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The vital resource of the Ag Industry

Heartland • spring-summer edition 2006

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ON THE COVER

Otter's Inc.
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- 5 VARMITgetter gets the gas in the tunnel/burrow 3 to 4 times faster than the handheld devices.
- 6 Our device does not have to be cocked and valves to be turned each time you fire it like the handheld that are out there.
- 7 VARMITgetter can be fired repeatedly over and over again, simply by applying the gas and hit the button without being near the blast.
- 8 In VARMITgetter's owners manual it tells you how long to apply the gas depending on what varmint you are dealing with.
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- 10 Wired remote control -- up to 25' away from the blast site.

- 11 Operator DOES NOT hold onto applicator, which produces the blast.
 - 12 Operator is not fatigued by the constant concussion of the blast.
 - 13 The other hand-held units cause some operators to flinch, causing not enough gas to be used for proper application.
 - 14 You are able to see the blast from a safe distance at the control box and know how effective it is, versus just hearing it.
 - 15 Able to cover firing cone with loose dirt to help keep gas from escaping and to snuff out possible fire.
 - 16 More portable, easier to move from burrow to burrow, it is smaller and better balanced.
 - 17 Well built to protect sensitive parts, yet readily accessible for easy repair.
 - 18 Extra safety measures are built in, so in the event that the unit has been damaged or misused, you are protected by check valves, flashback arrestors and pressure relief plugs.
 - 19 The firing cone is made smaller, therefore, easier to use on small rodents, such as the gopher and mole, etc.
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formation. If there is water present in the rock formation below the sound/pressure wave the water moves (ripples) slightly. When the water moves it causes a very small change or disturbance (electro kinetic) in the bond between the rock and the water. The small electrical signal that is created by this change or disturbance travels to the surface at the speed of light. The stronger the signal the more water available. The speed at which the signal comes to the surface is generally used to determine the depth of the water. If little or no signal is returned then there is either no significant water in the rock formation below or there is water with high dissolved solids (salt) in the rock formation. Our equipment records the signals and we provide a printed report of the computed results. A survey with four or more soundings can map approximately 12,000 square feet and accurately show the estimated groundwater depth, quality, and quantity (yield).

THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR A NWAS SURVEY TO BE COMPLETED ON MY PROPERTY

There are only a few minimum requirements: **1)** we need to have safe access to each sounding site with our 4X4 vehicle (otherwise in acceptable weather we can do remote soundings which are an additional cost). **2)** The area to be tested generally needs to be a minimum of 40 to 50 feet away from any type of electrical power source (primarily underground power and some buildings). **3)** We need to have enough **unobstructed** surface sediment (topsoil) to drive (install) four 3 foot 3 inch long 3/4 inch diameter electrodes into the ground. The electrodes are placed in a straight line and require an area that is approximately 16 feet long and 2 feet wide to complete each sounding. The NWAS definition of unobstructed surface sediments is surface sediments that contain approximately 30% or less large gravel or cobbles. If the surface sediments contain more than 30% large

gravel or cobbles then more soundings may be required to collect a sufficient amount of definitive information.

THE SURVEY LOCATION

In most cases, the property owner tells us the general area that they would like to have their well, which is where we complete the survey. If you are unsure of approximately where you would like your well drilled or there are a number of dry or poor performing wells in the area then you have a few options to narrow the search for the right place to complete the survey. One option is to have fracture tracing (used primarily in areas with bedrock near the surface) completed on your property. Another option is to have a study of the existing wells in the area, which may help find a pattern common to the good wells. A final option is to have NorthWest Aquifer Surveying complete and extended sounding profile survey (soundings completed in a line but separated by approximately 300 feet) completed across your property which will help us located some good areas to focus on with a more detailed close sounding profile survey.

SOUNDINGS NEEDED per PROPERTY

Every property varies and some properties need many more soundings than others but as a general rule we recommend a survey consisting of a minimum of four soundings (completed in a profile or grid pattern separated by 85 to 150 feet) for a single house domestic well and a survey consisting of a minimum of eight soundings for agricultural or multi-home wells. We also recommend that the soundings be completed in a profile or an organized pattern of some kind.

Until now, there were very few accurate and affordable options to locate wells. The two most common options are either picking a spot or well witching. Most well drillers will not suggest where to drill a well because of the potential liability involved. NWAS will survey your property and provide a printed report containing approximate water depth, water quality, and approximate flow rate.

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Career Opportunities are Strong for Ag College Graduates

Agriculture, natural resources, and other related areas remain viable areas of study for university students says Don Marshall, Associate Dean of Academic Programs in the College of Agriculture & Biological Sciences at South Dakota State University. Farming and ranching are becoming more high-tech and dependent on a sound business plan, making a college education increasingly valuable, but most of today's graduates will be seeking employment in supporting areas rather than ag production.

Marshall indicated that while the number of agricultural producers has declined as average farm increased, career opportunities in supporting areas of agriculture have increased. Food processing, biotechnology, livestock and pet feed, pharmaceuticals, bio-fuels, financial services, and high-tech seed development are examples. A recent USDA publication indicated that through the year 2010 there will be about 51,000 job openings in the U.S. annually for graduates majoring in agriculture and life sciences, compared to about 49,000 graduates. ☎

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ash removal simple and fast.

The use of chemicals inside the water tank isn't necessary because of the corrosion resistance of 304 stainless steel. Since hot water evaporates, Hardy invented a condenser stack located on the rear of the furnace which condenses the steam and returns it to the water tank. The tank is vented to the atmosphere to eliminate the safety hazards common with pressurized boilers.

Standard features on Hardy furnaces are an adjustable aquastat, combustion blower for damper control, 4 GPM at 20 feet of heat circulator pump with on/off control relay and automatic water level controls. The standard Hardy also comes equipped with a heat exchanger to provide hot water for your domestic use. The Hardy provides hot water for hot air duct systems, water baseboard, radiant floor heat, unit heaters and other existing hydronic systems. Hardy has several models available ranging from 100,000 BTU to 250,000 BTU.



The outside cover is constructed of 24 and 26 gauge 304 stainless steel to give you years of maintenance-free service. The stainless steel cover will not fade, needs no painting and doesn't require any weather protection.

The primary Hardy design goal is to give years of good service and make it easy to maintain. ☛



At Winkler Canvas, we strive to improve the conditions for your livestock. Our ventilation system allows warm air to flow upward rather than sideways. Fewer fans are needed and the fabric cover is cooler than a steel roof. With better ventilation you will see fewer respiration problems, lower vet bills, improved cow comfort and all around a healthier herd. Most of our dairy farmers have experienced a moderate to a large increase in milk production because of some of these benefits.

Our white fabric allows 83% of the natural light in along with filtering out the UV. This improves the vitamin B intake and improves the processing of vitamin A from feed. The lower lighting and electrical costs are a welcome along with less

maintenance time expenses.

The building construction is a galvanized steel framework, which is an open span for an improved environment. It is considered a "portable" building, which can be sold later rather than destroyed. You're less likely to attract birds and the connections stay tight even in humid conditions. The high strength poly cover has a comparable life span with galvanized steel sheeting and costs much lower if you need to replace. The interior requires less lighting and does not create excessive heat inside.

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Egbers Flighting & Supply Co.

Egbers Still At It

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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Bringing the 919 into the 21st Century



For more than 50 years, the 919 has remained an essential tool for grain farmers and is revered by producers for its accuracy and durability. In 1990, Bill Fraser, purchased a local company Quantum Electronics of Brandon, Manitoba in Canada. Among other products being serviced, Fraser was

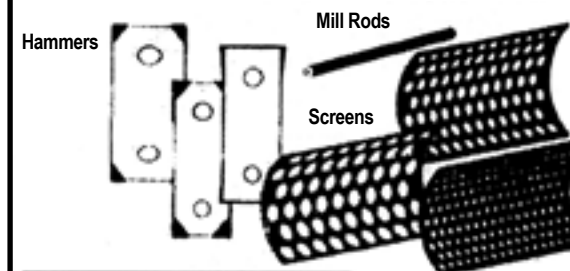
introduced to the Model 919. Over the next 12 years, Fraser became acquainted with the operation as well as the frustrations of the meter's history. In 2002, Fraser was discussing the meter with the 919's Canadian manufacturer, Dwight McCrae. McCrae was concerned with the 919's future since the sister Motomco 919 production was discontinued in 1998. Availability of the electronic components and meter movements required for the manufacture of the 919 were the primary factors which prompted an upgrade to the meter. After discussions, Fraser suggested a digital display. Dwight asked that I look into it and he sent me a number of meters to work on, says

Fraser. We wanted to create a new digital display that would fit into the existing meter without changing any of the other components. And the results had to be consistent with existing charts. McCrae also set Fraser a tall task, the new design needs also to be accurate when testing the moisture of oats. Several attempts of a successful upgrade of the meter over past years had failed because of oats." says McCrae. If we could get accurate readings for that grain we knew it would work for all the other grains. After nine months of testing, McCrae came out to Brandon, saw the prototypes and pronounced the new meter a success. Within months, orders for the new digital meter were overwhelming.

