Wulffs EXT 9306. All proceeds from the sale of the heifer will go to the 2005 NJAS.

The Angus breeders in the Western states are excited to have this heifer donation to go toward hosting the 2005 NJAS, says Abbie Nelson, fundraising committee member from Wilton, Calif. Selling this heifer in Reno is just one way our breeders can pull together to plan a successful event for the future leaders of the Angus breed.

Other items included in the heifer package are: breeding services using

any Silveira Brothers program herd sire; an embryo flush and transfer from Larry Lanzon, DVM, of Lander Vet Clinic, Turlock, Calif.; a 30-day insurance policy from Jim Bessler of American Livestock Insurance, Geneva, Ill.; and transportation from Reno, Nev., to the buyers ranch, courtesy of Randy and Peggy Lathrop of Lathrop Trucking, Dundee, Ill. Complete information about the heifer is online at www.californiaangus.com.

For more information about the heifer or to learn more about donating to the 2005 NJAS, contact Abbie Nelson at (916) 687-7108.

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An Interview With Peter Nosack

Peter Nosack has many irons in the fire. He has a farm and he is also a restaurant owner in Salem, Oregon. The latest activity to keep him busy is firewood business. He harvests the logs from a couple of wood lots owned by him.

Since his childhood, Peter has always been involved with firewood. First in the back breaking way, using a cross-cut saw, axe and splitting maul, he recalled, and now during the last two years in the modern, automated fashion.

What prompted his interest in the firewood processors was an ad run by HAKMET USA, INC. in a popular agricultural weekly. As a thorough, meticulous person, he checked out the market visiting a couple of demos and searching the internet.

Finally, he decided on his first “love” Pete 1X37 firewood processor marketed by HAKMET. Peter chose a PTO model instead of one with auxiliary power source. “I need to be able to move quickly and freely between the wood lots”, he says. Besides, PETE’s maneuverability and low power requirement, he likes the compact way it folds up the conveyors for transportation. The fact that the conveyors are built-in with PETE processors and included in the base price weighed heavily in Nosack’s decision.

“Fir, maple, alder, ash, oak, I do all kinds of wood with 1X37”, he says. “I often process logs up to the maximum diameter of 14-15 inches. To operate the processor is simple and easy.” HAKMET



offers a variety of features with different models. PETE2X, for instance, has two splitting cylinders. The biggest model of the line, PETE BigX47, can handle logs up to 18.5” in diameter. All models mentioned previously use a chain saw for cutting. The smallest one PETE OH60, handles logs up to 11 inches in diameter and uses a circular saw.

The standard versions of PETE 1X37 and 2X have a hand lever to operate the infeed conveyor, cutting saw and splitter while 1X and 2X EASY models have joystick controls. Standard features also

include a grid that allows wood debris to fall off and away from split pieces of wood. The infeed conveyor is at a slight angle off, which helps to hold and feed crooked logs. The chain saw has an automatic oiling system.

PETE 1X37 adjusts automatically for log size. It processes small logs at a higher speed and larger ones more slowly, with more power. Many of the logs Peter works with have knots, but 1X37 can handle them, he says. When asked about the level of his satisfaction with PETE 1X37, Peter Nosack has a simple answer, “Super”.

<p>• PETE Firewood Processors</p> <p>PETE has the following advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unobstructed cutting • quick splitting movements • easy maintenance • excellent safety features • easy handling of the conveyor <p>Picture shows model Pete 1X37 Easy.</p>	<p>• PETE Woodchippers</p>	<p>• PETE Skidding Winches</p> <p>PETE offers four models 1X37, 2X, BigX47 and OH60 that can be equipped with optional equipment. Models 1X37, 2X and BigX47 use a chainsaw for cutting compared to model OH60, which uses a circular saw for cutting. The main difference between models 1X37 and 2X is that model 1X37 is equipped with one splitting cylinder for large up to Ø 14.6” logs and model 2X is equipped with two splitting cylinders for Ø 11” logs to maximize and speed up the splitting process. With model BigX47 one can cut large up to Ø 18.5” logs.</p>	<p>• MERI Crushers</p> <p>Hakmet USA, INC. 613 Iris Drive, REDDING, CA, 96002 Tel: 1-800-566-0690 • Fax: 530-224-1398 www.hakmetusa.com • hakmetus@jett.net</p>
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EU Takes Hormone-Risk Data to WTO

The European Union stands firm on its ban importing hormone-treated beef from North America. It said it would take its new proof about potential health risks to the World Trade Organization to get the United States and Canada to lift trade sanctions.

EU Health Commissioner, David Byrne, said the EU has delivered a

"thorough risk assessment based on current scientific knowledge" to support its ban, thus bringing the EU into compliance with the WTO rules.

The WTO ruled in 1998 that the EU's ban was illegal because of a lack of solid scientific evidence. In retaliation, the United States and Canada impose about \$125 million worth of duties each year on European products such

as French Roquefort cheese and other delicacies.

In an effort to resolve the issue, the EU began compiling data in 2001 to back up its ban. New legislation was adopted last July that bans one growth-promoting hormone and temporarily bars five others while studies continue. To comply with the WTO ruling, the EU promises regular scientific research.

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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.

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 watershed. In agricultural areas, run-off from fields, corrals, barns etc. can contribute large amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen if your 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.



