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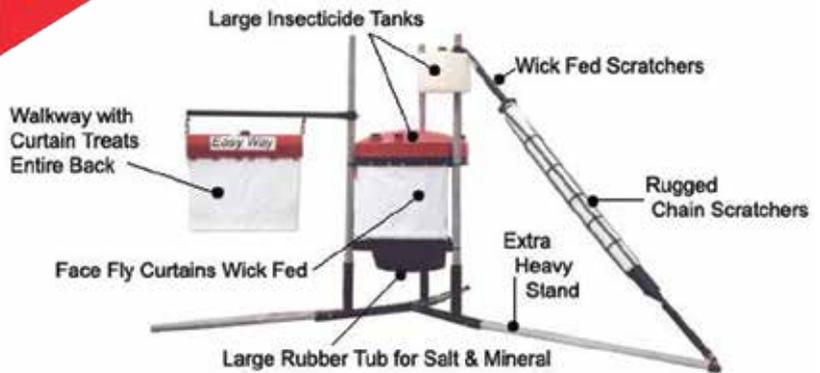
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West/Southwest • Spring-Summer Edition 2021

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# agriculture



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# Stukenholtz Laboratory Inc.

## Celebrating 51 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 Home-dale. 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 24 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 42 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 50 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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# Even when planting conditions aren't perfect... your planting depth still can be.

Every good farmer knows that uniform emergence is crucial to getting high yields. One critical part of uniform emergence is getting consistent planting depth. There are a lot of planter designs, popular methods and attachments, all aimed at getting seeds uniformly placed at the bottom of the seed furrow—but the truth is that planting depth all starts at the depth gauge wheel. The wheels need to contact the ground and they need to be ROUND! That sounds pretty simple, but in actual practice there are conditions in almost every field which make that difficult—at least some of the time. In a perfect world, soil at planting time would be sufficiently dry and friable to the extent that it didn't cling to planter parts. Often, this is the case on 90% of a field, but the other 10% of the field is a little sticky. Sometimes the surface is dry, but the soil below clings to openers or coulters, which bring out lumps of the damp soil or mud which then cling to the depth gauge wheels. Result: lumpy, out-of-round depth gauge wheels cause uneven planting depth and bouncing of the row unit itself. And soil carried on the gauge wheels affects the acres far beyond where the problem starts, such that uneven planting depth occurs even in areas of the field where soil conditions are ideal.

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Continued on page 25

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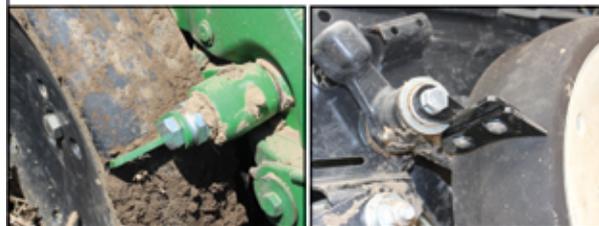
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# Avoiding Disaster With Industrial Hemp: Managing Plant Stress Is The Key

Noel Garcia, CCA  
Joe Pedroza  
Larry Zibilske, PhD

**H**emp growers have one goal in mind: Produce crops with high yields and quality. However, of all crops, hemp alone has the unique statutory constraint that THC, one of the naturally-produced cannabinoid oils, must not exceed 0.3%. Most growers are now painfully aware that a potency test showing a THC level higher than the federal limit will mean the total loss of their crops and in the worst case, be classified as negligent growers. For oil crops, it can be a real balancing act to achieve the highest content of CBD while limiting THC to acceptable levels. However, as fatal as a high THC result is, growers are learning that other factors can lead to a failed crop.

Plant stress is a condition that can be challenging to understand for many growers. Marijuana growers discovered that if they stress their plants in the last few weeks before harvest, they can induce higher production of THC. But stress in industrial hemp can lead to disaster.

What happens if the plant is stressed early in the vegetative state and how does that affect overall yield? Potential growers have asked, "Isn't hemp basically a weed and shouldn't it grow well unattended?". The answer is yes, but not as a commercial crop. Between heat, drought and low humidity, Texas and other arid states can provide plant stress challenges to producing a harvestable crop. So let's review the experiences two Texas growers had this year:

(Background: Texas growers started under a handicap: Licenses didn't start being issued until the middle of April – then already more than a month late for planting and they weren't issued immediately upon application. Accordingly, growers were in a panic to get their crops going.)

