

# *Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy*

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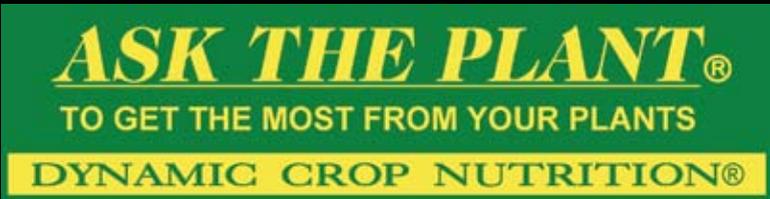


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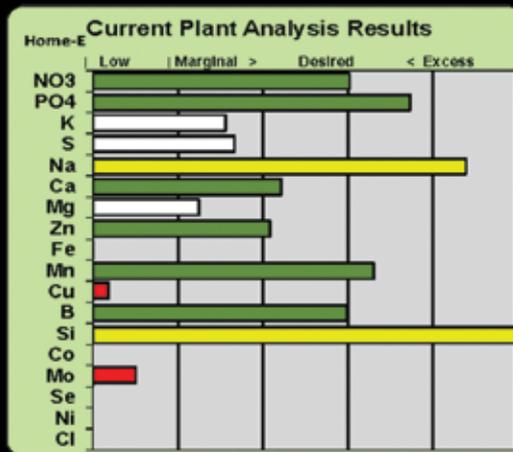


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# contents

## Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy

West/Southwest • spring-summer edition 2018



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### Agriculture

Ubyl Bean Knife and Ubyl Peanut Digger Blades Give You the Advant-EDGE! .....	8
Farm For Under 3%! .....	8
Vermeer Rocky Mountain, Inc. ....	8
RadiCoat Seed Treatment:	
A Radicle Approach to Supersizing Seed Germination .....	10
Stukenholtz Laboratory Inc. ....	
Celebrating 47 Years of Agricultural Testing .....	11
Miracles of Balanced Plant Nutrition	
Rising Costs, Falling Commodity Prices and Reduced Availability of Farm Loans	
Demand Smarter Farming Practices With Higher and More Efficient Production Per Acre. ....	12
Let's Be Proactive and Train to Stay Safe around Grain .....	15

### Equipment

Sunny D Mfg., Co. Inc – The Oregon Roadrunner .....	17
The Mighty Giant Line by Jones Manufacturing Co. ....	18
Walinga – Bulk Feed Bodies & Grain-Vacs .....	19

### Livestock

Blood-Based Pregnancy Checks-BioPRYN Your Herd! .....	21
BCF Technology	
A Pioneer In Veterinary Ultrasound For Over 30 Years .....	22
“Catcher” Makes Calf Work Easier .....	22

### Departments

Marketplace .....	24
Advertiser Index .....	25

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# agriculture



Canola field with trees in background in Washington State.  
Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS.

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about the acceptability of the direct harvest system due to the high losses of beans, therefore keep using the Ubly Bean Knife for the best possible cut and quality for your money. Do what hundreds have already done. Make Ubly Your Advant-EDGE.

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Ubly Peanut Digger Blade Manufacturing, Inc., a subsidiary of Ubly Bean Knife Mfg., Inc., received a patent for the Ubly Lifting Fingers, stainless steel lifting fingers that are flat and curved upward to better guide peanuts up on to

the top of the elevator during the digging process.

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## FARM FOR UNDER 3%!

**B**argain interest rates may be the optimistic news for farmers this year, as both long and short term rates remain at historic lows. But while many lenders cling to old Prime Plus formulas for establishing loan rates, others prove they can do better.

"Farmers can borrow substantially under 3%, and close to half of what Prime plus 1% formulas are," according to AGRIfinancial Services, a nationwide lender focusing exclusively on farm lending. Headquartered in Louisville, KY, the company provides an alterna-

tive way to borrowing for operating needs, as well as long term fixed rate mortgages.

"It's like a home equity loan, but for farmers," they say. AGRIfinancial Services works with California and western producers in all lines of the industry. Instead of crops or machinery for collateral, farmers use their real estate to back the loan. The resulting benefits pay off with customers.

Not only is the loan rate very low, but the product also offers a 10-year commitment where producers do not have to come in every year, or 3 years

to renew the line. Additionally, the loan can be used for farm and business needs – not strictly operating expenses. The loan is priced based on a variable, LIBOR-indexed rate, but farmers can also choose to lock pieces of their debt to a fixed rate if they desire, he explained. All is done inside the loan, without the need for refinancing.

It's quite an amazing loan product and an example of what nontraditional lenders like AFS have been bringing to the market. The company is owned by CGB Enterprises, a major buyer and shipper of farm commodities.