The digital retrofit can be installed by Quantum Electronics in Brandon. This is a modification that needs to be done by a technician who knows how the meter works, explains Fraser. It shouldn't be done by the producer. The kit is designed to fit all 919 moisture meter castings regardless of the age or brand of the unit. The digital display also enhances the positioning of the drum dial thereby improving the accuracy as much as five times. Adjusting for "00" instead of a null point eliminates the guesswork and provides extremely fast results. This product is receiving favorable response from users and is preferred for its ease of operation as it integrates well into the existing meter for refurbishing or repair. It uses the same operating procedures and charts so that the transition from the prior art to the new one is, for the operator, straight forward. This truly brings the Model 919 into the 21st century. ☎

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DEALERS WELCOME

Wind energy: making a difference

By the American Wind Energy Association

Wind energy is growing fast, helping bring across America electric price stability, energy security, jobs, a healthier environment, and rural economic benefits.

Some 2,500 megawatts (MW) of new wind power generating capacity—a capital investment of over \$3 billion—were installed in 2005, according to initial estimates by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). Wind farms in the U.S. now total over 9,000 MW in capacity and generate enough electricity to serve 2.4 million homes. That's still less than 1% of U.S. electricity supply, but by 2020, wind energy technology could provide 6% of the nation's electricity—a share similar to hydropower today.

The drivers are strong: proven technology, attractive cost, vast potential, investor interest, strong demand. The outlook for wind power is bullish, and

could be even stronger over the longer term, depending on how soon and how successfully constraints and obstacles to its growth are rolled back. Meanwhile, AWEA expects three record-setting years for wind energy at least through December 31, 2007, the date when an important federal incentive, the production tax credit, is next set to expire.

Proven technology:

Modern wind turbines are at the cutting edge of energy technology. Utility-scale turbines feature sophisticated electronic equipment and controls and advanced composite materials that allow the turbines to reap ever-larger amounts of energy from the winds. Modern utility-scale wind turbines are tall—reaching some 400 feet high to the tip of the blade. The turbines' computers collect and process over 200 types of data, from wind speeds and oil temperature to voltage dips on the grid. At good

windy locations, a single 1.5-megawatt wind turbine (the average size installed in 2005) generates enough to power 500 (that's five hundred) average American households, year after year.

Wind turbines can contribute to overall grid reliability thanks to high-tech features. Moreover, new studies show that utilities can significantly expand wind power in their portfolios without major adjustments in the planning, operations, or reliability of their systems, even though the output from wind farms can vary with the wind. These studies confirm what has long been the experience in Europe, where Denmark and certain regions of Germany and Spain generate 20% or more of their electricity from the wind.

Attractive, stable cost

The cost of wind power is attractive principally because it is stable: once a

Continued on Page 22

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The EZ ATV Sprayer was designed with the operator in mind for ease of operation and functional ability and safety. With the sleek design brings the weight forward and more to a center of gravity for better machine balance. Allowing the legs of the tank to wrap around the fenders of the ATV gives the sprayer dual sumps to give maximum drainage and the ability to run on side hills without losing its prime. The pump, strainer, and main shut-off are mounted underneath the tank in a protected cavity, which also serves as a dual slosh baffle. The top of the tank is designed with a fill catch area to prevent chemical from getting on the operator. The EZ is fitted with a 4 gpm Shurflo Pump and a quality Tee-Jet trigger style handgun in the convenient control panel at your side. All brackets and boomless nozzle or boom accessories are attached to the tank for quick and easy mounting. The EZ ATV Sprayer has several different options and accessories to meet your requirements and needs.

C&R Supply, Inc. is a distributor and manufacturer of agricultural and roadside spray equipment located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. For over 25 years, C&R Supply, Inc. has been a leader in the distribution and servicing of many quality products from Raven Industries, Spraying Systems, Banjo, and more. They also lead the way in designing and manufacturing new and advanced products such

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



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Wind Energy

Continued from Page 19

wind farm is built, the cost of the power that it generates is steady because there is no cost of fuel. For a utility, acquiring wind power is therefore similar to locking in a long-term, fixed-rate mortgage. More wind power can therefore help stabilize electricity prices.

The cost of wind power has come down by 80% since the first commercial wind turbines were installed in the 1980s. Meanwhile, over the past several years, the cost of fuel used for electricity generation — natural gas in particular, but now even coal—has increased, sometimes dramatically. “The wind blowing across the fertile farmland of southeast Washington is one of the cleanest, most affordable sources of electricity available today,” according to Puget Sound Energy, Washington state’s largest energy utility.

Utilities seeking to manage fuel cost are now finding that wind energy can be an attractive option for new generation. Wind energy development can also help cut consumers’ bills by lowering demand for natural gas -- particularly during winter peak demand -- and by extending its supply.

More wind power means lower natural gas prices

The current growth in wind power construction comes at a time when customers across the country are facing elec-

tricity and natural gas rate hikes due to the natural gas supply shortage, with 2005-2006 winter gas prices projected at \$10-13/thousand cubic foot (mcf), compared to last year’s average prices of \$5-7/mcf. And high natural gas prices can hit farming and ranching communities doubly hard since they also make the price of fertilizer go up.

Because every unit of electricity that is produced by a wind farm is one for which the country does not have to burn natural gas or other resources, using more wind power helps reduce skyrocketing natural gas prices by reducing the demand for natural gas. “Wind power’s rapid growth provides what is potentially the quickest and best supply-side option to ease the natural gas shortage,” said AWEA Executive Director Randall Swisher.

Economic development benefits

Wind energy creates jobs. In the manufacturing sector, for example, Gamesa, a leading global manufacturer of wind turbines, is planning a manufacturing facility in Pennsylvania to serve the growing U.S. market. A California-based company, Clipper Windpower, has opened a plant in Iowa, where it manufactures a new line of large new wind turbines. And some 90 companies in 25 states currently produce wind turbine components. Additional job creation flows into non-manufacturing sectors such as construction, transportation, marketing,

financial, and other services.

Wind energy also generates revenue for rural counties and communities, and help farmers and ranchers diversify their income and stay on the land. Sherman County, in eastern Oregon, is a “one-crop” county that depends on dry-land wheat farming and ranks last out of the state’s 36 in per capita income. After the 24-MW Klondike wind farm was built, the project generated for the county during its first year of operation: \$321,205 in property tax revenues (10% increase), including for schools; annual royalty payments to landowners of \$2,000-\$4,000 for each turbine on their land; 80 to 100 temporary jobs during project construction; and 3 full-time technical positions. Klondike was expanded by an additional 75MW in 2005 with the community’s full support.

The large 162-MW Colorado Green project in rural Prowers County, Colorado—an agricultural area that grows mainly alfalfa and has been hit by drought over the past several years—increased the county’s tax base by 29%, adding annual payments of about \$917,000 to the general school fund, \$203,000 to the school bond fund, \$189,000 to a county medical center. In Texas, the record-breaking thousand megawatts of wind power installed in 2001 in the state provided on an annual basis \$11.6 million in property tax payments to local schools and \$2.5 million in landowner royalty income, and created 2,500 wind-related jobs. And Minnesota saw in 2005 the construction of the 100.5-MW Trimont wind farm, the largest wind project with local farmer ownership in the U.S.

Vast resource potential

U.S. wind resources are vast—theoretically able to meet more than twice total U.S. electricity consumption today, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. In order to generate 15% of the country’s electricity (twice what hydropower generates today), only 0.6% of the land in the lower 48 states would need to be developed with wind power.

Within that area, most existing land use such as farming and ranching, would continue as it is now, with crops growing up to the foot of the turbines. Tapping only a fraction of America’s vast

Continued on Page 54

Kit turns pickups into full-tilt dumpers with 2-ton lift and dump capacity

Install LOAD HOG in a few hours yourself (or let us do it for you) on any full-sized pickup using nothing but regular shop tools.

Pneumatic — not hydraulic. LOAD HOG’s amazing lifting power comes from pneumatics (air), not hydraulics (liquid). Pneumatic systems are lighter, more reliable, easier to maintain, and simpler than hydraulic systems. Our system, using flexible polyester fabric with a high resistance to impact and abrasion, is almost maintenance free. The bag is the same material used for the Navy Seal inflatable boats.

Compact and light weight, our entire kit (thrust plates, bag, pump, hinges, steel cross members and hold-downs) adds only 120 pounds to your truck.