- It's late June and the weather is hot and humid - typical conditions for the Lower Rio Grande Valley region of Texas for the time of year. A new greenhouse grower, excited to invest in a new and promising crop, sets out to start his grow. He starts with topsoil purchased from a local supplier; it's a sandy loam which he blends with coconut coir and perlite.

The seeds germinate and for the next several weeks, the plants are growing well. One morning as he walks through the rows of potted plants, he notices many of the young plants are beginning to flower. The plants are only five weeks old and six to eight inches tall. They are not an autoflowering variety. What's going on?

- Another grower in Texas is preparing to plant his first crop. He has seven acres but decides that it would be wise to start with one. It's a new operation and he hasn't fully established the drip irrigation system, which he decided to self-install. It's getting late in the season, so he direct-seeds before it gets any later. The seeds germinate and everything looks great.

He has close to 2,000 plants in neat rows, stretching out in the hot Texas sun. Things are going smoothly, but it's August now, and the temperatures are starting to tick higher and higher. For two weeks, temperatures went over 100° and the plants begin to show signs of stress. Insects soon moved in and made the situation worse. As the grower walks his field, he notices his plants, now five weeks old, are starting to flower but they are not an autoflowering variety. What's going on?

First, let us understand the mechanisms that trigger a plant to switch to its reproductive (flowering) stage. Flowering is initiated either autonomously or by environmental factors. Photoperiodic flowering is controlled by the amount of light and dark hours. With photoperiod strains of Cannabis, plants switch from the vegetative to the flowering phase when they get longer than 12 hours of dark. By contrast, auto-flowering strains are not dependant on light or dark hours and are genetically programmed to begin flowering when they're 4-5 weeks old.

Other crops show similar characteristics. Olives, for example, are controlled by vernalization: they must have a minimum number of cold hours to initiate flowering. So is that what happened to our Texas hemp growers? Was it so late in the year that the plants got enough hours of darkness to initiate flowering? In these cases, the answer was no. Let's look at each situation separately and analyze what went wrong:

- In the first grower's case, the lab analyzed the media and the well water he used to irrigate. A comprehensive analysis showed that the media-mix the grower purchased was mostly inert and devoid of nutrients (and life). The pH was high at 8.3 and highly calcareous with 1,200 ppm of calcium as carbonate.

Additionally, even though coconut coir was added, it did not contribute to the active organic matter as it had not been composed. So, active organic matter measured only 0.52%. The well water tested high in dissolved solids at 1,155 mg/L - mostly sodium and chloride. Notable too, was an elevated boron level of 1.8 mg/L, which can occur naturally in wells deeper than 100 ft. After talking with the grower and discovering how he was fertilizing and irrigating his plants, we understood how stresses had built-up.

He explained that he did not feed for the first 3-4 weeks of growth and had only been watering the plants using a backpack sprayer. He wanted to avoid root rot from overwatering, so he only watered every two or three days. The media in the pots, composed mostly of sandy soil, would become hard and compacted when it dried. The minerals from the water began to build-up in the media, to the point where it had become

white and crusty.

The outcome was the plants had experienced chronic stress from underwatering, lack of nutrients and accumulated sodium and boron that was reaching toxic levels as evidenced by a plant sap test that indicated 230 ppm of boron. The response from the plant was one of survival and to reproduce. As Dr. Ian Malcom said in his famous Jurassic Park line, "life finds a way." The instinct for survival and reproduction is what drives all life on earth. In the case of our young Cannabis plants, the response was to flower.

- When we reviewed the conditions of the second grower, we found a different pattern of problems. Our soil analysis showed that nutrient levels were mostly adequate except nitrogen, which was excessively high at 290 lbs/ac. As the plants grew, the excessive nitrogen stimulated rapid growth, leading to a weakened cell structure, making the plants susceptible to insect attacks.