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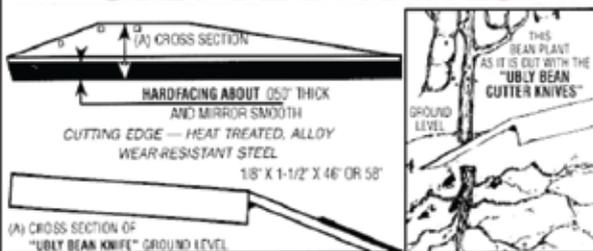
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# RadiCoat Seed Treatment: A Radicle Approach to Supersizing Seed Germination

The radicle is the first part of the embryonic seed, the initial root growth, and has a substantial amount of production potential riding on its fate. But what do we need before the radicle can begin growing and absorbing nutrients for the plant to be? Germination. There are many factors that may have an effect on the germination of a plant and many companies spend a great deal of time and resources trying to figure it out. The major question is, will the seed have the resources it needs to germinate and flourish, or will it wither?



By introducing RadiCoat, we have answered this question. RadiCoat delivers several components directly to the surface of the seed waiting to build the ideal micro-environment when the radicle emerges. Imagine, if you can, that every seed in the field has the micro nutrients, trace minerals, organic acids, and beneficial microbes and fungi necessary to build a protective and nutritive microbiome. It would be an industry changer — and it is. It is no longer necessary to apply all nutrients in-furrow and hope that they still exist in an available form when the plant is ready to use them. How much more efficient can you get?

RadiCoat is a seed-coating polymer, but nothing like the majority of industry standard polymers. There are two types of polymers: natural and synthetic. Synthetic polymers make products like polystyrene, nylon, acrylic, polyethylene, polyester, and epoxy. They are typically not biodegradable or sympathetic to the environment, and use chemical solvents and wetting agents for manufacturing and/or forming films.

Natural polymers are made from raw materials found in

nature and their uses are driven by a growing demand with mostly pharmaceutical and medical applications. RadiCoat Seed Treatment uses natural organic polymers formulated for growing vigorous plants compatible for use in agricultural soils from where they originated.



Panoramic view of treated vs untreated Treated on left – Untreated on right

Natural polymers are biodegradable with a direct nutritional benefit when combined in microbial populations, and can be used as a seed coating system for actually delivering microbes and nutrients to the exterior on all types of seeds. It has been proven that the best opportunities for successful microbe and seed germinations are created from placing the microbes “on the seed” along with nutrients. This also increases the overall efficacy for performance of the seed as opposed to treating soil proximities.

RadiCoat has been applied to all small grains, cotton, and high-value crops like potatoes and sugar beets. Many different application systems were tested to ensure that a producer with nothing more than a pump-up sprayer and a cement mixer can accurately apply RadiCoat. The ease of use and inclusion into almost any program are factors that make RadiCoat so valuable.

In one of our outstanding field trials coordinated through our distributor, Rocky Mountain Agronomics, RadiCoat Seed Treatment was applied to potato seed pieces through a liquid applicator system at standard rate. The RadiCoat treated half of the field emerged five days sooner than the control and total emergence was contained to a window of just 48 hours. Treated plants were more uniform and robust than the control. The RadiCoat treated portion of the field yielded more sacks per acre, and 71% of the treated yield was 10 oz. and above compared to the control where only 52% were 10 oz. and above. Such a large return for so small an investment, RadiCoat is a true economizer for your production system.

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# Stukenholtz Laboratory Inc.

## Celebrating 47 Years of Agricultural Testing

In 1970, there were no commercial soil and plant testing laboratories in Idaho. Farmers applied fertilizers based upon educated guesswork. Dr. Dale Stukenholtz and his wife Joyce saw an opportunity to build a business and started a soil and plant testing laboratory and field consulting service based in Twin Falls, Idaho. Dr. Stukenholtz had an unusually diverse background as an educator at the University of Nebraska, an agronomist in the fertilizer industry, and a farmer, and he saw a need for more modern fertilizer recommendations to produce greater yields at less cost. His clients were the growers, so he could make unbiased recommendations that maximized economic return to the farmer. After extensive field research, he developed these improved fertilizer recommendations that quickly became popular with growers and form the basis for nearly all fertilizer applications in the intermountain west area. Stukenholtz Laboratory clients include growers from all neighboring states and several foreign countries including Australia, Canada, Egypt, Russia, Mexico and New Zealand.

Stukenholtz Laboratory provides 1 to 2 day service, including picking up and delivery time, across Southern Idaho from St. Anthony and Grace to Parma and Homedale. Results can be delivered, mailed, faxed, or pulled from the Laboratory's webpage: [www.stukenholtz.com](http://www.stukenholtz.com). To improve their service, Joyce and Dale Stukenholtz expanded the laboratory 20 years ago, installed the latest in computerized instrumentation and quality control, and made it the most modern and well equipped agricultural laboratory in their market area.