Strong, simple and invisible, LOAD HOG is a serious, hard-working tool (lifts and dumps up to 2-tons in 45 seconds), making those cute little roller “dumper” attachments look like little boy toys. Installed LOAD HOG is no bigger than your spare tire, maintaining stock bodylines.

Go where dump trucks have never gone before. LOAD HOG can haul and dump in all those places where heavy-duty dump trucks can’t go. Across lush, green lawns, under low bridges, and down jogging trails to mulch trees, repair washouts, do spot repairs with wood chips or gravel. Heck, it can pay for



itself in four or five loads.


Become a gentleman hauler with LOAD HOG. Don’t think twice about turning your gorgeous new pickup into a hard-working dump truck. Become a gentleman hauler. In the morning, you can load up, haul, and dump a ton of manure, hose down your bed, and drive over to Meandering Meadows for a round of golf. The girls on the veranda will never know the difference.

Takes the work out of hauling. With LOAD HOG, all the real work of hauling and doing all those jobs too small for monster dump trucks is gone. Turn your pickup into a dump truck in an afternoon. Remember, LOAD HOG fits virtually all standard pickups, trailers, feed bins and factory dumpers too.

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Solid Steel Industries

Anyone with a late model Dodge pickup will love this "steering stabilizer" kit designed for Dodge 1500, 2500, and 3500 pickups made from 1994 to 2002, and 2500 and 3500 pickups made from 2003 to present.

The kit is designed to provide additional support of the steering sector shaft and eliminate sector shaft play in the steering box. It also helps keep the pickup frame from flexing at the steering box mounting point.

The stabilizer uses existing mounting holes. It adds an outboard support bearing to the sector shaft. This additional bearing is attached to the lower end of the sector shaft by way of a replacement nut, which has an integral shaft extension. The bearing supplied is a regreasable high quality unit available at most Ag outlets. Nearly all the sector shaft load is carried by this outboard bearing, thus relieving the steering box of much wear and tear.

Installation takes about a half hour and requires no drilling or welding.

It solves the problem of too much play in the steering sector shaft, and the kit has been popular with owners of both older and newer pickups. It can be used on pickups equipped with snowplows, front receiver hitches, or tow hooks.

The steering stabilizer sells for \$189 (U.S.) plus S&H. It comes with money back guarantee.

The company also offers a retrofit kit for 1994 to 2002 Dodge



pickups to allow use of the Solid Steel Inc. rubber brushed track bar.

The Dodge Adjustable Track Bar (DAT) was recently introduced by Russell Tessier of Solid Steel Industries, Weyburn, Sask. Tessier says the new adjustable track bar is designed to replace the existing OEM track bar on Dodge 4-WD pickups made from 1994 to 2002.

"These Dodge series 4-WD trucks have a track bar that holds the front axle centered from side to side." Says Tessier. On the upper end of these factory track bars is a ball joint, much like a tie rod end. The problem is that this ball joint often fails prematurely. As it wears out, the front axle is allowed to move side to side, causing excessive wandering." That, says Tessier, contributes to a problem called the "death wobble".

"The death wobble is a violent shaking in the front end that usually happens when the truck hits a bump or pothole in the road. Usually, the truck won't come out of it until you drop the speed down to 10 to 15 mph. It can be very dangerous. A loose or worn track bar isn't the only cause of the death wobble, but it's a major contributor to the problem." He says.

Solid Steel's track bar conversion kit has high quality rubber bushings at both ends, thus eliminating the troublesome ball joint. It's adjustable, and works on tracks with up to 3 in. of lift.

According to Tessier, one other problem with the factory ball joint version track bar is that it's expensive to replace. "When the ball joint wears out the whole track bar has to be replaced. If the rubber brushings on our adjustable track bar ever wear out, new brushings can be pressed in at minimal cost.

"Many people have had to replace the factory track bar on their Dodge Rams every 30,000 miles or sooner. It's sometimes hard to tell if the track bar is worn out. The best way is to look at the upper ball joint end to the track bar while someone turns the steering wheel back and forth a few times (with the truck parked, of course). If you see any movement in the ball end, there's wear and the truck will wander. Our rubber bushings are designed to outlast the Dodge factory track bar as well as the Moog replacement track bar."

The adjustable track bar sells for \$299. A conversion kit to install the track bar sells for \$175.

Contact: Russell Tessier, Solid Steel Industries, Box 301, Weyburn, Sask., Canada S4H 2K1 (ph: 306-842-4346; Russell@solidsteel.biz; w/www.solidsteel.biz).

Article courtesy: FARM SHOW

Phillips Rotary Harrow: With Operating Costs Soaring, Can You Afford Not To ??

The Phillips Rotary Harrow continues to prove to be the best multi-purpose light tillage equipment offered today, and with rising operating costs such as fuel, this tool proves to be even more advantageous and easy for all farmers to be using.

A 30' Phillips Rotary Harrow only costs about \$0.50/acre for fuel (at \$2/gallon) and only \$0.11/acre for maintenance. Further, with operating speeds of 8-10 mph for the Phillips Rotary Harrow, a farmer can cover about 33 acres per hour. This works out to be a total operating cost of about \$916 for a 1,000 acre farm.

In comparison, using data obtained from the University of Minnesota, costs for other tillage implements that reach a depth of less than 4" are as follows:

* All cost examples are calculated for one pass, Use similar sized tools, Are for 1,000 acres Include fuel (at \$2/gallon), maintenance, and labor @ \$10/hour

Tool	Total Operating Costs*
Phillips Rotary Harrow	\$916
Field Cultivator	\$1,653
Chisel Plough	\$2,437
Tandem Disk	\$2,448
Combo: Disk, Field Cultivator ..	\$3,103

The Phillips Rotary Harrow allows a farmer to get into the field for early planting by helping warm and dry cold and wet soils. As well, this tool prepares an excellent seed bed by taking out lumps and ridges left after harvest and other tillage implements, helps to manage residue by fluffing and evenly distributing it across the field, lightly incorporates manure, works to manage pasture land and can be used for direct seeding small grains such as canola, wheat and grasses.

The Phillips Rotary Harrows' unique tines are made from high carbon, hot-forged, heat-treated steel to provide a

long life even under the most difficult field conditions. The Phillips Rotary Harrow is available in 15', 30' and 43' models that hydraulically fold vertical for fast and easy transport, right from the tractor seat.

Precision Metal Fabricating Ltd. (PMF) is a premier manufacturer of combine pick-ups and headers (Rake-Up, Swath-Master and Precision Header), as well as the SMART-TILL2200, the latest in conservation tillage technology.

For further information, please see the website at www.phillipsrotaryharrow.com or contact: Larry Goodfellow, Marketing & Sales Manager Precision Metal Fabricating Ltd. Saskatoon, SK CANADA Phone: (800) 667-6845 or (306) 955-3700 Email: sales@precisionmetalfab.com

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Compact/Utility Growth Drives Rim Guard™ Ballast Sales

Over the past eight years, the compact and utility tractor market has experienced rapid growth. These tractors have more horsepower than their weight can effectively use. Adding ballast significantly improves their efficiency and pulling power. Typically the answer has been to add “suitcase” weights on the tractor’s nose. Iron weights are expensive (\$1-\$2/lb.) and are usually located where they don’t do the most good. If the tractor has a front-end loader, these iron weights make the tractor’s balance worse. The weight is needed in the rear to counter the weight of the loader and to maximize traction.

RIM GUARD™ is a new liquid ballast that has been developed as an environmentally friendly alternative to calcium chloride and other liquid ballast solutions. Rim Guard™ was pat-

ented in 2001 as a non-corrosive, non-flammable, non-toxic, biodegradable liquid tire ballast that does not freeze. Tire ballast improves the efficiency of tractors by reducing wheel hop and slippage.

Tire ballast also acts as a counterweight to loaded buckets on front-end loaders. By placing ballast in the tires the weight is centered where the tire contacts the ground rather than hanging on the tractor’s frame or axles. Rim Guard™ costs about \$.28/lb. retail and is loaded in the rear tires where it is most needed. It also can be loaded in the front tires of 4WD tractors to further enhance traction and in 2WD models to reduce nose lift when pulling heavy loads. It also lowers the center of gravity, thereby increasing vehicle stability on hilly or sloping terrain.

Rim Guard™ is made from an agricultural byproduct with other addi-

tives and weighs about 10.7 – 11.3 lbs/gal. It is most widely used in farm tractors. Other uses are backhoes, skid steers, sky lifts, all terrain forklifts, rear wheels on combines, and pay loaders. Even large 8-wheeled tractors will partially fill their tires with Rim Guard™ to reduce wheel slippage.

Because Rim Guard™ is totally non-corrosive there is no need to install tubes, saving both the cost of the tube and the labor to install it. With Rim Guard™, you’ll never have to replace a rim due to corrosion and never have to struggle with a tire that is fused by rust to the rim along the bead.