The grower, not being experienced in designing irrigation systems, built-in watering issues - so many of the plants were exposed to drought conditions during a heat wave that affected the region. The slope of the field led to overwatering at the bottom and underwatering at the top. He did not consider that static water pressure increases with every foot of elevation by 0.433 psi - so he started off with a considerable static pressure differential along the vertical length of the lines: highest at the bottom - lowest at the top.

Under the stresses of heat, unbalanced nutrition, insect pressures and uneven water distribution, the young plants' instinct

for survival triggered a flowering/reproductive response in the less than 100 surviving plants.

So what should these growers have done differently to avoid such losses?

No matter the crop, planning and preparation are essential to success. Industrial hemp, in particular, requires very much advance research and planning. There is no better protection against the variables that Mother Nature inflicts to test growers than to have a detailed plan and prepare for your crop's success - and avoid potential problems.

It can seem like a daunting task with so many factors at play, especially since many think it is beyond their control. And rightfully so, as we frequently hear about storms that hit with little warning and destroy large areas of farmland, and heat waves and droughts that cripple parts of the farming community.

How can we prepare for these challenges?

The answer is hidden beneath our feet. Understanding Soil Health is the cornerstone of every successful grower. The foundation of your plan should be the rebuilding of your soil and its life, and management of its nutrients and structure.

Soil health is an idea that involves optimizing the relationships between soil physical, chemical and biological factors. Achieving and maintaining good soil health is essential for producing good crop yields and quality. Fertilizers are only part of soil fertility. Soil microbes live on and around plant roots and interact with roots in several important ways.

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the uptake of nutrients into the plants. But healthy soil also includes beneficial nematodes, insects, earthworms and fungi – all interacting with each other and the microbes in concert.

Maintaining balanced nutrition and vigorous soil life at every stage of your plants' life cycles will ensure that no matter what challenge Mother Nature sends, your crops will have the best chance of making you money.

Soil or growing media testing is one of the best investments a grower can make, especially when planning a new season. As we saw with our Texas growers, soil lacking in nutrients or having excess nutrients, devoid of life, or being extremely acid or alkaline, all lead to plant nutrient uptake problems – which invariably results in stress.

Irrigation water analysis is also paramount when installing your farm's infrastructure. Poor quality water can neutralize the efficacy of nutrients and treatments, affect distribution by plugging emitters when using drip irrigation and change the soil's native chemistry. These tools will help you understand

where you need to focus your energy and resources. The goal is to provide the best possible environment for your plants to grow. When we correct our soil's nutritional imbalances, we facilitate maintaining adequate levels of nutrients in our plants as they develop.

As the plant grows, its nutritional needs change and meeting those needs will greatly reduce the harmful stresses that prevent the plant from reaching its maximum genetic potential – and limit the production of THC. Simultaneously, we reduce the need for insecticides and other harsh treatments that reduce overall profit. In the case of conventional growers, we also reduce the exposure to strong chemicals and toxic treatments.

Additionally, it is essential to learn from those who have experience in growing crops – and industrial hemp, in particular. We are still learning about the stresses that affect hemp and the differences between geographical/climatic regions. Add to that the regulatory standards and market requirements that must be met to harvest a profitable crop and one quickly realizes that

industrial hemp is one of the most challenging crops to produce.

We encourage you to reach out to experienced Industrial Hemp (not Marijuana) growers and consultants willing to council you about your plans and goals. Plan and prepare for a successful crop by learning what your soil needs to be healthy and what you need to restore that health.

Include soil microbes and organic matter in your plan and you will ensure vital relationships are maintained in the plant root environment for the entire season...and beyond.

All crops, aside from hemp, benefit from healthy, living soil. It is the greatest asset we have. It is our obligation to be the stewards who restore the rich farmlands that once were the pride of our forefathers. 

Noel Garcia is a Certified Crop Advisor and is Chief Operating Officer and Senior Technical Consultant at TPS Lab

Joe Pedroza is a Texas-Licensed Hemp Sampler and is Business Development Manager at TPS Lab

Dr. Larry Zibilske is Vice-President of Research at TPS Lab

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# LCS releasing CoAXium® soft white winter wheat varieties in 2022

## New wheat production system will be available to SWWW farmers for the first time

The first-ever CoAXium® soft white winter wheat varieties are coming to the Pacific Northwest. Limagrain Cereal Seeds (LCS) will have Certified seed available at the grower level in 2022.