Critical to the success of Idaho's most efficient laboratory and largest field consulting firm has been its personnel. Dr. Stukenholtz has had a PhD in Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition since 1964 and his son and Laboratory Manager Paul has nearly completed his own. Consulting agronomists include

J.P. Kruckeberg of American Falls, a 38 year veteran of field consulting and the most successful single agronomist in the state, and Bart Kunz. The Laboratory and office staff are equally good.



Analysis room at Stukenholtz Laboratory Inc.

Stukenholtz Laboratory continues with research and improvement. In conjunction with the Idaho Crop Production Association and University of Idaho CFEP research project, Stukenholtz Laboratory has helped to ensure that fertilizer recommendations in Idaho are the most cost efficient possible and produce the maximum economic yield while protecting the environment. Stukenholtz Laboratory personnel have conducted field research on over 40 different products and continue to be the experts at "cutting edge" agricultural technology. As we end our first 46 years of business and begin our next, we would like to thank our current and former employees for their dedicated work and our customers and clients for their years of support.

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# Miracles of Balanced Plant Nutrition

## Rising Costs, Falling Commodity Prices and Reduced Availability of Farm Loans Demand Smarter Farming Practices With Higher and More Efficient Production Per Acre.

Noel Garcia, CCA Technical Director, Texas Plant & Soil Lab

Typically, most growers have post-harvest or early spring soil tests performed then apply pre-plant fertilizer based upon the recommendations of the soil report and assume that the one application will pretty much supply the crop's nutritional requirements for the remainder of the season with perhaps supplementing Nitrogen sometime mid-season.

There are several problems with this approach:

1. Much can happen to your fertilizer after it hits the ground to make it unavailable to the crop:
  - A. Your native soil chemistry can rapidly tie-up fertilizer components into chemical compounds which the plant can't absorb.
  - B. Irrigation water high in mineral salts not only changes your soil's chemistry and damages its structure, but it also neutralizes plant-absorbability of many fertilizers by changing their chemistries into plant-unavailable compounds. Water quality is really critical in spray mixes or fertigation.
2. **"What's In Your Water Becomes Part Of Your Soil."**
  - C. Chemical interactions between the fertilizer components themselves can render them unavailable to the plant.
  - D. Loss due to the weather – leaching due to heavy rain, high soil temperatures, etc.
  - E. Volatilization of Nitrogen into the atmosphere – especially true when next year's N is applied in the Fall.

The pre-season soil test provides a starting point for determining what the soil needs to get the crop off to a good start. The soil may have several issues that need to be dealt with in a coordinated manner to ensure the critical early part of the growing season is managed for the best results. But after that...

2. Nutritional demands of many crops vary widely throughout the growing season. ***The wrong fertilizer in the wrong form applied in the wrong place in the wrong amounts at the wrong time is simply wasted – along with your money*** – often leaching into nearby waterways.

But worse – your crop ends up being malnourished resulting in yields and quality often far below your crop's potential.

***And even worse***, crop malnourishment results in a stressed crop, making it vulnerable to diseases and insects (requiring insecticides and fungicides) – and requiring more water, making it more susceptible to drought and heat – and to hail damage and to cold (late frosts). "Nature always eats the weakest with bugs and disease." ***So, you end up spending a whole lot more to get a lot less.***

3. Popular soil testing methods used today (Mehlich III and others) by most labs extract nutrient compounds that are both plant-available and unavailable to be interpreted for subsequent recommendations to you.

(Sidebar: Reports on some soils often show Phosphorus, Potassium, Calcium or Magnesium as being consistently adequate or high, year-after-year. *How can that be?*)

Most of those soil nutrients that are not lost due to the weather are either absorbed by the crop or are converted to plant-unavailable compounds by native soil chemistry or chemical reactions between themselves. Calcareous soils, particularly, are very efficient in tying-up most nutrients, making them water-insoluble and not immediately available to the plant. Accordingly, these insoluble compounds can build up in the soil over time.

By including at least some of these plant-unavailable compounds in the laboratory analyses, the proportions of what is, and what is not, available to the plant cannot be measured with the popular extraction methods.

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This means that the lab has to estimate (guess) what is actually available to your crop, based upon its experience with your soil and render fertilization recommendations often based upon crop nutrition standards published in the early 1950s.

Because interpreting the analysis numbers from the soil testing methods used by most labs is highly-dependent upon the many variations in soil types its clients may have, it is not generally practical for the lab to attempt to calibrate lab numbers against actual plant uptake as can be done using an extraction method that duplicates the way plant roots take up nutrients in any soil.

And the problem with relying on 60+ year-old standards is that they do not reflect new varieties, new discoveries in plant nutrition and deteriorated soil quality (especially high soil salts, low organic matter content and collapsed structure).