Please call us toll-free at 866-792-3700 for more information. Dealer inquiries invited.

Phil Globig, President
Rim Guard, Inc.

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Product Profile:

TUBE-LINE TECHNO-BALE-WAGON HANDLING AND TRANSPORTING ROUND BALES



Excellent for many different purposes, round bales can also be difficult to handle and transport due to their large and awkward shape. Simplifying the problem and creating a safer and more effective way of bale handling Tube-line Manufacturing recommends the Techno-Bale Wagon. Adding extra features and timesaving capabilities the Techno-Bale is the best way to safely and efficiently handle round bales.

Removing bales from the field in a timely manner is crucial for maintaining high-quality hay, ever changing weather conditions can often create a last minute rush to get the bales off the field in time. Hurried bale removal is not only stressful but also leaves room for mis-

takes and a lack of safety precautions. Tube-line’s Techno-Bale is designed to specifically handle these types of situations. “We understand the farming needs in a wagon,” says Tom Hall, Tube-line’s Marketing director. “Tube-line’s Techno-Bale is every farmer’s answer to speed and safety”.

The Techno-Bale allows you to pick up bales in a straight line which limits the amount of soil compaction in your field and wear on your next crop. A single row Techno-Bale 900 can hold up to 5 bales and allows for self loading in less than 2 minutes. This model is unbeatable within a one mile radius from the field. A double row Techno-Bale 960 can carry 8 or 9 bales of hay, dry or wet. These quick designs are a one man, one

tractor operation and can get the hay off the field faster.

The Tube-line Techno-Bale is the only bale wagon design that lets the driver see the load behind him due to its low design. This increased visibility is great for seeing the field and your surroundings but its first purpose is for safety. Allowing the driver increased visibility decreases your chances of an accident in rushed situations.

For farmers concerned with safety and hay removal time the Tube-line Techno-Bale is the best way to get your bales off the field. Tube-line offers buyers more information at www.tubeline.ca.

To contact Tube-line directly, you can call their toll free number, 1-866-567-4162

	Model 900 (single row)	Model 960 (double row)
Loads and Transports	5 bales per trip	9 bales per trip
Tractor Requirements	35 HP	60 HP
Distance	1 mile or less	1 mile or more
Bale Size	Ranging 4' x 4' to 5' x 6'	Ranging 4' x 4' to 5' x 5'

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beef – dairy

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Heat Stress causes several production challenges to dairy producers. It is a well known fact that energy requirements increase for a dairy cow during

times of heat stress (thermoregulation). Dairy cows under this stress condition experience a number of negative and expensive production problems that can include: reduced dry matter intake (causing digestive disorders), calving problems, decrease milk production and reproductive challenges.

University studies have shown that when Tasco® is included in the diet there is increased organic matter digestion and increased protein digestion. This research shows that more nutrients are available from the Tasco® treatment when equal amounts of feed (Tasco® vs. Control diet) are fed to the cows. During the summer of 2004, Kansas State University conducted a dairy trial which placed cows under moderate heat stress conditions. It was reported that there was no change in dry matter intake between the Control and Tasco®-fed cows, however, the Tasco® group did show a significant increase in milk and milk protein production.

During the summer of 2005, the Southern U.S. was the location chosen for several well-managed, large, commercial dairy trials. At the conclusion of these trials, producers observed dry matter intake had remained normal during heat stress. They also noted better cow comfort (visual differences), improved body condition scores, reproductive advantages and finally milk production held when compared to Controls.

Replicated trials have shown that for best results, Tasco® should be introduced a month prior to any heat stress period. Producers like Tasco®'s ease of use. It can be easily incorporated at 50 grams/head/day, into total mixed rations, pelleted complete rations or supplements.

For additional information on Tasco® benefits, please contact: BioRemedies, LLC. Acadian Agritech, 888-537-1533 800-575-9100, acts@gcnet.com, info@acadian.ca

CALF SAVER™

"CALF SAVER has cut our mortality rate in half. We very seldom lose a calf anymore. We are really pleased with the product."
Leroy Souza, P&L Souza Dairy, Hilmar, CA

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Carol Borba, FDB Holsteins, Escalon, CA

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An experiment conducted at Kansas State University, on high producing dairy cows, under moderate heat stress conditions, concluded that milk and protein production was increased when Tasco® was included in the normal diet for lactating dairy cattle. (Research data available on request)

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RAU Animal Immobilizer helps you work your animals easily, safely.

The RAU IM2000 Animal Immobilizer improves worker safety, reduces risk and lowers handler and animal stress by holding animals still without expensive squeeze chutes or head gates. Used by cattlemen/women, vets, universities, feedlots and breeders for branding, dehorning, medical treatment, AI work, hoof work and many other tasks, it is light, comes in a handy carry bag



Hot branding without a squeeze chute or head gate

for convenient transportation and recharges from the cigar lighter in a vehicle to give 8 – 10 hours of work when needed. The RAU Animal Immobilizer has a 3 year warranty and comes highly recommended by users.

"We can't believe how well the RAU Immobilizer works. We

have used nosers, ropes, medicines and many other time proven techniques in restraining large animals but nothing has worked like the RAU Animal Immobilizer. It's another tool to incorporate in the time proven techniques to reduce injury to our cowboys and to decrease the stress to our animals !!!" ...Steve Flickinger, Gilbreath Enterprises, Arkansas.

"It ain't the 'Cowboy Way' but it's 'Our Way' now! Whether we used it on cattle in a chute or on the ground, every procedure was completed with no injury to the animal or the cowboys - and in record time.

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Do you wish they'd stand still?
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- Examinations

What they are saying about the RAU Animal Immobilizer

"We can't believe how well the RAU Immobilizer works. We have used nosers, ropes, medicines and many other time proven techniques in restraining large animals but nothing has worked like the RAU Animal Immobilizer. It's another tool to incorporate in the time proven techniques to reduce injury to our cowboys and to decrease the stress to our animals !!!" ...Steve Flickinger, Gilbreath Enterprises, Arkansas.

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The RAU 2000 has way over paid for itself in labor and injury saving in just one season."...
Ranch Owner, New Mexico



Dangerous longhorn head examination made easy

The RAU Animal Immobilizer is generating a great deal of interest among cattle folk, as evidenced by the above comments.

The reason is quite simple – it holds the animal still! This means that workers can do what they have to do - quickly, safely and with more care! Its portability increases its value as it can be charged in the vehicle and kept ready to use at any time - for planned or emergency activities.

Working with large animals is always a risky business and any way to reduce the danger and chance of injury to both animal and handler while reducing stress to both, definitely deserves a closer look. Stress can cause weight loss in an animal and it could take weeks to recover that weight. During that time a stress free animal could be adding weight instead of recovering lost weight. That lost weight may just make the difference between a profit and a loss at sale time!

"Are you tired of fighting your animals? Have you ever been kicked or stomped on? Do you wish your animals would stand still as you work on them? Do you work your animals yourself? Are you pressed for time and want to work faster and safer?"



Eye examination made easy

Would you like to reduce stress in your animals and yourself? If you answered YES to any of these questions – the RAU Animal Immobilizer is for you! It appeals to a complete spectrum of users including veterinarians, ranchers, breeders, part time cattlemen – male and female, old and young. Experienced cowmen are admiring its revolutionary ability to make it easier to get the job done with fewer injuries to worker and animal. This tool is revolutionizing animal handling during branding, dehorning, castration, pink eye injections, semen collection, AI work and a number of other tasks" comments Ron Duckworth, Operations Manager at I & G Distributors USA.

The Immobilizer comes with a three year parts and labor warranty (battery 1 year) so this product is a "must have" item which will earn its keep in no time at all. Its additional optional accessories are a smaller Mini-probe for small animals and AI work and an Ejaculator probe for semen collection.

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Vet's Product Fosters Togetherness In Cattle



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

When the "Calf Claim" is sprinkled on the back of the newborn livestock, it makes even the most reticent mothers re-

ceptive to their young. The mother smells the licorice-laced product and dries off the baby as she licks it. This contact stimulates the baby's respiration and heartbeat. The calf stands up and the cow lets it nurse.

"Calf Claim" has been used on foals and lambs, but is most successful with beef and dairy calves born under stress to first time mothers. When used routinely on calves that need pulled, it helps the cow or heifer to start licking. The product works best if the dam and baby are penned in a small area, about 10x15 feet, and sprinkle some "Calf Claim" then rub into its hair. It also helps to dampen the calf's back to make it stick. "Calf Claim" is bottled in five-ounce plastic containers and distributed for sale by veterinarians and veterinary suppliers across the United States and Canada. It

sells for around \$12 a bottle and is good for up to 10-12 calf situations. Demand is heaviest in the spring, although it has found favor with Western-fall calving herds.

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

History.