Treated (left) and untreated (right) CoAXium wheat in Lewiston, Idaho.

“LCS is bringing CoAXium soft white winter wheat varieties to market rapidly using doubled haploid and other speed breeding technologies. The typical best-case timeline from cross to release is seven to 10 years. We were able to get there in six,” explains Jay Kalous, LCS Pacific Northwest wheat breeder. “We’re thrilled to be expanding CoAXium capabilities into the SWWW market class.”

The new LCS soft white winter AX lines are part of the CoAXium Wheat Production System, created to provide powerful and cost-effective weed control to wheat farmers. Elite varieties are combined with AXigen®, a patented non-GMO herbicide tolerance trait, and used with Aggressor® brand herbicides. This combination helps protect fields

from annual and perennial grassy weeds that shrink yield through inter-crop competition and reduce overall crop quality.

The LCS wheat portfolio already includes CoAXium hard red winter varieties adapted for the Pacific Northwest: LCS Helix AX, LCS Photon AX and LCS Fusion AX. All three have demonstrated the effectiveness of the new wheat production system in the PNW. However, in a production region of mainly soft white winter wheat, growers have been eager for the next generation of CoAXium varieties.

“The response we’ve heard is that for tough and even ‘unfarmable’ acres historically choked out by grassy weeds, there isn’t a better solution on the market,” says Zach Gaines, LCS national sales and marketing manager. “Soft white winter wheat growers have been asking for CoAXium for years, and we expect seed supply to move quickly.”

LCS CoAXium soft white winter varieties will be available for a variety of Pacific Northwest growing conditions and are currently undergoing rigorous testing for adaptation, as well as trait tolerance, seedling vigor, disease resistance and yield. The new LCS CoAXium variety names and trial data will be released this fall, but SWWW farmers should start planning for the 2022 growing season early.

“If you’ve been battling weeds with the Clearfield system, now is the time to start preparing your fields for this new herbicide-tolerant production system,” advises Dr. Mike Flowers, LCS product development manager. “CoAXium wheat varieties carry no tolerance to Beyond herbicide, so be mindful of soil residual and plan now so your acres will be ready for CoAXium SWWW seed in 2022.”

Visit [GiveWeedsTheAX.com](http://GiveWeedsTheAX.com) for more information.

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# equipment



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From a professional mowers point of view, use of the DONBAR reduces fatigue from climbing off & on the mower each time you need to move a hose, sprinkler or debris. An additional benefit is on those early mornings that bring a bit of moisture, having the additional point of contact helps the operator to avoid slipping on the wet grass. The DONBAR works just like a handrail, giving an extra point of contact for better balance and stability.

The DONBAR mounts directly to the footplate of a zero-turn mower. It uses existing deck holes (some applications require additional drilling) and attaches with lock nuts that resist loosening

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# Stainless Steel Air Seeder Parts

## The solution to your corrosion problems!

Romafa Metal Works realized the enormity of the problem that exists of the many corroding air seeder parts and farmers' and ranchers' desperate needs for a solution. Romafa, through careful planning, designing, and testing, developed stainless steel replacement air seeder parts for multiple brands of air seeders.

Romafa Metal Works found by using stainless steel for the replacement part those parts are stronger and more durable. The parts can handle a lot more stress before showing signs of wear and tear. Plus in addition to being more rust resistant, the replacement parts are also more resistant to staining, and – well, let's face it – they look better too.

You no longer need throw money at a relatively temporary solution only to see it rust away almost before your eyes. Instead, replacing your corroded air seeder parts with Romafa's parts made of stainless steel will be a lasting

improvement and solution.

### How it started

Back in 2012 Ronald Kornelsen left his job as a designer and started a small family business with his wife, Marcela, and their family, doing welding, machining, and repair work for the local agricultural and cattle ranching community.



Ronald, with his experience with designing and prototypes in the metal-work industry, also offered these skills to fill the needs of his customers and help bring their ideas to fruition.

Romafa (from the first two letters each of RONald, MARcela, and FAM-

ily) Metal Works very quickly became known as a productive and venture-some business.