**All this explains why your soil test reports give you pretty much the same results and recommendations, year-after-year – even as your yields and quality stay flat or decline while your costs go up.**

### Balanced and Complete Plant Nutrition Goes Way Beyond N-P-K

About 18 elements have been identified so far as being necessary to plants – the number of which depends upon the plant. It has been only fairly recently that the importance of micronutrients (Iron, Copper, Zinc and Manganese) to plant health and quality started being promoted – and a few trace elements have been known for a while to be necessary for certain crops or their consumers. With ongoing research, discoveries are being made regularly about the importance of heretofore ignored trace elements – most recently, SILICON.

A few years back, Silicon was acknowledged as being “beneficial” to mostly small grains, as it helps prevent lodging by hardening cell walls. However, ongoing research reveals that the benefits to very many crops and soils go far beyond that:

- Insects and disease are discouraged by hard cell walls.
- Research suggests that an extremely thin physical barrier forms on root hairs, thus discouraging nematodes and disease.
- Improves nutrient uptake.
- Improves drought resistance.
- Improves soil permeability.

• Many, many other benefits – and more to be discovered.

*But there’s more:* A nutritionally-balanced crop is much better able to withstand stresses put upon it by adverse growing conditions (cold or hot, dark or bright, wet or dry, etc., weather). And – as we’ve experienced in the field, *maturation time can be shortened by as much as three weeks!*

**When we encounter a field with disease or insect problems, the first thing we want to know about is the complete nutritional status of the crop, especially the secondary nutrients, micronutrients and trace elements – as these problems are typically only symptoms of plant stress brought on by nutritional imbalances.**

But correcting nutritional problems alone won’t necessarily fix a field already in distress – especially when there is disease or crop damage. Diseased or damaged plants require some intensive care.

### A Lot More Than Just The Elements and Basic Chemistry

*Biological Inoculants (microbes)*, sugars, hormones, humates, organic acids and more are game-changers and need to be an integral part of your season fertility program – but especially, **biological inoculants** because the populations and diversity of the native biology in many of today’s soils have been decimated.

**Biology** – both soil and plant – **does a lot:**

- Converts plant-unavailable soil nutrients into plant-available.
- Controls soil and plant pathogens.
- Conditions soil, regenerating structure.
- Helps remediate salty soil.
- Transforms raw organic matter into humus – a material with complex physical and nutritional qualities – and releases plant-available nutrients during the process. Good levels of humus are essential for thriving plants.
- And a whole lot more...

*Sugars* stimulate biological activity to reduce excessive vegetative growth of plants caused by excess Nitrogen.

*Hormones and Organic Acids* are essential components of accelerating plant development – and are especially effective when dealing with crop damage (due to hail, etc.) and to assist in establishing crops in inclement springs.

We see many times a year, that these other things, in addition to basic nutrition, can restore a hailed-out crop within two or three weeks and very rapidly (often, in one season) turn bad fields from disasters into successes!

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## Plant Tests

Plant tests provide you with “closed-loop feedback” about your crop’s nutritional condition – because you really don’t know about how much of your expensive fertilizer has been absorbed by the crop and you don’t know what its immediate needs are for eventual end-of-season success.

Plant tests are actually tissue tests from leaves, petioles (leaf stems - plant sap) or the whole plant. What leaves/petioles are taken, the stage of growth, when they are taken and the crop nutritional standards used are critical as to how lab results are interpreted and reported. The primary difference between labs is in how the lab analyses are interpreted and the recommendations rendered.

Leaf or Petiole? Very generally speaking, leaves contain the historic nutrient content of the plant. Petioles contain the nutrients flowing (plant sap) within the plant as of the moment the sample was taken. With some crops, there are only leaves.

**Many farmers act only after they see visual signs of crop nutritional problems in the field.**

*But the problem there is, by the time problems can be actually seen with the eye, yields and quality have already been lost for the season.* The best that can be done by then is damage control – to hopefully prevent further loss. And “*Hidden Hunger*” is, by definition, invisible...

Plant analysis allows you to correct nutritional problems seven to 21 days *before* they can be seen in the field. Testing is done at specific stages of crop development, ranging from every week or two for fast-growing or high-value

crops to two to five times a year for others. But it is critical that your lab reasonably knows what the nutrient content is supposed to be these days at the stage of growth when the samples are taken.

## More To It Than Nitrogen

We have a number of clients who are interested only in plant Nitrogen content. Even though N-compound tests are cheap and certainly N is very important, from our perspective N-only tests are still a waste of money and effort, as there are so many more critical nutrients to be accounted for. Consider “von Liebig’s Law of the Minimum”.

## Do Your Plant Test Reports Include Everything That Is Important To Your Crop?

We’ve already seen that there are a lot of nutrients required for proper and balanced plant nutrition – only a few of which have been mentioned here – much more than just N-P-K. Accordingly, for you to get a complete picture of your crop’s nutritional status, you need to know about the secondary nutrients, micronutrients and trace elements. Different crops have different nutritional needs and some crops have special nutritional requirements – especially for trace elements.