Before Microbes

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

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

TESTIMONIALS

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

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

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

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

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

my heels and toes. Its amazing stuff!" – Kirk Baron

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

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

- HOME -

• I had skin cancer removed 2 times from my face. The third time it came back. I decided to use Chickweed Healing Salve. Within 2 weeks it was gone. I also used it on my leg and ankle that was swollen. It went down and the soreness left also. Thank you for your help.- Raymond Davis, New Washington, IN 812-293-3555

• That stuff's like dynamite, one said now we'll never be without that salve. We use it for everything and suggest it to everybody. Then an older lady said as we left, "Just don't ever quit making the Chickweed Healing Salve." - Three ladies talking to us as we were eating our lunch in the hills of Ohio. Place called Thelma Jeans Pizza, 740-493-2711

- BARN -

• My wife washed our milker claws in a heavy dose of washer acid which burned and blistered the cow teats. I put this salve on one cow, it almost completely healed up in 48 hrs. So tonight I put it on every blistered cow in my stable. - Daniel Stoltzfus, Loganton, PA

• I used this salve on sheep foot rot and they healed up nicely, where vet medicine didn't work. - Beth Johnson, Owasso, OK

• A year ago our dog had a cancerous tumor which the vet removed. This year it came back and surgery was scheduled. In the meantime, I put Chickweed Healing Salve on it 2 or 3 times a day. By surgery time it was all gone. - Sheila Holbrook, 812-352-0330

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Cattle Price Recovery Leads In Farm Income

Cattle prices are expected to work upward in the next three years, recovering by 2006 to near historic peak prices of 2003. This follows months of turmoil in the beef market after discovery of a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in May 2003 in Canada and another case in December in the United States. Steer prices are expected to average \$75.46 per hundredweight in 2004 and to average \$83.55 in 2006. The average steer price was \$84.69 in 2003. Beef prices in 2004 are expected to remain above 2002

prices and equal early 2003 levels.

The cattle price recovery helps boost projected farm livestock receipts to \$106.2 billion by 2006, up from \$102.1 billion in 2004.

Overall, farm receipts are expected to increase from \$230 billion in 2004 to \$232 billion in 2005.

The numbers are among hundreds of projections in the "FAPRI 2004 U.S. Baseline" for the agricultural economy presented to the U.S. Congress. Economists from the Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) make the

annual projections for use in analyzing legislation and changes in farm policy.

"Markets for most commodities, ranging from milk to soybeans, remain in uncertainty and turmoil," said Scott Brown, livestock analyst at MU FAPRI.

All projections are based on certain assumptions: That normal weather will prevail and that current government policies will remain in place. The main assumptions for the beef outlook are that no more cases of BSE are reported in North America and that consumer confidence remains strong.

USDA Approves Fast BSE Test

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved a rapid test for identifying mad cow disease, allowing test results to be viewed within hours instead of the weeks required by the current test.

Bio-Rad Inc., a California life science research products and clinical diagnostics company, announced recently its rapid TeSeE test has been licensed by

the USDA for use in the National Veterinary Service Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa, and in all the NVSL network laboratories as part of the newly enhanced BSE testing program.

USDA estimates the new testing program will test approximately 400,000 animals over the next 12 to 18 months. In one day, about 1,000 cattle can be tested with the Bio-Rad system.

Brad Crutchfield, Bio-Rad's Vice President of Life Science, said in a news release the company has provided more than 22 million BSE tests to laboratories throughout Europe and Japan.

The test detects the presence of the resistant form of prion protein, or PrPres, linked to BSE and can identify these prions at extremely low levels. It produces results in about four hours.



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All New Roto Grind Tub & Grain Grinders

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During the mid 1970's, Harvey designed a grinder capable of grinding all types of forages, grains, and other feeds. This machine controls how fine the grind is without using screens. While designing and fine tuning prototypes, he became satisfied that the new design would eliminate the problems caused by grinding wet materials with screen grinders.

After production, he encountered other pleasant surprises:

- Grinding capacity exceeded expectations.

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- The grind is more consistent than other types of grinders.

What's more, the simplicity of design requires only 2 moving parts. This results in:

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Since Burrows Enterprises is a small, family owned business, we had to gain our reputation through honesty, word of mouth, and through the creation of an excellent product. As we have grown in the past 20 years, we have kept improving the quality, performance, and versatility of the Roto Grind. We are in constant contact with end users, dealers, and sales people. We are open to suggestions from our distributors and users

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Burrows Enterprises, Inc. now sells a high percentages of all grinders sold in the United States and sales are now world wide.

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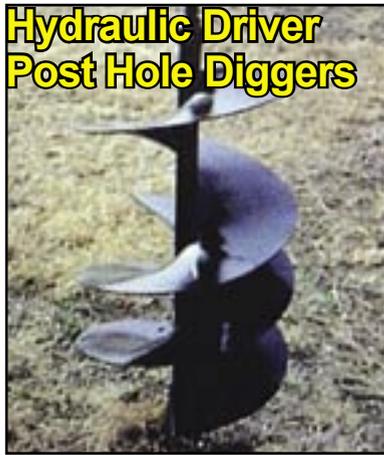



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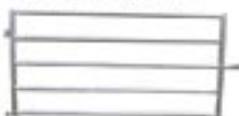
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Concern over the negative impact of poisons and inhumane trapping devices led Meyer Industries to develop the Rodenator Pro™. The Rodenator Pro™ is cutting edge technology for eliminating burrowing animal problems. Burrowing rodents destroy crops, plants, and flowers and cause damage to golf courses, football fields, yards, and orchards. Rodents carry disease and can cause illness, even death.