Soon local as well as distant customers came to them to have their machinery repaired and/or improved. New ideas were offered, designed, built, and tested.

For Romafa, this created many opportunities for growth as a business, and with the help and expertise of their innovative employees, they have grown to be a business with many different products and projects.

For more information on our stainless steel air seeder parts, our light weight yet durable boom for ditch sprayer trucks, our alfalfa seed sieves for combines (reduces the curls among your alfalfa seed by at least 50 per cent), or if you have a project of your own you need help with, visit our website at [www.Romafa.com](http://www.Romafa.com), or call Jim Kinnaman at 204-364-2244.



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# livestock



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

# SweetPro Premium Feed Supplements

**S**weetPro Feeds produces Vitamin, Mineral and Digestive Aid supplements for livestock and pioneered the use of Distillers Grains (DDGS) on rangeland.

Dried Distillers Grains as a carrier for supplementation provides significant benefits to Ranchers, Feeders, Consumers and the Land itself.

Although used in feedlot and dairy settings, until SweetPro's patented non-molasses DDG block became available for rangeland applications, the benefits of feeding Distillers Grains were unavailable to these non-bunk fed livestock.

Historically many small farmers steeped grains before feeding to their animals. While this practice faded due to various influences such as economies of scale, elements relating to this fermentation have been refined by SweetPro Feeds.

SweetPro has overcome the historic mechanical limitations and taken the science to new levels with stabilization for open range feeding, organic complexed trace minerals, multiple classes of viable digestive enzymes and prebiotics to deliver maximum performance potential. Supported forage feed efficiency can be improved by up to 25% on cool season grasses according to university studies.

Additionally, a proprietary blend additive, "ProBiotin®" is included to assure that the most complementary amino acid profile is available.

SweetPro complements a forage-based diet by NOT using starch or sugar (which can create a rumen Negative Associative Effect) as the main ingredient.

SweetPro blocks also produce a unique dynamic which both influences the total protein and the type of protein available to the animal. Total protein is improved, not just from the protein in the supplement, but also from the rumen microbes (single cell protein).

SweetPro blocks contain multiple classes of prebiotic fibers (AXOS, XOS, MOS, FOS plus Beta-glucan) to feed and support robust fiber digesting rumen microbial populations. The better the microbials perform, the more single-cell protein is available to the animal when the microbe's short life cycle ends.

The other protein dynamic in SweetPro is high bypass protein. This is protein not used in the rumen but available directly by the animal. This is most important during the two key times when the cow's protein demands are greatest, late-stage pregnancy and peak milking demand.

When these protein and fiber oriented energy benefits are combined with SweetPro's strong vitamin and mineral package, ranchers have a solid tool to help reclaim the losses they'd otherwise absorb when forage is poor. Even poor quality forages can be fully utilized with pastures stretched or more animals run on the same ground.

SweetPro benefits Ranchers by supporting improved feed efficiency, herd health and fertility. Heavier "growthy" calves

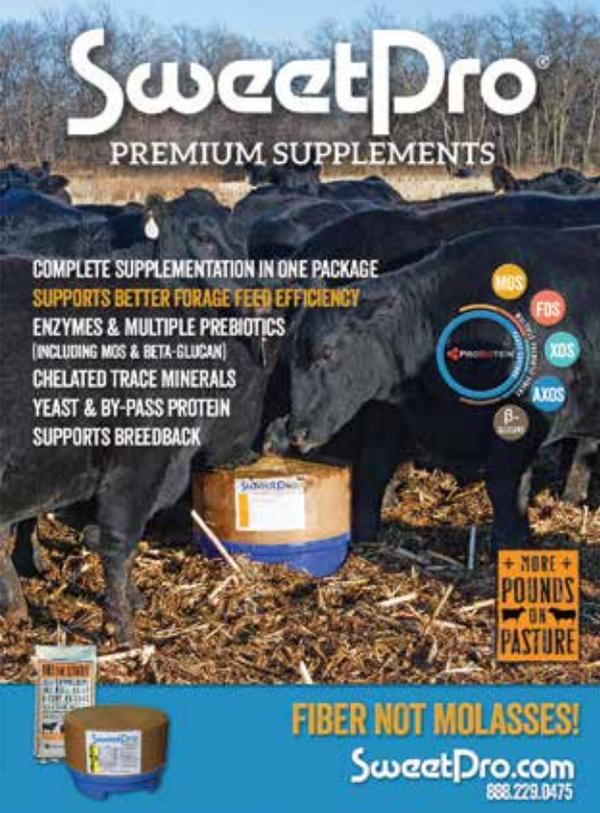
can be expected at weaning along with labor and fuel savings (blocks are only placed out every 10 days). It also benefits the producer by providing new options for grass finishing and putting more "Pounds on Pasture" per day than older means of vitamin and mineral supplementation.