Does your lab include these in its reports? Does it have plant tests for your specific crop, including its special nutritional requirements? Does your lab have the capacity to interpret the data to provide you with good recommendations?

## Crop Loss: Prevention and Cure –

Very often, crop loss due to late frosts can be avoided or minimized with a correct (and inexpensive) foliar spray applied even within hours of the expected event. Hailed-out crops can also often be quickly recovered with foliar sprays of hormones, sugars, microbial inoculants, amino acids, micronutrients, trace elements and other things.

## Comprehensive Plant Tests Are The Cornerstone...

...for maximizing your crop’s potential under the prevailing growing conditions and solving serious crop problems – especially when there are diseases and insects. Your lab should be able to provide you with recommendations for each stage of plant development for a successful season-long crop nutrition program. Providing your crop with balanced nutrition throughout the season is the biggest factor in field performance – and your bottom-line!

## What To Take Away From This Article:

- If your lab’s soil reports and recommendations are pretty much the same, year-after-year, there’s something wrong, someplace.
- If you follow your lab’s plant test recommendations and things haven’t much improved, there’s something wrong, someplace.
- If your fields have disease or insect problems, there’s something wrong, someplace.
- If your yields and quality are flat, mediocre or are generally declining and you’re not doing very well, there’s something wrong, someplace.
- If the quality of your soil isn’t improving with each year, there’s something wrong, someplace.
- The Devil is always in the details – especially the smallest ones.

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# Let's Be Proactive and Train to Stay Safe around Grain

By: Jana L. Davidson, Education Content Specialist  
for the Progressive Agriculture Foundation

Let's begin with a Limerick:

***Children should never play in grain  
May past farming incidents teach us and not be in vain  
Let's educate our future generation  
And give them the proper foundation  
To achieve greatness and none of the blame***

As with many practices on the farm, producing grain can be dangerous. According to Purdue University, on U.S. farms there were 47 confirmed grain bin entrapments and incidents in other confined spaces in 2015. Our friends at Nationwide are helping to bring awareness to this important topic through their sponsorship and support of Grain Bin Safety Week held the third full week of February.

In an effort to help prevent further deaths and injuries, Nationwide collaborates each year with the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) to offer safety trainings. In offering their fifth annual contest to provide rescue tubes to fire departments in rural areas, they are providing tools and resources needed if a grain bin incident occurs. The Progressive Agriculture Foundation whole-heartedly support this endeavor and are taking it a step further to educate our future generation of farmers – our children!

It's downright scary the similarities grain has to quicksand. In a matter of seconds, one can become entrapped in grain and in less than a minute become fully submerged. Curiosity, size, strength and lack of experience are a major cause of injuries and fatalities for young children. Through hands-on activities and demonstrations, we strongly emphasize the following to youth participants at Progressive Agriculture Safety Days®:

1. Always stay out of flowing grain.
2. Never walk or play in or around stored grain.
3. Never enter a grain bin, wagon, or truck.
4. Stay away from a grain bin while the unloading auger or suction tube is operating.
5. What to do in case of an emergency involving grain, including:

Turn off any equipment that is causing the grain to flow or move. This will stop the person from being pulled further underneath the grain.

Always assume the victim is alive and take the necessary measures to help the situation. This may include turning on aeration fans and assuring dryer heat is turned off.

Call for help immediately. Never attempt to pull someone



Our friends at Unverferth Manufacturing Co. Inc., support our efforts in teaching grain safety and have provided a new resource to strengthen our demonstrations at Progressive Agriculture Safety Day®. Unverferth graciously donated a gravity flow wagon to our program, which is being housed by our partners at NECAS in Peosta, Iowa.

out of grain on your own.

While educating youth, always send the correct messages. Avoid confusing children by sending mixed messages when replacing sand boxes with corn at places like pumpkin patches, local parks and farm shows. A young child will have trouble understanding and identifying the difference between grain in a corn box and grain in a gravity flow wagon.

Learn more about 2018 Grain Bin Safety Week taking place February 18-24 and nominate your local fire department to be the recipient of essential grain safety resources by visiting <https://www.nationwide.com/grain-bin-safety-week.jsp>

Progressive Agriculture Safety Days® reach more than 100,000 individuals annually with fun, age-appropriate, hands-on safety education. To learn more, call 888-257-3529 or visit [progressiveag.org](http://progressiveag.org). A modest donation of only \$13, helps send another child to a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day in North America. Donate by texting the word "safetyday" to 41444 or go to [progressiveag.org/Donate](http://progressiveag.org/Donate) to contribute on-line.



# equipment



Photo by: Bruce Mars from Pexels.

# Sunny D Mfg., Co. Inc – *The Oregon Roadrunner*

The Oregon Roadrunner, manufactured by Sunny D Manufacturing Company, Inc., is the all purpose machine when it comes to loading and unloading blocks of hay, everything from a stack of bales in the field to a six-pack of 3x4 bales. What used to take several people hours to buck the hay, whether loading trucks, unloading trucks, or moving the hay from one truck to another, now takes one person just minutes to accomplish. There is no other machine that can match it.