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

We are very proud of the article written about "Calf Claim" and the many letters received from people telling of their use of the product. However, nobody has ever asked about its history. "Calf Claim" is a formulation of a product worked up by Joe Graham, D.V.M. of Milo, Iowa. Dr. Graham has

been practicing veterinary medicine since the 1940's and compounded his product one dose at a time, as there was a need for it.


After a tour of duty with the U.S. Army, I joined my classmate, Dr. Max Mekus in a general veterinary practice in Mt. Ayr, Iowa. Shortly after starting practice, Dr. Mekus introduced me to the mixture that his Uncle Dr. Graham had compounded and I was impressed with all the success that local cattlemen were having using the product. Many were repeat customers stopping by the clinic asking for one or more doses of our calf claimer, as they called it.

Out of necessity, we formulated a new process of compounding to batch produce the calf claimer to meet the demand. At this time, it became a permanent part of our O.B. grips. After a successful delivery of a newborn the question of "What are you doing Doc?" soon changed to "Did you put Calf Claimer on Doc?"

In 1978, we trademarked the name "Calf Claim" and started to market our product thru some of the smaller veterinary product distributors that called upon us. The rest is history, and we now have distribution in the United States and Canada. About the only advertising of the product has been its success. "Calf Claim" has actually sold itself. In, 2003, our formulation was changed a little. We have removed the animal by products as the carrier and changed to a vegetable carrier. This change was prompted because of the fear of mad cow disease. John L. Peters, D.V.M. ✪

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Commentary

FOOD *fore* THOUGHT

Groveling degrades our cattlemen and our country!

By: Susan Allen

Are we in or out? When this article went to press we were out, by the time it's published we might be back in or have been in and back out again. I cannot keep track, but I will tell you I am appalled and embarrassed that our government is forced to grovel at the feet of the Japanese to get them to lift the sanctions against our beef. American beef is not just any commodity, rather the essence of our national identity. American ranchers, cattlemen and cowboys are respected icons for what is right, just and free about our country and I for one am tired that the Japanese continue to snub

their nose at them.

Beef it's, "what's for dinner," it is what has always been for dinner for generations of Americans, on average we eat about 60 -75 lbs per year per person. While beef is good enough for our children, our soldiers fighting in Iraq and our world class athletes, apparently it is not good enough for the Japanese. In fact, in a recent poll found that 75% of Japanese's consumers are afraid to eat it. Imagine performing your job above average and still receiving the pink slip. That is what it feels like to raise cattle today. Aided by the latest technology and

genetic advances our cattlemen produce an exceptional product yet must jump through hoop after hoop to gain "tippy-toe" access to Japan's lucrative market worth 1.4 billion dollars annually ...?with the threat that if Japan bans, other major Asian beef importers fall like dominos.

I am saddened at the "heads will roll" rhetoric towards inspectors and Atlantic Veal and Lamb, the company responsible for shipping veal with traces of backbone (a big no-no- under Japans rigid guidelines). The company president admitted to what he called an "honest mistake involving a very small amount of

product". Given that the piece of veal in question came from an animal younger than four months and that cows this age does not contract BSE there was absolutely no risk of the disease. Is there a better way of explaining why there is no risk? A show of support for our country-men responsible for this honest mistake would have sent a much stronger message to the Japanese. By cow towing to their officials and offering heads on a platter we only continue to fuel fear. If we roll over like a submissive puppy, regrettably, there will be other "honest" mistakes and many more competent individuals will lose their jobs over dialog that eventually will become indistinguishable from strong-arm tactics.

Japan boasts that it has the most stringent food safety standards in the world. Hogwash! The same people that will not touch our juicy T-bones or ribs for fear of mad cow, snack on chicken cartilage, eels, raw and even live fish. This is a country where takos are not filled with cooked ground beef, Takos, are octopus tendrils, preferably cut from a live animal so they move and squirm while

eaten. I wonder what stringent inspections salamanders go through prior to being served up on a stick, or the health standards required for Shiokara (squid served in a fermented sauce of fish and squid guts) While there hasn't been a death from mad cow in the U.S, tragically 100-300 Japanese reportedly die each year from eating a delicacy called Fugu, poisonous puffer fish. Yet they focus their food safety concerns on American Beef. Hummm... something fishy here.

These sanctions against our beef have nothing to do with quality. This is a political ping-pong game with our Cattlemen swatted back and forth. I say its time our politicians implement the unwritten code of the west. Those in Washington who do not know it should read James P. Owens insightful book beautifully photographed by David Stoecklein, titled Cowboy Ethics, What Wall Street Can Learn from the Code of the West. Owens lists cowboy principles we would do well to embrace when trading with the Japanese.

"Do what has to be Done, Live Each Day with Courage, Be Tough, but Fair,



When you make A Promise Keep it, Ride for the Brand, Talk Less and Say More, Remember That Some Things Aren't For Sale and Know Where to Draw the Line"

If our politicians won't ride for the brand, we can! When the Japanese ban our beef, boycott their products. Let's get creative, if they won't accept traces of bone in their cuts then ship them Rocky Mountain Oysters and be done with it. 🍌

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equine

What Motivates a Horse to Go?

By: Scot Hansen

Getting a horse to move forward has always been the most important issue with regard to training. If the horse won't move forward, then we can't effectively train him. Feet that are stuck don't make for a fun ride either in the arena or out on the trail.

The question has always been, "What's the best way?" And "what should we use?" There are all sorts of devices to utilize in making an impression on the horse to move forward. What amazes me is that there seems to be some issue between disciplines as to what's correct, safe, or fair. On more than one occasion, I've heard a trainer or clinician make fun of other riding styles and their choice of "motivational" devices.

I've heard people say, "Sticks are for kids." And I've heard, "I would never hit my horse with a whip." And of course someone will always ask, "Why do they slap them with their mecate?"

Since all of these tools and many more are designed in some way to make the horse move forward, and because at one time or another I've used various methods while riding different disciplines, I have a good understanding of most of these methods.

Whether you use a crop, bat, whip, rein, switch, stick, mecate rein, rope, spur, lariat, flag, or a simple "giddy-up", click, cluck, or kiss – you're correct.

Quite honestly your horse isn't concerned with what tool you choose to motivate him. All of these tools tap, bump, push, slap, or in some way encourage the horse to move forward. It's just that the "giddy-up, click, kiss, or cluck" don't make physical contact.

But I can assure you that, before the horse learned to respond to those sounds, some type of contact or threat of contact was made with a piece of equipment. I don't know of any horse that learned to move into the trot by someone standing twenty feet away making kissing sounds and doing nothing else. Try it. Walk into a pasture of untrained horses, get within about 20 feet, make a kissing sound and see how many pick up a trot. If they do, it's more likely they simply didn't want you any closer than twenty feet.

So what's my point? Simply this...it isn't the means with which we motivate the horse. Rather it's how we use the means that makes the difference.

How many of you have heard of or know of a horse that's afraid of the sound of a whip slicing through the

air? Chances are that this response has developed because someone was a little too aggressive with the whip and failed to let the horse understand that it doesn't always mean danger or pain.

Improper use of any of the tools discussed here will make the horse extremely agitated, and probably ready to move out rapidly. But they can also be used to such an extent that the horse becomes dull to them. I know of horses that have been hit so many times with a whip/stick that they just quit moving away from it. Those horses are often proclaimed as dull. I have seen the same result with spurs. What a shame.

Regardless of what you choose, remember to use it cautiously, infrequently, and judiciously. How would you like to have your boss stand over you with an object and threaten you with it every time you slowed down your production?

The proper way to use any of them is with the slightest touch at first and then waiting to see what reaction you get. If more is needed, then a little harder touch is in order. You may have to be quite determined with some horses, es-

Continued on Page 36



Photo: Barb & "Art", multiple winner in Western & English classes. Also, 1999 Reserve All-American (halter) gelding, 2003 Honourable Mention (3rd) Ladies Cart winner, Percheron Nationals @ Indiana State Fair

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What Motivates A Horse

Continued from Page 34

pecially if they're trying their best to go over or through you. Regardless, always start with a very soft touch or gesture, and increase it slowly until you get the results you're looking for.

Too often we remember that it took a certain amount of "whack" to get the horse going and then we instantly resort to that same level of "whack" every time. Always try with the lightest effort first and then increase only as needed. Ideally your body position should do most of the work along with a slight brush with your legs (notice I didn't say kick).

Rather than be concerned about the

tool used, I think we should all pay more attention to HOW it's used. Equipment is just that, equipment. There isn't anything perfect or magical about a cowboy's mecate or a dressage rider's whip. They're both often used as motivational tools. And neither one deserves scorn or praise more than the other one. Think about results, not equipment.

Scot has had many training and general horsemanship articles published widely both in print and on-line. His wide range of experience, instruction, and practical use of horses allows Scot to effectively teach a wide array of horsemanship skills. Scot is available for demos and clinics worldwide. Read more about Scot's products and clinics at www.HorseThink.com.