SweetPro products help Feeders by allowing them to bring in healthier and heavier calves. These calves need only half the time to finish as in years past. With improved feed efficiency, 400 to 800 pounds less corn is needed in the finishing process.

Consumers benefit through meat that has better supported mineral deposition and taste.

The Land itself also gains advantages. With better supported feed efficiency, stress on pastures is reduced while more efficient digestion allows for an even spread of softer stools that are much easier for dung beetles to work into the soils. Soil fertility can be increased markedly over only a few years time.

SweetPro Feeds' combination of a cost-efficient vitamin and mineral delivery system along with supported improvement in forage feed efficiency has impacted ranching, feeding and the nation positively. 



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# Catch A Ride On The Feed Train®

In his previous career, before becoming a manufacturer, Bob Lutz was a cattle farmer. As such he was always looking for ways to save time and money and make life a little easier. Since he was running a rotational grazing system to conserve his pastures, he was spending a lot of time moving feed bunks. Thus the dream of the time and labor saving mobile feed bunk system came into existence.

In order for this system to work properly a special steering mechanism was necessary to cope with the hilly terrain here in northern Missouri. Bob kept experimenting until he came up with the correct formula and put it into action for his own use. He then applied for and was granted a patent on the steering system.

The high quality construction of the Feed Train® mobile bunk led to requests for stationary bunks of the same quality and those were added to the

product line. Next we were receiving customer requests for creep feeders and these were designed so that no tools are required for set up, thus avoiding the "lost screwdriver syndrome."

Customer requests for bulk bin storage followed and two sizes in portable bulk bins were developed – a 1.5-ton bin and a 3-ton bin. These sizes are also available as stationary units as well as a 5-ton bin. These bulk bin products are also used as seed tenders. And since most cattle farmers now use ATV or UTV units in their operations we have created units for feeding from the seat of your vehicle.

Pull-behind units come in 500- and 1000-pound capacity. And the UTV unit that sits in the back of the vehicle holds 600 pounds. Scales are available for any of these units.

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# Beefmaster Heterosis Can Impact Any Herd

**B**eefmaster is a beef breed developed in America that improves beef quality and production efficiency when crossed with any other cattle breed for commercial beef production. The breed originated in Southern Texas in the late 1800's into the early 1900's. The Lasater family originally developed a large herd of Hereford cattle carefully selected to withstand the heat and insects of the Texas Gulf Coast region, but they were still not perfectly suited to that difficult environment. So Lasater began to experiment with incorporating *Bos indicus* or Zebu genetics, in the form of Gyr and Guzerat bulls from India and Nelore from Brazil. While the practice of crossbreeding was virtually unheard of at the time, they immediately saw a tremendous jump in productive traits, such as weight gain and reproductive rates. This is genetic advantage known as heterosis or hybrid vigor.

By the early 1930's, the ranch also incorporated Milking Shorthorn genetics, to augment milk production and carcass quality. They could immediately see that the three-way hybrid was far superior to the two-way crosses. The final composite ended up at roughly 50% *Bos indicus* and 50% *Bos taurus* (25% Hereford and 25% Shorthorn).

As Lasater developed the breed, he also formed a unique selection phi-

losophy known today as The Lasater Philosophy. The concept is to only select cattle for economically relevant traits, which he distilled to these Six Essential traits. It is the only breed in history to be selected only using pressure for productive traits, as opposed to aesthetics.

In 1937, the herd was closed to outside genetics with continued internal development to cull low-performers and upgrade all traits together equally. By 1954 the foundation herd was recognized by USDA under the name of Beefmaster.