## Humble Beginnings

In 1971, Art Davina – then a rancher in Bonanza Oregon – saw the need, designed and built the first Oregon Roadrunner.

That machine is still being used today.

While struggling through the hard times, redesigning to incorporate new ideas and improving on old ones, and building a strong customer base one customer at a time, Art managed to build his back-yard business to a point where he was able to open his first shop. By 1985 the business was large enough that he began the process of incorporating it. Later, needing more space to meet customer demand, he bought a larger property, and moved the business to its current location in Klamath Falls.

When health problems forced Art to take a step back and de-stress his life, he wanted to find the perfect person to take the reins. Ed Majors took over as GM in 1998 and in 2003, began the process of buying the company from Art. Today, Ed officially owns it.

## Sunny D Today

From those humble beginnings in 1971 to the 21st century, Sunny D Manufacturing Company Inc. has grown to a business totaling 15 employees. Welders, fabricators, mechanics, a painter, and various support personnel create from bare metal the machine that called “The Oregon Roadrunner.” What used to be only available in white with your choice of stripe, a customer can now choose their color and design. For more information, call 1-541-884-2361, or write 4343 Highway 39, Klamath Falls, OR 97603. 

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Since the day Les Jones decided there had to be a better way, Jones Manufacturing Company has produced the most durable, high capacity, operator-oriented Hay Grinder and Mulch Grinder in the world – the Mighty Giant Tub Grinder. You get more than 50 years of hands-on in-the-field experience in every Mighty Giant we build.

Often imitated, innovation begins at Jones Manufacturing! Jones Manufacturing was the first with a hydraulic opening tub (we built our first unit in 1960), the first with an electronic governor, and the first with a hydrafork. From the single discharge auger, to the rubber lagged top-drive elevator no other grinder has the features, capacity and durability of the Jones Mighty Giant.

New products and new features can sometimes lead to new problems. At Jones Manufacturing, we maintain a relationship with local operators to be sure that all features and designs are field-tested in the same environment our customers face. This same relationship gives us important feedback so that new designs and innovations are the result of experience, not marketing hype.

All Jones Mighty Giant Hay and Wood Grinders are of commercial, heavy-duty quality, designed for the high capacity grinding at a low cost per ton. With a Mighty Giant, you not only get a host of operator friendly features, but also the security of years of durability. We're not the first tub grinder company in the world, but we're confident that we are the last one you'll need.

For more information on the Mighty Giant Line by Jones Manufacturing Co., please visit us online at [www.mightygiant.com](http://www.mightygiant.com), or call us at 402-528-3861. If you're in the neighborhood, stop in and visit us at 1486 12th Road, Beemer, NE 68716.

# Walinga

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From concept, design and through production, Walinga meets the customer's needs at every step. Creating outstanding products that are innovative and durable, with some client's vehicles being passed from generation to generation.

Walinga is a leading North American manufacturer of transportation equipment and portable pneumatic conveying systems for grain, feed, seed... virtually any dry bulk material. Walinga is still a family owned and operated company. The total commitment to quality is not only our inheritance - it's our foundation for the future.

Walinga products represent the best in manufacturing excellence. Our in-house engineering and design teams utilize the most current computer technology available. State of the art equipment, combined with over 60 years of experience, ensures that our customers receive unsurpassed quality.

Comprehensive engineering capabilities allow us to offer sizes, capacities, features and options that are specifically job-matched according to individual requirements. The services of our Engineering Department are available to our customers to assist in the selection of the properly specified chassis. Every Walinga vehicle is designed and produced to best fulfill its designated function.

Custom-built aluminum feed bodies and trailers, pneumatic conveying systems, recycling trucks and bodies, aluminum and steel dump bodies... each built according to exact standards. Every stage of the manufacturing process from design to completion is performed by Walinga. The result - a cost effective, durable product line that responds to any challenge with premium.

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Walinga Inc. has been manufactur-

ing bulk feed transportation equipment for more than 60 years. In this time we have become committed to an ongoing program of research and development. In response to the increasingly diverse needs of our customers Walinga is and will continue to be on the forefront of technological evolution.

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# livestock



Confined feeding operations of cattle. Yuma, Az.  
Photo courtesy of Spokane Ag Expo.

## **Blood-Based Pregnancy Checks- BioPRYN Your Herd!**

Over thirty years ago Dr. Garth Sasser was a professor of Animal Science at the University of Idaho. In his research he discovered a pregnancy specific protein in the maternal bloodstream of ruminant animals that is only elevated when that animal is pregnant. He developed a test called BioPRYN (Pregnant-Ruminant-Yes-No) that measures the concentration of this protein in blood and can provide an extremely accurate determination of pregnancy status in cattle, goats, sheep, bison and other ruminant animals very early in gestation (28 days post breeding).