Today, Meyer Industries markets the only known chemical and poison-free system of its kind that is registered with

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The Rodenator Pro™ is a new aggressive approach to burrowing rodent control. It is an elimination system as well as a control system. Marketed exclusively in the U.S. in the past, the Rodenator Pro™ System has proven so effective that it is now marketed worldwide. Waiting for animals to come to baits or traps is no longer necessary. The Rodenator Pest Elimination System is fast and efficient, allowing a user to go directly after a targeted pest.

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- Jack Bailey, Reclamation District Manager says, "Our rodent control went from 5 to 6 weeks, to 5 to 8 days on the 54.4 miles of levees that we maintain in California, the Rodenator Pro works"!!!

- Monte Daniels, D&D Cattle Co. Wolfforth, TX "The Rodenator Pro™ is the only economical and environmentally friendly device I have found for both control and eradication of prairie dogs in cropland and rangeland."

- Gino Favagrossa, Farm Manager at Fresno State University says, "The new Rodenator Pro has been very effective in the control of our squirrel infestation at Fresno State. The improvements of the new Rodenator Pro have increased the efficiency of our eradication efforts. We continue to use the Rodenator Pro throughout the campus farm for control of squirrels and gophers".

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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.

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AMGA Breed Standard

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

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

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

spring of rib indicating capacity for foraging, pregnancy, and maintenance of body condition.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: American Meat Goat Association

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

Innovative Product Development

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



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

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Research and Product Formulations

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

Commitment

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

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We would like to tell you about our company Roswell Wool and how we can be of service to you.

Each partner is actively producing and /or feeding lambs here in New Mexico. We purchased the Wool Warehouse in Roswell in 1992 and purchased a second warehouse in 1994, Roswell Wool and Mohair. We combined the two businesses and renamed it Roswell Wool.

In 1994, I began managing the business. At that time, 100% of the wool we handled was from New Mexico. Currently, with our growth, 50% of the wool we handle is from

out of state, even though the amount of New 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 buyer is willing to offer secret, thus adding a bit of excitement when several buyers are needing the same types of wool.

We look forward to earning your business, so you can see why when we say “Dedicated to a Tradition of Integrity”, isn’t just our motto, it’s our reputation.

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Johnston Products By Garry Johnston

Milk Easy™ Inflation Adaptors

My 30 years of dairy experience has shown me that slow-milking quarters can be a problem in any herd. They not only add more time to the milking process, but also require more labor from the milking crew.

I designed the patented MILK-EASY™ Inflation Adaptor for the purpose of saving time and labor on those cows. It is the only external milking aid available to dairymen that addresses the problem of slow-milking quarters. Faster milk-out of slow-milking cows means minimal delays during milking.

Dairy farmers all across the United States and internationally are using these Adaptors successfully in large and small herds.

Slow-milking quarters often occur when the milking vacuum causes the inflations to move up on the teat during milking. On some teats, as the inflation gets close to the udder, the milk canal becomes pinched and the milk flow is completely or partially restricted. Milk Easy™ Inflation Adaptor enables fast and complete milk-out of slow milking quarters by positioning the inflation lower on the teat. They may also help on some teat abnormalities due to minor injuries or inherited defects.

To use, simply hold the adaptor on the inflation head while the milk cup is attached to the problem quarter. The milking vacuum will hold the milk cup and adaptor in place until the quarter is milked out. The flexible tabs inside the adaptor bore gently holds the adaptor on the teat when the vacuum is shut off and the milker is detached. It can then be easily removed by hand, rinsed off, and stored for the next use.

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

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

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

An Al-whatta????

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

Pros:

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

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

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

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

quarter of a million visits to the web site. Each year, web visits increase by 20%.

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

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

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

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

Cons:

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

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

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

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

No overnight riches – alpaca breeding is not a pyramid or get-rich quick scheme. Like any other business, it takes time, dedication and hard work to be successful.

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

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

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

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RAISING THE ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK AND LOVING IT

Cattle Ranchers Find Raising Alpacas Personally and Financially Rewarding



Huacaya Alpaca (Photo Courtesy AOBA)

It's your business. It's in your blood. It has been passed on from generation to generation. If you've raised cattle all your life and have thought about adding an alternative livestock, alpacas might be the answer.

Cattle ranchers find that, in addition to raising cows, calves, horses, and other livestock, raising alpacas offers countless benefits—benefits that are hard to match. Alpacas are beautiful, intelligent animals that are easy to handle and raise, require minimal acreage and food, and can offer numerous financial benefits.

Alpacas, cousins to the llama, are native to the Andean Mountain range of South America, particularly Peru, Bolivia, and Chile. Once an Incan civilization treasure, alpacas provided clothing and transportation. Their luxurious fleece was reserved for royalty and was known as the “fiber of the gods”.

The United States first imported alpacas in 1984. What began as a small, intimate alpaca community has blossomed into an official national organization, the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Asso-

ciation (AOBA). That was over twenty years ago. Today, AOBA proudly boasts more than 3,700 members and 50,000 registered alpacas nationwide.

Ease. That's the word Debbie Cates uses to describe what she likes best about alpacas. Unlike the Cates' dairy cows, which are heavier and harder to handle, Debbie can easily handle alpacas herself.