The breed has rapidly grown around the world and has become known as the prime maternal cow for serious commercial cattlemen that appreciate their production excellence, particularly in harsh desert or tropical environments. The breed has excelled across most regions of the United States and is the leading breed of choice for commercial cattlemen in Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, Panama, Columbia and several other Latin American regions. With global demand for higher-quality beef growing geometrically, Beefmasters provide the perfect breed to cross on commercial cattle to improve production efficiency and carcass quality, while not sacrificing adaptability.

Commercial cattlemen have noted

substantial economic gains from using Beefmasters to provide an average increase of 60 lbs., or more at weaning when compared with other breeds. They excel post-weaning as well, with faster weight gains, excellent feed conversion and carcass yields around 64%.

In a time when sustainability is becoming increasingly critical, Beefmasters have repeatedly demonstrated that they are highly efficient converters of both forage and feeds into lean, tender, high-quality beef. A recent study at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) demonstrated Beefmasters dominance when compared to 18 of the most widely used beef breeds in the United States.

Beefmaster Breeders United (BBU) is headquartered in Boerne, Texas. Beefmaster ranks fifth in the U.S. in terms of membership and is the largest of the American breeds. The association has over 3,000 members registering around 19,000 calves annually.

Beefmasters also enjoy a rapidly growing international footprint, with established associations in eight countries worldwide. These innovative cattlemen have seen the tremendous strengths Beefmasters bring to their own genetic improvement programs. For more information about what Beefmasters can do for your operation, please visit us [www.beefmasters.org](http://www.beefmasters.org). 



# Rawhide Portable Corral to blend the Old with the New

John McDonald knows a thing or two about livestock equipment after working with cattle and rodeo livestock most of his life. Knowing there had to be a better portable corral design out there; he came up with it himself.

In 2003 the public was introduced to his original Rawhide Portable Corral. It could be set up by one person without any lifting and it could be done quickly; yet it could also be pulled down the road at highway speeds, ensuring that no time would be wasted while catching cattle.

Fast forward to 2018 and now customers have two different corrals to choose from; the Rawhide Original, throwback to the first design, or the Rawhide Processor.

Even though the Processor's design is viewed as the superior portable corral on the market, John believes that there are still those who will want a smaller, more affordable system. Enter the Rawhide Original, which is a blend between the two designs he has offered throughout the years and has a bumper hitch with permanent transport

wheels. The Original is only offered in the Standard and Large sizes.

The Processor is offered in three sizes for the convenience of ranchers and cattle producers throughout the world and the main difference with this design is the ability to customize the corral upon ordering by including a hydraulic alley, head gate or loading chute. Whether you simply want to catch your cattle or process them on site and load them into a trailer from



the pasture, you are able to do so with the Processor.

The design of the Processor continues to impress cattle producers with its versatility and ease of use. The permanent sheeted adjustable alley aids with working your livestock, whether it is done on site or in the field. The adjustable alley can be sized from thirty (30) inches down to sixteen (16) inches; either manually or hydraulically.

The most notable features of the Rawhide corrals are that they are easy to set up and they are easy to transport. We mean it when we say that one person can open up the corral without lifting a panel. This will continue to be the model as we move forward with our newer designs.

The key is one person can handle it all by themselves. Customers can manipulate the panels so it is not just one big pen, but two, three or even four pens for sorting, as one can never have enough pens when it comes to working cattle.

John's design was the first portable corral on the market to offer the hydraulic lift option. This has been so popular that we now offer customers the option to buy the Hydraulic Lift Kit with or without the battery so that they may upgrade existing equipment of their own. A lift kit includes the jack, power unit, solar panel and of course the option of including a battery at time of purchase.

John and his wife Mary run the family business at their manufacturing plant in Abilene, Kansas, which is the only place where a Rawhide may be purchased outside of South Texas, where we now have a dealer in Hempstead.

Please check out our website for more information and to view our videos: [www.rawhideportablecorral.com](http://www.rawhideportablecorral.com) or find us on Facebook. Phone # 785-263-3436.