A growing number of dairy and beef producers and their veterinarians are utilizing blood-based pregnancy testing in unique ways to complement traditional pregnancy detection methods and because BioPRYN is a proven, convenient, accurate and cost-effective way to check your animals for pregnancy that eliminates subjectivity. Some progressive producers that are using embryo transfer or synchronization protocols with artificial insemination will use BioPRYN as an early "open check" at 28 days post breeding to identify if the animal needs to be reintroduced to the synchronization program. Other producers and their veterinarians will use a BioPRYN check to supplement monthly or biweekly herd health checks to identify those open cows as early as possible and to avoid the entire herd being locked up for extended amounts of time on pregnancy-check day. BioPRYN is also a useful tool for a reconfirmation pregnancy check later in gestation to identify the small percentage of cows that will experience embryonic loss and not carry to term.

The process consists of drawing a small blood sample, usually from the tail vein, and delivering or sending samples to one of the 45 BioPRYN Affiliate Labs that have been trained and certified to provide consistent and accurate results so that you can trust the results and manage your animals accordingly.

For blood collection supplies and more information about BioPRYN and the BioPRYN Affiliate Lab network please visit [bioprjn.com](http://bioprjn.com) or call 208.882.9736. 📞



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## “Catcher” Makes Calf Work Easier

**I**f you own an ATV or UTV and have cattle, Dan Leo has an attachment to make working with young calves safer and easier.

“Safety is the number one goal of our durably built and user-friendly catchers,” says Leo, president of Safety Zone Calf Catchers. “The traditional way to tag and process calves can be dangerous and often takes more than one person to do the job. With our calf catcher it’s easier on the producer, the cow and the calf. One person, who can operate an ATV or UTV, can safely work calves.”



One person can now easily and safely process calves with Leo’s Safety Zone Calf Catcher.

The calf catcher is a durably constructed steel cage that mounts with ball hitches on the front and back. It works well in all types of terrains and conditions. With the front gate locked open, the driver approaches the calf and captures it in the cage by shutting the spring-loaded gate. The producer en-

ters the pen through the open side by stepping from the ATV or UTV and moves the calf to the rear holding area where he can tag, vaccinate, weigh and even band the babies while protected from the mother cow. When finished the producer releases the calf out the back to its mother.

“Traditionally, producers have to get to the calves early after birth otherwise it can be difficult to catch and even hang on to them, and then it can require two or more people depending on the protective behavior of the mother cow while the processing takes place,” Leo notes. “With our calf catcher unit, one person can catch calves, even if they are a week or older when they have plenty of run in them. Another benefit is the calf holder located at the back of the catcher. It not only secures the calf for processing, but works very well for pairing out, as the cow can see and smell her baby and will then easily follow to another pasture or calving barn in inclement weather. Cows will follow the calf virtually anywhere!”

The ATV catchers sell for \$2,095 plus freight shipping. Catchers designed for UTVs are an additional \$450. Other options available include a waterproof, digital scale - especially beneficial to seedstock producers and a tow hitch that aids long distance moving.

The company sells directly to cattlemen but welcomes dealership inquiries.

“Built in both Nebraska and South Dakota plants, the calf catcher will last for generations. Sales have stretched across the U.S. with exports to Canada, Australia and France.” Leo adds.

To see it in action, check out the video on the company’s website.

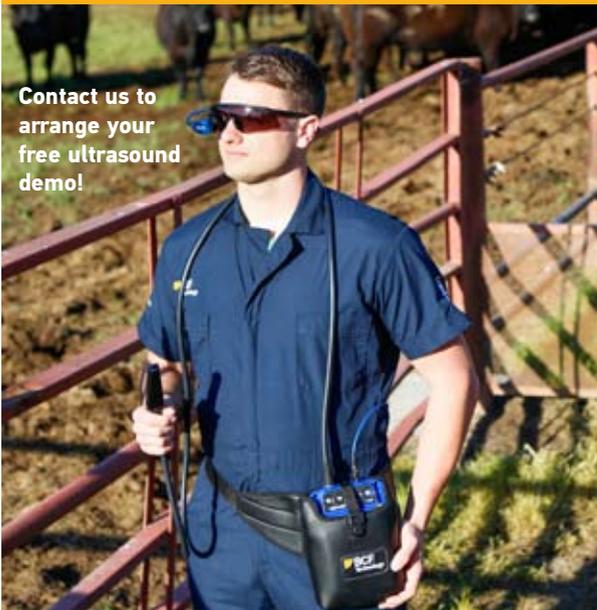
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**ONE PERSON can now SAFELY and EASILY process calves without concern of the protective mother cow!**

**Kenny Miller, MO** - "We really enjoyed the Calf Catcher this spring. Definitely saved the old body!"

**Gary Theurer, KS** - "Everybody needs to own your calf catcher, if they own cows. I couldn't imagine going through a calving season without it. It works perfect!"