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, incisors or upper teeth. Alpacas are alert, intelligent, curious, and predictable. Social animals that seek companionship, alpacas communicate most commonly by humming, but neck posturing, ear and tail positioning, and head tilt are other communication methods.

Mike and Debbie Cates of Springdale, Washington have raised dairy cows for twenty years. Five years ago, they added alpacas. The Cateses learned about alpacas through their friends' positive and enjoyable experiences. Yearning

to know more, they went to a local fair in Spokane. They were hooked. Today, they raise 27 alpacas, all huacayas.

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

The Cateses, who raise the alpacas primarily for business, share the labor of love with their daughters. Mike says, “I love walking out there [the farm]. I love to be greeted by their friendly personalities.”

But there's more to alpacas than the fact that they're easy to handle and have gentle personalities. Simply put, they are beautiful animals. And for Judy Kania, it was love at first sight. Judy told her husband, “We're going to start raising alpacas”. Fifty alpacas later, Tom and Judy Kania, of Shawnee, Oklahoma expanded their cow/calf operation of 120 to include alpacas. The Kania's first discovered alpacas at a llama and alpaca show auction. At Judy's persuasion, the Kania's bought alpacas soon after. Besides their irresistible beauty and charm, Judy was relieved to learn that alpacas don't have to be killed to be profitable.

Alpacas are shorn, without harm, every twelve to eighteen months. They produce a luxurious fiber that is stronger, warmer, and lighter than wool and is as soft as cashmere. Making it even more desirable, alpaca fiber is hypo-allergenic, contains no lanolin, and comes in 22 natural colors.

Today, the Kania's consider raising alpacas as a full-time job and profit from them by breeding and selling their fleece. According to Tom, the difference between raising cattle and raising alpacas is striking. With cattle, you need large tractors and heavier equipment. While cattle graze on several barrels of hay, alpacas need only a small amount of grass and hay daily. In fact, a single, 60-pound bale of hay can generally feed a group of about 20 alpacas for one day. Cattle are significantly larger and often damage the land, whereas alpacas, with

their soft-padded feet, are more environmentally friendly. Clean-up is easy since alpacas deposit droppings in only a few places in the paddock.

Tom believes that alpacas are simply more economical. If you're a cattle farmer looking to tap into the alpaca market, here's Tom's advice: keep your cattle and gradually incorporate alpacas to your farm, research and see what's available, get a feel for what you like and don't like, and start small.

For Janet and Mike Wilkins of Geneva, Nebraska adding alpacas also made sense. The Wilkins know cattle. For them, it has been a lifelong business. They've raised angus cattle, registered quarter horses, and hogs as well as feeding cattle commercially. For 40 years, they ran a cow-calf operation. They then began a livestock insurance business that included alpacas. Seeing the many benefits of raising alpacas, expanding their herd was logical. Says Janet, "Our initial investment was with seven open females, who we bred right away."

The average lifespan of an alpaca is 20 years, with a gestation period of 11.5 months. Female alpacas normally give



Suri Alpaca (Photo Courtesy AOBA)

birth, without assistance, in the daylight hours and typically have single births. Twins, though extremely rare, are possible. The most recent figure notes that 1 in 2000 is a twin.

Janet continues, "We're reaping the benefits, now. By the time the crias or baby alpacas were six-months-old, we were showing and selling for a profit. We had our initial investment paid for

in two years."

Where is the alpaca market headed? Janet says, "The alpaca market is here to stay." The best way to learn more about alpacas is to visit an alpaca farm or ranch. To find one near you, log onto: www.alpacainfo.com or call The Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association at: 1-800-213-9522.

Source: AOBA

Have You Herd?



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ALPACAS FOR PROFIT – NO BULL ABOUT IT

By: Barry Bonner

Originally from Oklahoma, my wife BJ and I, partners in Cactus Mountain Alpacas, now call Colorado our home. We are as comfortable working cattle or cutting wheat as we are showing off our alpaca herd.

BJ and I have been involved with agriculture our entire lives. Part of our family farmland was claimed during the Second Land Rush in 1908. Until last year, we always maintained a cow/calf herd.

We discovered alpacas in 1993, and invested in breeding stock as a way of diversifying. People were skeptical that these animals would quickly drop in value. Eleven years later the market is still strong and prices are very stable. As alpaca breeders, we set our own sales price. Grain and cattle prices are dictated by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Remember what one "mad cow" did to a very good cattle market?

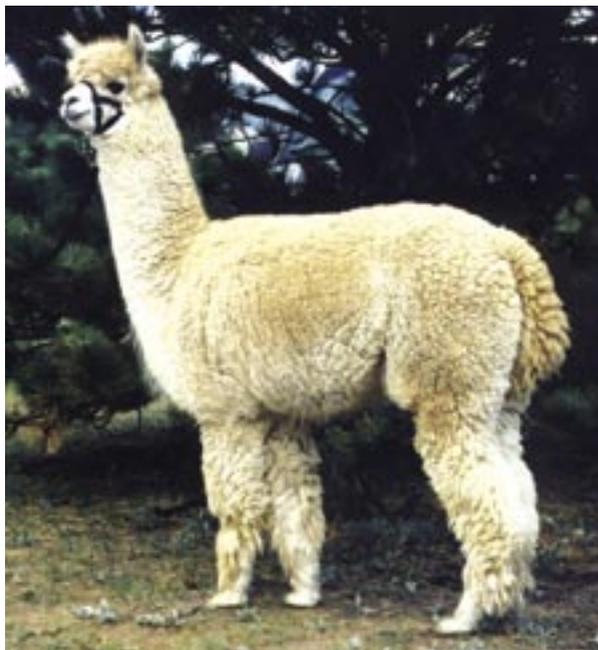
Alpacas are very appealing: small in size, easy to handle, luxurious fiber and cute. Everyone who sees an alpaca is absolutely captivated by their beauty, grace and gentle nature. Becoming very popular, alpacas are animals that people want! Anyone with just a few acres of ground can raise alpacas.