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Pro-Tech Livestock Corporation, located in Pinehurst, TX, offers fly and odor control products you can trust. They have a variety of solutions to problems that can be handled by using their automatic spray systems that are highly effective in eliminating flying insects in livestock facilities and other outdoor areas.

Using well-proven products and components, flying insect and odor control is made easy and efficient with Pro-Tech spray systems, which also translates to convenience for their clients.

Pro-Tech offers four different system sizes - the only company that offers such a variety, guarantee of quality and price range for their clients.

Facilities for dairy, beef cattle, equine, swine, poultry, and even veterinary benefit from the various Pro-Tech fly-insect and odor control systems.

Additionally, many commercial, industrial and municipal facilities can also reap the benefits from the use of Pro-Tech's systems. In fact, even back yard pool and patio areas – any location where you want to control flies, mosquitoes, gnats, malodors, etc., while creating a healthier environment for you and your cherished animals.

How do they do it?

Py-Tech, the insecticide used in Pro-Tech's system, is made from pyrethrum, a natural ingredient found in chrysanthemums. This low odor insecticide effectively controls flies, mosquitoes, and other flying insects, while providing low toxicity to mammals with no unpleasant odors and no petroleum distillate fillers.

Pro-Tech's insecticide and odor control solutions are specially formulated for Pro-Tech's spraying systems with safety and performance in mind. They will not damage the seals and o-rings found throughout the pump, valves, and spray nozzles. Nor will they separate out of solution in the reservoir and tubing. Therefore, you will receive optimum performance with no nozzle clog. Using solutions other than Pro-Tech's undermines the effectiveness of the Pro-Tech system.

Turn to Pro-Tech Livestock Corporation for effective and efficient fly and odor control products. Their more than 30 years of extensive experience in the industry serves as your assurance of their knowledge in insect and odor control.

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## Furrow Brow – Continued from page 8

that its distance from the wheel is consistent no matter where the wheel is within that range of motion. It will not remove every speck of dirt from the wheel on every rotation, but it will “knock off” any lumps large enough to seriously affect planting depth. In ideal soil conditions –it does nothing. Isn't that what you want it to do?

### How the product works—the secret of Furrow Brow success:

What makes Furrow Brow different from all other gauge wheel scrapers, blades, and cleaners that you might find on the market is that Furrow Brow is the only one in which the blade doesn't touch the gauge wheel tire, and the only one in which the blade is in a static position and does not travel with the wheel. These features are why Furrow Brow actually solves a problem when most gauge wheel scrapers just trade one problem for another. Because the blade does not touch the tire, in ideal conditions the Furrow Brow does nothing. It is just there. It doesn't rub the tire or wear on the tire. Because the blade is in a static position relative to the wheel, each time the planter is raised, the movement of the tire down and to the rear dislodges any mud or debris which has accumulated behind the blade... and you start with a clean blade on the next planter pass. And because the blade is perpendicular to the wheel, there is little chance of material “hairpinning” over the blade and stopping the wheel.

### How “Furrow Brow” came about

America's farmers are the world's most prolific innovators. From the steel plow to precision farming, the continuous drive to produce more with less has driven an unrelenting stream of agricultural innovation.

The Furrow Brow gauge wheel blade (so named for its similarity to an eye brow) is just one more piece in a long line of planter innovations. Born out of need in the wet spring of 2007, the first Furrow Brows were a straight, flat blade welded in a T formation to a connection tab and fastened to the pivot bolt on each depth gauge wheel arm of a single John Deere planter. Simple but effective, they allowed for consistent planting depth through and around the wet spots that dominated fields on our Iowa farm that spring.

So effective, they were, that they went almost unnoticed, riding around on the planter for seven more years. They were working, of course, but the problem that they had solved on so many acres in 2007 went relatively unnoticed in the springs that followed because they just worked so well.

In 2015, a newer and larger planter was placed in service on our farm. A single season of planting without Furrow Brows was all it took to convince me that a new set needed to be produced for my planter. This led to the 2016 development of the current tire-contoured blade and the subsequent patent application and commercialization of this unique product.

Furrow Brow, LLC was created to produce and market this new innovation while I (the inventor) enjoy being primarily engaged in production agriculture. After all... where would agriculture be, where would America be, and what would we all be eating if John Deere had made only one steel plow?





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