Article courtesy: Scot Hansen

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Colorado Springs, CO - In 1999 an agreement was signed between the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (Sheep Center) and the National Livestock Producers Association (NLPA) that enables Sheep Center funds to be used in the sheep and goat industries. The agreement allowed NLPA to establish a revolving fund that is used exclusively for loans with the following goals:

- To make capital available for enhancing business methods and services.
- To improve marketing efficiency and product quality.
- To promote coordination and cooperation within the industry.
- To create opportunities for adding value to sheep and goat products.

According to the terms of the agree-

ment the Sheep and Goat Fund Committee, which consists of members of NLPA and representatives of the sheep and goat industries, is responsible for the oversight of Fund. The Committee regularly reviews applications and is only allowed to consider loans up to \$1 million that are submitted by eligible entities (sole proprietors are not eligible as written into the legislation that established the Sheep Center).

To date, the NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund has extended 41 loans to 31 entities in 19 states and has received 63 applications. More than \$14 million has been loaned to the sheep and goat businesses, leaving funds still available for new applications at a current interest rate of 4.5%.

"We hope to get all of the money loaned

soon so it can help to stabilize and build the industry," Richard Drake, chairman of the NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund Committee, said. "The Fund has already helped the industry by establishing loans that have reasonable risk but may otherwise not be considered by most banks. Currently, loans have been made in many areas, including genetic development, sheep and goat dairies, lamb and goat meat processing, and fiber processing. The Sheep & Goat Fund Committee will consider any worthwhile project that will benefit our industry."

For more information or an application please contact the National Livestock Producers Association at (800) 237-7193. More information and the application are also available at www.nlpa.org. 🐾

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Raising Dorpers In Texas

Art Fredrickson grew up on a farm near Hayden, CO. The land and animals have formed his character. Not one to quit when his health began to be troublesome, he and his wife, Linda, had an opportunity to buy 130 acres in N.E. Texas and return to the land and raise animals. After considerable research they decided to raise Dorper sheep. A relatively new breed in the U.S. the Dorper is a hair sheep developed in Africa with the ability to thrive and raise lambs of good quality under poor forage conditions where other breeds can barely exist. The Dorper ewe is instinctively fond of it's lambs and produces ample milk for twins or triplets. Art has a fullblood ewe who raised triplets that weighed a combined 210 pounds at 3 months. Dorpers produce lambs every 8 months. Lambs grow rapidly and have a high weaning weight. The Dorper carcass is lean. Dorpers are calm and require less labor. The Fredricksons are producing percentage ewes and soon will have purebred ewes for sale as well as fullbloods for the breeder's market. They are also developing a market for healthful, naturally fed freezer lambs.

Linda bottle raised a lamb she named Sugar. Whenever Linda walks through the pasture, Sugar still runs to greet her. Last November, a local youth minister came by and asked for a lamb that could be in the Christmas pageant. He took Sugar. The pageant ran for two days, and Sugar enjoyed all the attention. The story of the good shepherd who leaves the 90 and 9 in search of the lost lamb has new meaning for Art



and Linda. They had a ewe come in with the flock that had obviously had a lamb but no lamb came in with her. They drove down in the pasture and in the grass found a tiny white, black headed lamb. They took her up and put her in a pen with her mother. She is about 50 pounds now. Watching the lambs race across the fields, and no bumper to bumper traffic make it all worthwhile for the Fredricksons. rockinl@mt-vernon.com 903-537-3194, rockindorpers.com 🐾

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Katahdins, a Shedding Meat Sheep Developed in North America

By: Jim Morgan

Katahdins are a breed of hair sheep developed in the United States. The Katahdin breed originated at the Piel Farm in north central Maine where Michael Piel was an innovator and amateur geneticist who enjoyed raising livestock. From Maine the breed has spread throughout all states, provinces and countries in North America and into the Caribbean and South America.

A key theme of the Katahdin from its beginnings in the 1950s is that Michael Piel selected for sheep with utility, good meat production and no shearing. Michael Piel started out raising wool sheep, but by the second half of the 1950's realized the potential and importance of separating meat from wool production. In November of 1957 he imported "African Hair Sheep" as they were called then from St Croix. All of the foundation animals were born triplets, unrelated for many generations and woolless. They were bred to various breeds including Suffolk, Hampshire, Southdown, Tunis, Cheviots and other "Down" breeds in various combinations. Michael Piel selected for hair coat and shedding, meat-type conformation, high fertility and flocking instinct. In the early 1970s' Piel felt he had come close to his goal of a "meat sheep that did not require shearing". He selected 120 of the best ewes and called them "Katahdin" sheep after Mt Katahdin, the highest point in Maine.

In 1985, Katahdin Hair Sheep International (KHSI) was incorporated as a breed association. By 2000, KHSI was ranked in the top 5 for the year for the numbers of sheep registered in the United States. Also, an important milestone in the 21st century is an unprecedented interest in Katahdins by universities and government research stations in North America. By 2002, active research programs at ten universities and

USDA stations included Katahdins.

Katahdins are a medium-sized maternal breed of sheep with breed standards for ewes of 140-185 pounds. Katahdins typically twin and are both hardy and adaptable. Research studies at Louisiana State University, Virginia Tech University, Virginia State University and USDA-ARS in Booneville Arkansas indicate Katahdins have parasite resistance intermediate between the highly parasite resistant breeds and wool sheep. From over 5000 litters, the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) calculates the average number of lambs/litter for mature Katahdin ewes is 2.1 lambs. They are adaptable and are raised from Alaska and Northern Alberta and Saskatchewan into South America. In recent years, we know of the export of Katahdin genetics to Ecuador, Philippines, Caribbean countries and Chile.

Katahdin breeders are emphasizing performance. These key production and profit traits require selection based on data recording and not visual evaluation. Currently, Katahdins are the only hair sheep breed in the USA involved in cross-flock performance evaluation in NSIP and produce a ranked sire summary. In 2005, there were more Katahdin flocks in NSIP than any other breed of sheep.

Katahdins function in several meat producing systems. Currently, Katahdin lambs are marketed into different meat markets including 100 pound grass-fed markets, 100-120 pound Midwestern markets and the ethnic market at 60-90 pounds. To reach the 140-150 pound Midwestern market, producers use terminal sires on their Katahdin ewes to reach that size efficiently. Besides the moderate sized Katahdin ewes, a few Katahdin breeders are selecting for increased frame, muscling and growth. A few breeders are identifying select



Katahdin rams that reach 200 pounds in 12 months.

A region where Katahdins are increasing in popularity is the Pacific states. Katahdins perform well in humid climates and areas where nematode parasites thrive. In terms of registered flocks, the state of Washington ranks 4th for all states and 10% of all registered flocks are found in the three Pacific Coast states. Currently, there are few Katahdin flocks in the Intermountain and Rocky Mountain States. Often, these Western flocks derive significant income from fine wool. If wool production becomes less profitable, shedding sheep will become more important in these regions. Besides farm flocks, Katahdins are increasing in popularity in the Southern Plains. There are numerous flocks with several hundred Katahdin or Katahdin crossed ewes being managed in rotational or management intensive grazing operations in which the sheep never see a barn or a jugging pen. These operations require a hardy sheep with excellent maternal behavior and lamb vigor.

In conclusion, the signature traits of Katahdins include hardiness, lamb vigor, moderately prolific (twinning), moderate size, aseasonal breeding and parasite resistance. 🐐

Buyer Beware!

Most people do not realize that goats get lice and mites! Goats can also transmit some diseases to your kids or yourself. All goats should be vaccinated, wormed and have preventive health care procedures such as regular fecal exams and lice preventions. These regular scheduled vaccinations and treatments are time consuming, but worth it to keep your goats healthy. Be sure to keep a written medical history of all vaccinations and worming dates, this helps you and your veterinarian keep your goat healthy for years.

If you are looking to purchase a pygmy goat for you or your children start doing some research.

Do you have the yard space, shelter and fence needed?

Can you supply him with goat feed, hay and grass ALL year long?

Can you give the vaccinations & worming medications yourself or do you have a veterinarian that is in your area that will see goats or other ruminants?

These are just a few questions you should consider. Search the web, read articles and books.

Goats are one of the easiest and best animals to have and own!!! They make wonderful family pets, but they need regular vaccinations and worming to keep them healthy. They also need a nutritionally complete feed just for goats, not a horse feed or cow feed (other animal feeds can contain too much or too little essential amino acids, vitamins, minerals, proteins, fats and other nutrients that can harm your goat over a period of time.)

Selecting a Breeder:

Make sure you ask questions, even if you are just looking for a pet goat and can only afford a small amount. Be sure to:

Ask the breeder about their vaccination, worming and lice prevention schedules.