Alpacas are very healthy livestock.

There is nothing "exotic" about them. Worming, yearly vaccinations and shelter in winter is normally all they require. Due to heat, they need shearing each spring. Their nutritional needs are different from cattle; they don't tolerate high protein or require a lot of grain. Females usually deliver their "crias" uneventfully between sunup and noon. Induced ovulators, alpacas can be bred year round.

Our foundation Huacaya herd consists of Chileans, Peruvians and crosses. We use top males, carefully chosen from the best bloodlines available, to produce well conformed offspring with desirable fleece characteristics of density, crimp and fineness. Compared to traditional livestock, the North American alpaca industry is still in its infancy.

Would we purchase alpacas again?



(DPF Ramon)

You bet! These animals are incredible as well as profitable. Alpacas are here to stay.

With eleven years of alpaca experience, we can help new breeders get off to a good start and are always happy to have visitors or just answer questions. If you have been considering looking into alpacas, contact us to learn more about this exciting new industry.



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Barry & BJ Bonner

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Abra-Cadabra Alpacas by: Tawny Bott

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

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

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

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

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

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

The ease of care for these sweet, docile

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

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

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

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



And the tax benefits aren't bad either!

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

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

Abra-Cadabra Alpacas

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3 Hawk Ranch Alpacas

I was raised in the suburbs with pet cats and dogs; this was my only exposure to animals as a child. I then began my career in accounting. I spent 15 years doing this type of work. The last position I had was the comptroller of our 48 state trucking company. I was ready for a change.

My husband was at the Ford dealership waiting for the them to open when a man approached him with questions about the Ford diesel trucks performance. Neil answered his questions and then ask one of the man. He noticed the guy was pulling a very nice horse trailer with an air conditioning unit. Neil ask what was being hauled and was shown his first Alpaca. He received a brochure about the animals and brought this to the office for me to look at. Once I read the brochure and saw the pictures of the Alpacas, I wanted to see them up close. We went to the Alpaca farm and looked at the many available Alpacas. There was one little male, he was 9 months old; that I decided was going to be ours. We thanked the owner and told him we would be in touch. We immediately started searching for the right

property. This process took us from Pennsylvania to our ranch in Colorado. We contacted the Alpaca owner and made an appointment to return to his farm. While we were there we bought the little male I liked so much plus 3 females and another male. We were now on our way to beginning our new adventure. Neil went to Minnesota and bought a feather-lite trailer and came home to pick-up our little ones. I say our little ones because we purchased all juveniles. He took them to Colorado to our ranch and began setting up the area. We then found a buyer for our trucking company and headed west, this was in 1991. I have been caring for and learning about these fantastic creatures to date. You continue to learn new things all the time no matter how long you work with the Alpacas.

I liked my Alpacas because after the rush of the main stream life style, I now had time to enjoy life and the serenity of life with the Alpacas. I did not show my Alpacas for many years, but finally I started showing them in 2002. I have enjoyed every show I attended and when the Alpaca



wins a ribbon, I become so excited. I have many ribbons already and just starting my 3rd season of shows. I do my own shearing and then have the fleece processed commercially. I am learning to make many wonderful items from their fleece. I have attended a class for hat felting and plan to attend more classes. From the knowledge I have gained, I now can felt a hat, make a quilt, and pillows. I am even learning to crochet.

I have been happier raising my Alpacas in the Mountains of Colorado then I would have every thought possible after working in the public most of my life.

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Hidden Creek Llama Ranch

Larry and I had a couple of horses and were looking for something else to graze our pasture. We researched several options and decided to get a couple of llamas. That was 13 years ago and it's the best decision we ever made. Hidden Creek Llama Ranch is nestled in the mountains of Evergreen, Colorado and we love to have visitors. We now have a herd of 40+. We both work full time so working around the ranch is a true labor of love. It's great to go out in the pasture after a hard day's work to be surrounded by these magical creatures. Larry grew up on a livestock farm and I grew up in the city. When we were looking for our first llamas, I couldn't tell the difference between a \$300 llama a \$3,000 llama and a \$30,000 llama. Larry knew what a conformationally sound animal was. To me... a llama was a llama. So I enrolled in Llama Judge's school. Larry and I have also attended seminars around the country.

Over the years we have upgraded our herd and proudly offer llamas with pres-

tigious pedigrees in all price ranges. We raise silky and suri llamas and the spinners seem to love the fiber. We have sold llamas all over the country and have produced several grand champions. We enjoy sharing our knowledge with folks as well as learning from others. When we sell a llama, we are always available for support and advice. Several people have kept in touch with us over the years so we have an extended llama family. It's a great to receive a picture of a cria (baby llama) from a mamma llama that was once your cria. When a cria is born we imprint or desensitize the cria so it is used to and enjoys the human touch. Larry and I both know that



we are blessed to have this lifestyle. After all... how many of your investments are lovable?