**Joan Bullin** - "This is my third year using the calf catcher and I love it! We don't have calm cows and I've never had a problem with any of them hitting it. I'm 62 and I tag 600 calves a year, no problem."

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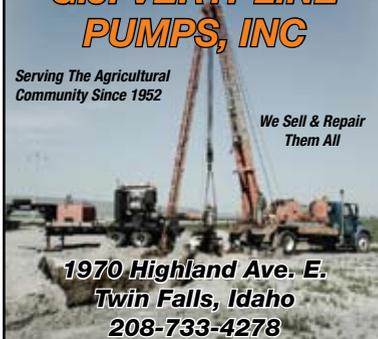
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# ADVERTISERS INDEX

ADVERTISER	WEBSITE	PAGE
AGRIFinancial Services	<a href="http://www.CGB-AFS.com">www.CGB-AFS.com</a>	9
Arrowquip	<a href="http://arrowquip.com">arrowquip.com</a>	26
Art's Service Inc	<a href="http://artsserviceontario.com">artsserviceontario.com</a>	24
Bar M Real Estate	<a href="http://www.ranchesnm.com">www.ranchesnm.com</a>	24
BCF Technology	<a href="http://www.bcftechnology.com">www.bcftechnology.com</a>	23
Best Western Plus Spokane	<a href="http://www.bestwestern.com">www.bestwestern.com</a>	5
Bio Tracking LLC	<a href="http://biopryn.com">biopryn.com</a>	21
Bio-S.I. Technology LLC	<a href="http://biositechnology.com">biositechnology.com</a>	10
Blue Mountain Realtors	<a href="http://bluemountainrealtors.com">bluemountainrealtors.com</a>	13
Brown Weight Valve	<a href="http://www.brownweightvalve.com">www.brownweightvalve.com</a>	19
Bryan Semingson Trucking LLC		24
BTL Liners	<a href="http://www.btl liners.com">www.btl liners.com</a>	5
Cushman Drilling		24
Evergreen Implement	<a href="http://eijjd.com">eijjd.com</a>	7
Fairly Reliable Bob's	<a href="http://www.fairlys.com">www.fairlys.com</a>	24
Farmore of Idaho	<a href="http://www.reinke.com">www.reinke.com</a>	5
G J Verti-Line Pumps, Inc		24
Industrial Ventilation Inc	<a href="http://ivi-air.com">ivi-air.com</a>	18
Jones Manufacturing Co	<a href="http://www.mightygiant.com">www.mightygiant.com</a>	18
Mil-Stak, Inc.	<a href="http://milstak.com">milstak.com</a>	3
Modern Printers	<a href="http://www.modernprinters.net">www.modernprinters.net</a>	24
Northwest Farmland Management	<a href="http://northwestfarmland.com">northwestfarmland.com</a>	13
Oxarc	<a href="http://www.oxarc.com">www.oxarc.com</a>	24
Parsons Drilling Inc	<a href="http://www.parsonsdriilling.com">www.parsonsdriilling.com</a>	14
Poulsen Ace Hardware	<a href="http://upsidedownpaint.com">upsidedownpaint.com</a>	12
Safety Zone Calf Catchers	<a href="http://safetyzonecalfcatchers.com">safetyzonecalfcatchers.com</a>	23
Sloan Express	<a href="http://www.sloanex.com">www.sloanex.com</a>	27
Stukenholtz Laboratory Inc	<a href="http://www.stukenholtz.com">www.stukenholtz.com</a>	11
Sunny D Manufacturing Inc	<a href="http://www.oregonroadrunner.com">www.oregonroadrunner.com</a>	17
Texas Plant & Soil Lab	<a href="http://TPSLab.com">TPSLab.com</a>	2
Ubly Bean Knife Mfg, Inc	<a href="http://www.ublybean.com">www.ublybean.com</a>	9
Vermeer Rocky Mountain	<a href="http://vermeerrockymountain.com">vermeerrockymountain.com</a>	9
Virden Perma-Bilt Co	<a href="http://www.virdenproducts.com">www.virdenproducts.com</a>	24
VP Buildings	<a href="http://www.vp.com">www.vp.com</a>	23
Walinga USA Inc	<a href="http://www.walinga.com">www.walinga.com</a>	28
Whatcom Manufacturing	<a href="http://www.whatcommfg.com">www.whatcommfg.com</a>	7
Wilger Inc	<a href="http://www.wilger.net">www.wilger.net</a>	3
Z Bar Yards		24



Camas field in Washington State.  
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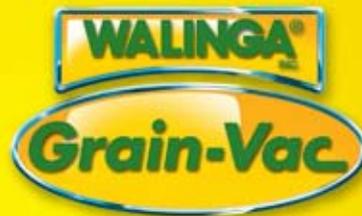
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