Ask if they have a written health record of the animal.

Ask what products they use for worming, what type of vaccinations and were to get the products.

Ask about feet trimming and other



grooming needs and how to do them yourself.

Ask the breeder about feeds, hays and grasses in your area and mineral supplements.

If the breeder tells you goats DO NOT NEED vaccinations or worming, or cannot provide you with written documentation of vaccinations and worming the goat has received, then I would think twice about purchasing from that breeder or individual!

I have received emails from people buying from individuals or breeders, paying \$30-50.00 for a little pygmy goat with no papers, with horns and not banded (castrated males). Many problems developed later that cost the owner money and/or loss of their goat.

Several people were told "they (goats) don't need any shots or worming! Just put them (goats) in your yard and they will eat all your weeds....they don't need extra feed or shelter!" These emails and conversations have been from people all over the country.

Several had their new goats die. They were heart broken because they already became attached to their new friend.

Many were sold little bucks as pets: Most people do not realize that bucks start maturing around 4 months old. If they have horns they can start doing damage to house, barn, fences or worse, butting and hitting people or children.

Horns on goats can be very dangerous if the pet is for children or an older person. Most Bucks are not even butting with their horns to be aggressive, they are just playing very hard, but they can still do harm or damage.

Young male kids can start "**Rutting**", which is when a male goat urinates on his face, chest and legs as early as 4-5 months old. They start smelling very bad (to attract Does) along with their hair becoming sticky to the touch. This smell usually does not come off with a bath and after a few weeks the children, that had an adorable pet, do not want to play or touch him any longer... the animal is usually given away or sold because the parents did not know about owning a young buck. Wethers (castrated males) should always be sold to a family looking for a wonderful pet, never a young Buck!

A good reliable breeder will help you select the type of goat that is right for you and your family, not just try to sell you what they have available. **Just remember to ask questions and know what you are getting and most of all do your homework! 🐐**

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Agriventure/IAEA

Written by Erika Scharfen

I definitely didn't grow up thinking I'd want to spend my life working with goats. I didn't really care for them one way or the other come to think of it, having only been exposed to the occasional pygmy goats and sway-backed hubians one often finds in petting zoos. Yet I certainly want to spend the rest of my life working with goats now, and have been hard at it for the past five years... so what changed?

The first step came through a stroke of luck when as a freshman in Animal Science at the University of California, Davis, I began working at the Goat Teaching and Research Facility. The animals themselves quickly won me over, for it was here that I first made the acquaintance of the angular and stylish dairy goat. In addition to working as a student milker and getting myself in up to my elbows (literally) during kidding season, I found myself among the group of students who comprised the UC Davis Goat Show team, tagging along on visits to local breeders, and volunteering during industry training sessions in animal

evaluation and judging. Thus developed my appreciation for both the animals and the industry, and I found myself envisioning means of working raising dairy goats



into a career. I decided that cheese making was the solution, and therefore with

that as my goal, the logical destination was France, the country of cheese. I contacted the international work exchange program Agriventure, which found me a host site with a farmstead goat cheese maker and helped me through the process of applying for a work visa.

I spent one year living in the rural village of La Peyratte in the western part of France. The farm's primary source of income is its' goat cheese; winner of multiple medals, including gold, in national competition. Behind the success of this cheese are

the skill and craftsmanship of Maryline Guilloteau and the rich milk other herd of Poitevine goats. I found myself integrated into farm life and the community surprisingly fast, and the daily routine of twice a day milking and cheese making was labor intensive but' fulfilling. I was even given the opportunity to visit several neighboring goat dairies where I witnessed every extreme in goat dairying from animals kept on pasture with hand-milking to vast barns filled with goats with automated rotating parlors. The farm in La Peyratte fell in the middle, with animals pastured during the day but housed inside overnight. Surprisingly I found myself using the same milking system I'd been trained on at Davis which made me feel almost immediately at home. As my comfort with the language and culture increased, I found myself exploring even farther, talking to cheese makers wherever I traveled and always tasting new and more complex cheeses, searching for inspiration. I even had the opportunity to attend the International Cheese and Dairy Products Exposition held in Paris where I was introduced to some of the top producers and sellers in the nation.

Ten months into my stay I took the reigns of the entire cheese making operation for three weeks while Maryline left the country to visit trainees from previous years in Quebec. The responsibility was daunting, especially after having spent the last ten months learning how complex and delicate cheese making can be. After three weeks without customers being able to detect that the head cheese maker was out, I felt the relief and satisfaction of knowing that I had truly found my calling.

The hardest part of my training program was finally leaving it behind. I had spent a year living and working with the family Guilloteau, joined the local theater group in its annual production, traveled to nearly every corner of France in a way that no tourist ever could, and had become so fluent in my use of everyday French that strangers couldn't place my origins. It has been by far the most rewarding experience of my life to date.

For more information on Agriventure call toll free 1-800-263-1827 or visit www.agriventure.com

Using Dorsets In Commercial Operation



The Dorset breed has been known as a "ewe breed" in the commercial side of the sheep business. Dorset blood in the ewe flock is a real asset in a commercial operation. Not only does the Dorset have the early lambing ability, but also the Dorset grades and cross-breeds have the early lambing ability in a large degree. If one wishes early lambs, he should use the Dorset ram, no matter what sort of ewe he may have. The Dorset ram will be apt to get the ewes bred earlier than any other ram would; and the ewe lambs sired by the Dorset will have the early lambing ability. Cross-bred Dorset Merino ewes were developed in the eastern commercial flocks over seventy-five years ago. This cross made an outstanding commercial ewe.

In some ways, cross-bred Dorset ewes are equally as good-money makers as purebred Dorset ewes. They are cheaper, very hardy, and are usually good shearers. If one is in the "hot-house" lamb business, he cannot get along without Dorset blood in his ewe flock. Dorset produce all year round to keep up with market demands, and due to their milking ability and carcass traits, can produce an excellent quality lamb at 45-60 pounds.

It has also been learned through research that the Dorset fits well in most any type of cross-bred commercial operation. The Dorset will cross well with the Rambouillet, Finn, Targhee, Polypay and other white faced ewes. By adding this Dorset blood in the commercial ewe, the early lambing ability, milking qualities, mothering instincts and carcass qualities are greatly enhanced. The Dorset also works well in a two-breed rotation using one of the black faced breeds. This cross makes a very desirable slaughter weight lamb.

Ewes carrying Dorset blood are much

better milkers than other ewes and have a better sense in caring for their lambs. If one cannot get purebred Dorset ewes, let him get purebred rams and breed his own cross-bred ewes. The half-blood will be good; when he gets three-quarter-blodos, they will in some respects, be superior to even the purebred Dorset. Dorset rams will work the year round. It is a known fact that the use of Dorset rams on any kind of cross-bred or purebred ewe

will tend to bring earlier lambs. Two Dorset rams will tend to bring earlier lambs. Two Dorset rams will do the work of three or four rams of other breeds.

So, Mr. Commercial Sheepman, keep this in mind – milk makes the lamb and Dorset make the milk while having lambs year round with excellent carcass qualities. Dorsets have now become "The Breed For All Seasons... The Breed For All Reasons".

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alpaca-llama

Mystic Springs Ranch

Mystic Springs Ranch is owned and run by Vicki Trimberger and we are located in beautiful Northeast Wisconsin, near Green Bay. We have just moved to our new location in Jan 2005 and welcome our friends and new visitors to come see the NEW and improved facilities of Mystic Springs Ranch. While we only moved 3 miles away from our previous farm, the facilities at our new place are wonderful and included heated birthing stall, video monitoring system from our in-barn office and easy trailer access. We have spent the last 6 years breeding some of the top suri alpacas in the country. We breed for conformation, fiber and temperament. Our animals are raised with our children and youngsters are handled daily. All of our animals are listed on our website sales list so that you have the opportunity to decide which ones best fit your program. However we are very willing to assist you with picking the perfect animals for your herd. Standing behind our quality herd 100% is a standard for us along with offering support to new breeders in a variety of ways. The "Starter Packages" come with many extras for the new buyer and we suggest you check out the investment page of our website. We believe in this industry and live by a few key things: 1. Treat every animal with respect and to the best of our ability no matter the market value. 2. Treat every visitor as if they were family with honesty, trust and respect. 3. Try to learn something new about these wonderful animals each day. Visitors are always welcome and we offer references any time!