This is a great time to invest in llamas. What started as a profitable hobby for us has turned into a profitable business. Before buying llamas, you should do your homework. Start with a solid quality stud and a few quality females. Llamas fit into every lifestyle. We believe whether you invest in llamas for fun, show or the novelty, the llama industry will continue to grow and be profitable.



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Lazy K Ranch

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Raising Alpacas: Active Retirement in New Mexico

Sisters Evelyn and Mickey started their alpaca enterprise in February 1998 with their first alpaca, their foundation dam, that eventually produced four females and one male before she was sold. In June 2000 Aspen Ridge Alpacas found a home in the Jemez Mountains in Northern NM. Evelyn and Mickey have since hosted seminars with nationally known presenters, participated in shows, and have thoroughly enjoyed the lifestyle that alpaca breeding offers.

Alpacas are unique: They are kind to the environment because their feet are padded and they nibble the pasture without tearing up the roots.

They are curious, friendly and bring smiles to visitors. As an investment alpacas can give a nice return. In the near future the current breeders' market will extend to a broader, income-producing fiber-fashion market.

Even on small acreage, alpacas can offer a way of diversifying your livestock holdings if you have:

1. At least one acre of land for the alpacas
2. grass pasture (not alfalfa) or dry-lot with grass hay, preferably orchard grass
3. Secure no-climb woven perimeter fencing and interior fencing separating males, females, and weanlings
4. A barn and/or three-sided sheds

Before you purchase alpacas, consider the following recommendations.

1. Explore the possibility of livestock guardian dogs. Two Anatolian shepherds protect our herd from predators.
2. Locate an alpaca vet, not just a large animal vet, or find a vet willing to put in the time and money to learn about alpacas.
3. Find a supplement especially formulated for alpacas. Llama supplements are not always the best for alpacas.
4. Visit reputable alpaca farms; also attend seminars, clinics, and conferences.
5. Read about alpacas. Start with these books:
 - a. **ALPACA Field Manual** (2003) by C. Norman Evans, D.V.M. Order from Able Publishing (785) 537-0320. \$85 plus \$8.95 shipping and handling.
 - b. **Llama and Alpaca Neonatal Care** by Bradford B. Smith, D.V.M., Karen I. Timm, D.V.M., Patrick O. Long, D.V.M. Order from Bixby Press, Inc. (541) 758-6486. \$27.95 plus shipping.
6. We recommend attending a training clinic for example, Gentle Spirit Training with Cathy Spalding. She has a Llama/Alpaca CD available, *Llama Talk*. Website: gentlespiritllamas.com
7. Explore websites. Start with the following websites that will lead you to specific farms, ranches, seminars, events, and registration information. In addition, you will be able to get investment information. a. www.alpacainfo.com b. www.alpacanation.com c. www.alpacaregistry.net



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Alpacas are gentle in nature and very curious. They can live into their late teens and early twenties. The best part of the alpaca industry is that you don't have to slaughter them. They give you beautiful soft fleece every year and the females give you a cria (baby) every year.

In addition, the alpaca industry provides a major income opportunity for the savvy rancher. The demand for alpacas has increased dramatically and the supply is unable to keep up. This demand keeps

the value of these animals at an all time high. The average price for a breeding female can range from \$15K to 20K and breeding males will sell in the range of \$10K to 100K. Daybreak Criations has seen an average return on investment of 35% over the last seven years.

When the rest of the economy is lagging, the alpaca industry is seeing phenomenal growth and exposure. Being able to insure each alpaca against mortality and theft for the amount they were purchased, allows protection from loss, unlike the stock market.

At Daybreak Criations Alpacas, potential buyers are given the knowledge and confidence to go forward in the alpaca industry. For those interested in learning more about the industry, seminars on the financial aspect (5-year plan/spreadsheet) are one of the many educational tools available. Herd health management, reproduction, fiber analysis and overall industry education is also available. Assisting with facility



layout and shelter requirements is another tool offered by Daybreak Criations.

Seminars for existing customers of Daybreak Criations are also held periodically throughout the year on topics requested by the customer. These seminars have included fiber processing, annual vaccinations/worming instruction, halter training, breeding and toenail trimming. Daybreak Criations is in their 7th year and have the knowledge of the industry to help answer new owners questions.

For more information on alpacas, log on to: www.AlpacaNation.com/DaybreakCriationsAlpacas.asp



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Davies Alpacas • Committed To The Alpaca Industry Since 1985

Owners, Jack and Joan Davies are not farm raised, but **THEY LOVE ALPACAS!** They have enjoyed raising these wonderful creatures since 1985 - camelids since 1980. Aside from having a dog, cat and an odd bird, the Davies had no livestock experience. Married in 1955, they have three very successful children - an astrophysicist, a geophysicist and a physician and five terrific grandchildren. Their physician son has his own alpaca ranch in Texas, Texoma Alpacas that is a joint venture.

Jack has owned and operated timber businesses, ad agencies; ran trap lines in the Yukon; raised, collected and hybridized orchids (and still does) and has traveled extensively for pleasure and collecting orchids. Joan taught the children for the first eight years of their schooling, consults for local medical practices, and has traveled extensively for any conceivable reason.

Jack and Joan were both born in Canada but became dual citizens USA-Canada many years ago. They have moved numerous times starting from the Yukon, but arrived in California, over 20 years ago and plan on staying.

As to how they got into alpacas? They were newly settled in northern California and started looking for a tax break to cover their property. At that time, llamas were the best financial and animal husbandry option

available, so they raised llamas until 1985. At a llama auction in Grant's Pass, Oregon, they came across two alpacas from a Chilean import. Jack bid \$10,000 each and headed home with two pregnant Huacaya female alpacas who then produced two more females. They now had four females. There were no male alpacas on the West coast, so they managed to finally bring one in from Ohio and their alpaca venture was up and running.

Since then, they have added Bolivian, Peruvian, English and more Chilean lines, as well as one female purchased from the LA Zoo (one of their pre-1984 lines) who has produced five magnificent girls. In 1999, they added Suris. With one of the largest and most colorful herds in the Western USA, they now average over 100 alpacas of all colors; full Peruvian, Chilean and Bolivian, as well as combinations.

Jack and Joan know of no other endeavor that provides a profitable, pleasurable home based industry to compare with the alpaca life style. The whole family can function as a unit in providing livestock husbandry, attending shows, 4H projects, etc. Children learn the work ethic while caring for/nurturing/grooming and showing animals that are gentle, lovable and cuddly yet take only a minimum of stable cleaning and feeding. Because of their

small size and gentle nature (as well as no upper teeth and only soft pads for hoofs), even a young child is safe in their company.

Because of the profits involved in a well run alpaca operation with quality alpaca stock, many couples have opted to have one parent remain at home providing homemaker skills and parenting, while the alpaca sales provide income. More and more couples are retiring who are still youthful and energetic and don't want to sit back in their rocking chairs. The alpaca industry appears to be ideal for these people. Unfortunately, they soon find out that it is profitable, can get frantic when cria start arriving and when preparing for shows and at the end of the day, they end up sitting in their rocking chairs, looking over their "humming" alpaca mothers and "pronging" crias and wondering why they didn't retire years earlier!

If you are interested in getting into the Alpaca Industry, give Jack and Linda a call. They can give you information on the tax advantages, profit and fiber potential, stud services, etc. To their past, present and future clients, the Davies appreciate the honor of providing the BEST in the Alpaca Industry.

For more information, phone 707-616-6207 or Email:jack@daviesalpacas.com Website:www.daviesalpacas.com



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THE DOUBLE B R ALPACA RANCH

BBreeding for BBrilliance

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Welcome to the Double B R.
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Brilliant Alpacas

Bette B. Rittinger • Scott G. Rittinger
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303.545.2187 • bbr438@aol.com



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

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

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

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

Alpacas Offer Farm Income Diversity

Many farmers and ranchers are currently looking at ways to augment or replace revenue lost due to the recent BSE (mad cow) disease reports. Alpaca ranching is one of those options being considered by many.

Alpacas are native to South America where they were established as domestic livestock long before the Inca Empire. Large herds of

alpacas provided exquisite fiber for the garments of the Inca aristocracy. Until recently, alpacas were found only in South America. Today there are now about 30,000 alpacas in the United States.

As an investment animal, alpacas are excellent. With a long yearly gestation period, single births, a strong national breed association and a closed registry (no more impor-

tation) the alpaca industry has maintained its strong prices for breeding stock. Breeders often sell bred females for \$10,000 to \$20,000. Several breeding males have sold at auction for as much as \$265,000 although a good quality herdsire can be purchased for about \$5,000 - \$30,000.

Source: Willamette Alpaca Breeders Association

ALPACA RANCHING • A Hair-Raising Adventure

I fell in love with Alpacas when I first saw them on TV in 1984, and vowed that I would one day own some of these wonderful, elegant, fluffy creatures with their extraordinary fiber.

In 1997, I was on business in the Gold Country of Northern California. Seriously impressed by the country feeling in this area of California, I walked in the door upon my return home and asked my husband, Paul, "How would you like to move to Grass Valley?" His reply was "How soon can we go and what will be do?"

We knew we would love to own a few acres, but in Southern California it was financially prohibitive for us. But what would we do if we moved somewhere with some acreage, other than raise some of our own vegetables and fruits? It was then that the perfect picture of gorgeous, fuzzy animals returned to my head and the answer was "we'll raise alpacas!"

This whole process began in October, 1997, and we moved into a modest home on 5-acres in late July, 1998. We purchased 2 pregnant female alpacas and never looked back. Since then, we



have had the pleasure of seeing 4 dozen crias (babies) born here. Their gestation period is 11 months and they have one cria at a time (no wonder they maintain their value) well, that and their fabulous fleece!

In April 1, 2000, I closed my sales representation company as we were doing quite well with alpaca sales and my husband closed his business 6 months later. Hands down, alpacas represent

a fun 'job' and great opportunities for investment growth. Alpacas are 'easy keepers,' hardy, and they practically sell themselves; who can resist those huge, intelligent eyes?