This summer we are offering a great herdsire breeding special. We have joined forces with 2 other local Wisconsin farms to combine all of our studs (over 20 different males) and offer discounted breedings when 2 or more are purchased from ANY of the three farms. Contact us at mail@mysticspringsranch.com or check our website at www.mysticspringsranch.com for all the details. We offer bred females, show quality youngsters and top end herdsires for every budget. We pride ourselves on being "Your Midwest Suri Connection"! 🐾

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THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF DAKOTA ALPACAS

Several years ago my husband brought home a small picture that he found in the back of a magazine. By comment was, "What in the world is that?" Since then we have become very familiar with "Alpacas". Our next step was to call for information and begin visiting alpaca farms. The first time that I met an alpaca it was "all over". I was hooked! We purchased our first alpacas, (two bred females) in the summer of 1998, it was been a wonderful experience ever since. Every year we learn more and become more involved in the breeding, boarding, and care of our herd. Cria time is my favorite. We now have 25 alpacas and board 10 more. We have built our herd and now are involved in marketing. We also enjoy traveling to shows around the country and are looking forward to getting our new crop of crias in the showing this spring.

I also am involved in working with the fiber. Alpaca fiber is so soft and so warm. Once I started spinning and knitting with alpaca fiber it is all I will ever work with again. We do our own shearing now, I spin and knit some of the fiber. The rest I send to a woolen mill and have processed into yarn and then sell my yarn.

We always welcome visitors and love any excuse to "show off"



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Raising Alpacas and Loving It Ranchers Find that Raising Alpacas as Personally and Financially Rewarding

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

Many ranchers find that in addition to raising cows, 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 gods".

The United States first commercially imported alpacas in 1984. What began as a small, intimate alpaca community has blossomed into an official national organization, the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA). That was over twenty years ago. Today, AOBA proudly boasts more than 4,000 members and over 65,000 registered alpacas nationwide.

A Breeze. That's how Cindy Harris of Alpacas at Windy Hill in Somis, California describes caring for alpacas compared to other livestock. "Alpacas eat less, they don't break fences and water lines," says Cindy.

Adult alpacas stand at approximately 36 inches at the withers and generally weigh between 150 and 200 pounds. They do not have horns, hooves, claws or incisors. Alpacas are



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

Cindy has been raising alpacas for over 7 years. Cindy learned about alpacas through her friend. "With 14 acres you ought to have alpacas," her friend told her. Cindy will never forget her response. "What's an alpaca?"

After 6 months of convincing, Cindy's friend got her to visit an alpaca farm to see these animals first hand. It was love at first sight. Today, 35 suris and 6 huacayas reside on Cindy's 14 acres of land.

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 silky and resembles pencil-locks.

With their gentle personalities, alpacas are the perfect livestock to raise as a family business. "I wish I had found alpacas when my kids were young," says Cindy. "As it is, they are grown and out of the house."

But there's more to alpacas than the fact that their easy to handle and have such appealing personalities. Simply put, they are beautiful animals. And for Kirsten Kraushaar, her first experience with alpacas was mesmerizing. Kirsten and her family attended several county fairs and met their first alpacas at the Chisago County Fair in Minnesota. Kirsten's family had a hard time getting her to leave the area. "I finally pulled myself away," Kirsten recalls, "but took all the



information I could along with me."

It took Kirsten quite a while to convince her family to agree to start raising alpacas. Eventually, they restored an old barn on their 20 acre farm outside of Cambridge, MN. Knowing they wanted animals to complement the retreat center they were opening for teenagers, Kirsten's family was finally convinced alpacas were the way to go. The choice was clear for two reasons. The Kraushaars found that alpacas were a wonderful addition to the work they were already doing with kids. Plus, Kirsten had a passion for textile arts and was interested in rekindling her interest in weaving and spinning.

Aside from their 15 huacayas, now on their farm, Soulfood Alpaca Garden, the Kraushaars also raise horses, angora rabbits, guinea fowl and chickens. Kirsten finds alpacas to be the most rewarding. "Daily chores are not difficult," says Kirsten, "and interacting with the alpacas is very rewarding. It is easy to become attached and tuned in to these creatures."

Another desirable aspect of the alpaca industry to many is the fact 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 frequently compared to the softness of cashmere. Making it even more desirable, alpaca fiber is hypo-allergenic, contains no lanolin, and comes in 22 natural colors.

For Janet and Mike Wilkins of Wilkins Livestock LLC
Continued from Page 48



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ruvian Hercules (Hemingway/Chaccu grandson), Accoyo Impulse and, of course, Accoyo's Goldsmith. We have plans on expanding in the future to continue to provide a source of top shelf genetics to our customers.

We hope you can visit us in beautiful Northwest Wisconsin some time in 2006!!! ☛

Raising Alpacas

Continued from Page 47



in Geneva, Nebraska adding alpacas to their cattle ranch made sense. The

Wilkins's 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."

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 envi-

ronmentally friendly. Clean-up is easy since alpacas deposit droppings in communal piles.

The average lifespan of an alpaca is 20 years, with a gestation of 11.5 months. Female alpacas normally give birth, without assistance, in the daylight hours and typically have single births. Twins, although 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."

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 to request your free Alpaca Farm and Ranch Guide. ☛



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COULD IT BE TRUE?

And yet it was. Dad had passed away and they were selling the ranch. Hopes of raising my son in the tradition of three generations was gone..... or so I thought.

I began researching livestock and crops that might be profitable on small acreage that I could manage. I discovered it took far more land than I could afford to make a profit and, for a woman, labor costs would be staggering.

But then I discovered alpacas. Hah! Another exotic animal rip-off! No, but wait, this actually sounded like it might have merit. I continued my research for two years and found some interesting facts.

Alpacas are native to only the high Andes of South America, where conditions are so extreme that many die. They produce the world's second rarest fiber and designers all over the world pay a pretty penny for high quality fleece. The fiber is lighter than wool, softer than wool, more water and dirt resistant, stronger, more thermal and, because alpacas produce no lanolin, most people who are allergic to wool wear alpaca. Alpaca can be spun so finely that formal gowns are made from it in Europe.

Alpacas are a growing industry in North America that has been profitable on the east and west coast for nearly twenty-five years. They are easy to care for and require very little land. Many alpaca business owners board their alpacas and don't need land. They are environmentally friendly, not used for meat and easy on pastures. Alpaca droppings are nearly odorless and



make outstanding fertilizer, even without composting.

Four and 1/2 years later we are living the rural lifestyle and raising alpacas provides our income. Located near Lindsborg, Kansas, we specialize in helping new alpaca owners get started. We remember what getting started was like and are there to help you be successful. Dad would be proud!

If you'd like to visit more about alpacas give us a call at (620) 245-1671 or e-mail us at smv@ks-usa.net. We'll talk a little more and we'd love to have you visit the farm and see for yourself. ☛

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Wind Energy

Continued from Page 22

wind resources would easily yield much of the new power that the country will need in the years ahead.

Strong demand

Public opinion surveys conducted over the years at the national and local levels typically show strong backing for renewable energy and wind power.

A recent example is the 10th annual University of Nebraska poll, taken in 2005. Ninety percent of respondents agreed the government should encourage use of renewable energy sources, and more than 80 percent agreed that producing more ethanol and biodiesel blended fuels and generating more electricity with wind turbines would benefit Nebraska's economy. Eighty-four percent said wind power can be produced and used locally.

Bruce Johnson, an Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources agricultural economist, said he has long sensed strong support for alternative energy among rural Nebraskans, but the magnitude of the results surprised him. "This strong response sends a clear signal to our public electric utilities to accelerate

their efforts to move ahead with wind power," Johnson said. "This tells policy-makers that Nebraskans want this to be part of their future."

Obstacles to growth need to be overcome

So, if wind can make such a positive difference, why isn't it growing even faster? There are constraints that hobble wind energy's growth, and these are largely regulatory and political—and no less formidable for being man-made rather than imposed by nature or technology.

Inefficient, discriminatory transmission rules make it currently infeasible to tap the country's vast potential in a big way and ship large amounts of wind power from the windy heartland to market. Strategic upgrades to existing lines and investment in new transmission lines are also needed. Removing these constraints would allow the heartland to export home-grown, inexhaustible, clean wind energy year-round to power-hungry centers in the nation, instead of importing ever-larger amounts of natural gas and other fuels.

The largest single constraint for utility-scale wind power remains the short-

term extensions and then expirations of the very effective, but intermittent, federal incentive for wind energy, the production tax credit. A long-term planning horizon, and in particular a long-term extension of the credit, is needed for businesses to plan for strategic growth in the years ahead and expand their wind energy operations on a large scale.

For small wind turbines for residential, farming, or small business use, a federal incentive is needed to help bring down the up-front cost of the purchase of the equipment. Small wind turbines—which can work well on farms and ranches in windy locations—help lower electricity bills and reduce the use of electricity generated with polluting fuels.

Rolling back these constraints would ensure wind energy's steady growth over time, bring a variety of benefits to rural communities, and help diversify the nation's energy portfolio with a safe, clean, abundant resource—home-grown here in the American heartland.

For more information on wind energy, including utility-scale and small wind systems, see the AWEA Web site at www.awea.org

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