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

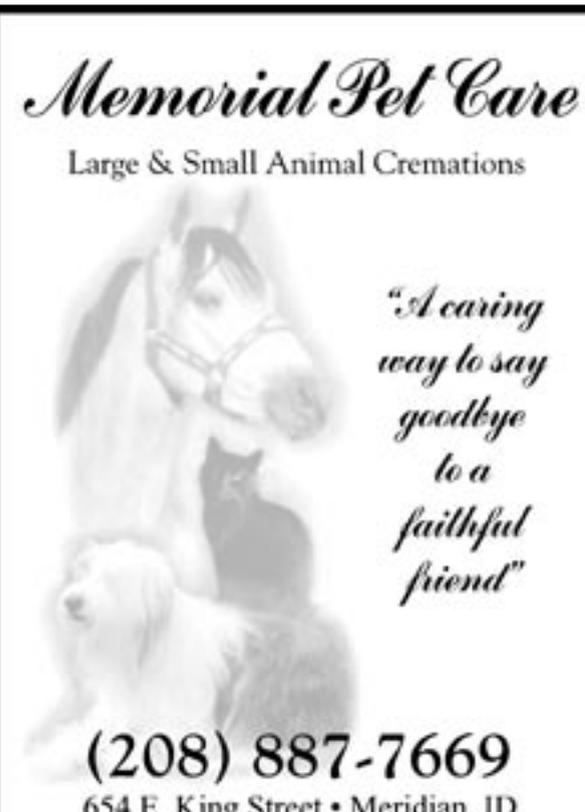
not to keep the remains, they can send them to our tree farm located in Donnelly, Idaho. This option is one that many owners have chosen to do. They are welcome to visit this site anytime of the year. Our farm consists largely of blue spruce and Scotch pine trees, so regardless of the time of year it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

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

All of our cremations, whether it

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

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



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Disease Cost Estimated In The Billions

Chronic wasting disease could have a \$100 billion economic impact across the country every year under a worst-case scenario developed by a Colorado State University researcher.

Andrew Seidl, an associate professor of agricultural and resource economics, said his estimate is based on the possibility that chronic wasting disease, a fatal disease that affects deer and elk, would be so widespread that no one would hunt or travel to view wildlife.

"The bottom line is while we really don't know what the total economic impact is going to be, we can see that wildlife is a large and important industry," Seidl said.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife said deer and elk hunting brought \$599 million into the state's economy last year. Ranching added another \$19 million before operations were shut down.

Nationwide, the report says wildlife viewing has an economic impact of \$38.4 billion each year. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says 10 million hunters reported spending \$10 billion in 2001.

Some officials say the \$100 billion estimate is high. "I think the value of the study is it will help agencies and decision makers determine whether expenditures are cost-effective or not," said Bruce Morrison of Nebraska, chairman of the National CWD Plan Implementation Team.

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tarts are triple scented throughout and the wicks are cotton with no metal core. The elegant containers can be washed with soap and water and reused after the candle is burned.

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Test Detects Bacteria In Goat's Milk

Goat milk sold in the United States may soon be better protected against brucellosis-causing bacteria, thanks to recent research conducted by two U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies in Ames, Iowa.

A test for detecting the bacteria *Brucella melitensis* in bulk goat milk has been developed by research chemist Louisa Tabatabai of the Agricultural Research Service's National Animal Disease Center, Barbara Martin of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's National Veterinary Services Laboratories, and graduate student Nathan Funk of Iowa State University. The test relies on an adaptation of an enzyme-linked immunoassay that Tabatabai helped develop in 1984 for testing cattle for *B. abortus*.

B. melitensis, one of six known species of *Brucella* bacteria that induce abortions in animals, mainly infects sheep and goats. In humans, *B. melitensis* infection causes Malta fever, which is characterized by fever and headaches.

Few cases of this infection in goats have occurred in the United States since 1972. But, it is essential that vigilance be maintained to prevent introductions of the bacteria into the country. *B. melitensis* is particularly common in Latin America, central and southwest Asia, and the Mediterranean region.

Dairy goat milk is slowly gaining popularity due to its high protein and low cholesterol levels, as well as its compatibility for people with intolerance to cow's milk. About 1 million goats are raised for milk and cheese production in the United States.

In the studies, the assay, which detects *B. melitensis* antibodies, identified one goat with a high concentration of infection in a herd of more than 1,600 animals, and one goat with a low concentration in a herd of 50 animals. It also correctly identified all 13 positive and 134 negative bulk milk samples tested. The researchers recommend that herds be sampled in groups of 50 animals or less for bulk milk testing.

Tabatabai is in the NADC's Respiratory Diseases of Livestock Research Unit ARS is the USDA's chief scientific research agency, while APHIS protects and promotes U.S. agricultural health.

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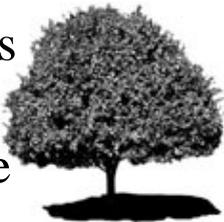
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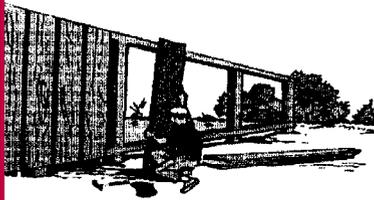


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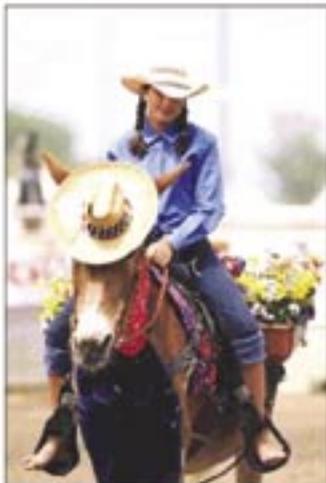


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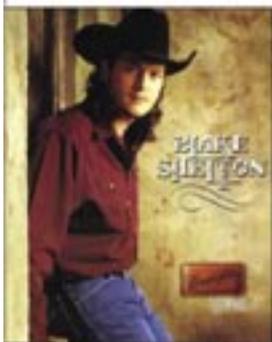
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