### Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy Magazine

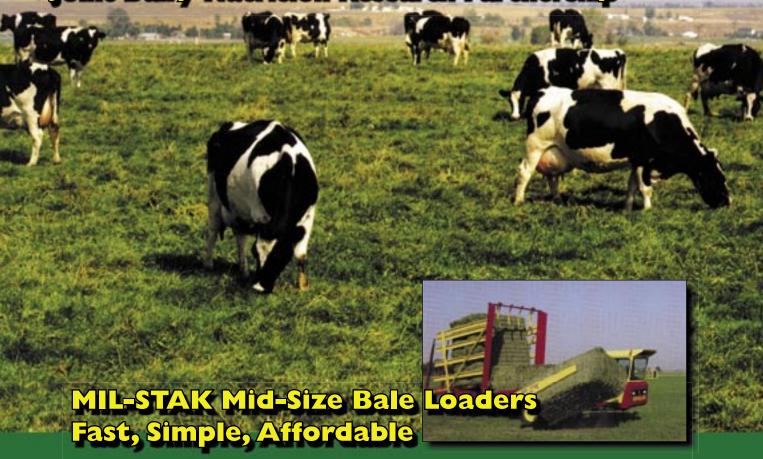
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Northwest • summer-fall edition 2006

Idaho / Oregon / Washington

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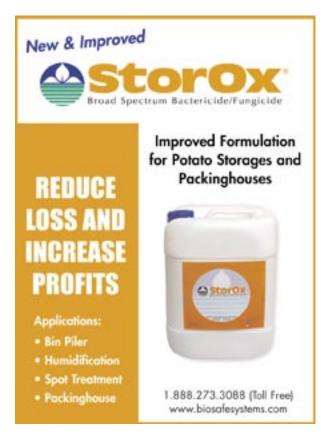
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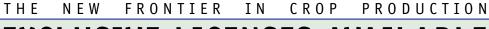








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Dairy cows photo courtesy of United Dairymen of Idaho. Inset photo courtesy of Mil-Stak.

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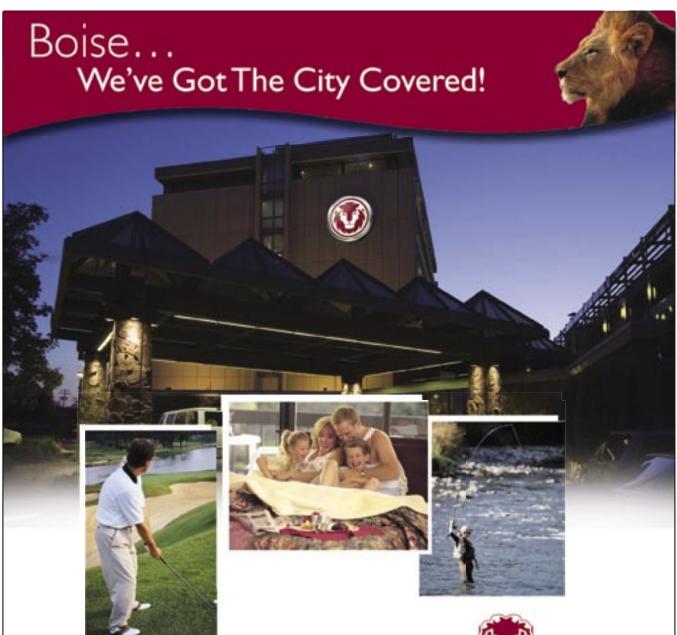
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Northwest • summer-fall edition 2006

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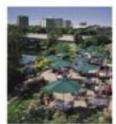


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- 12 Operator is not fatigued by the constant concussion of the
- 13 The other hand-held units cause some operators to flinch, causing not enough gas to be used for proper application.
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- 17 Well 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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### agriculture

### JOHANNS ANNOUNCES IDAHO CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP TO CONSERVE WATER AND PROTECT WILDLIFE

WASHINGTON -- Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today announced a \$258 million Idaho Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) agreement to reduce irrigation water consumption, improve water quality and improve fish and wildlife habitat in Idaho's Snake River.

"The Idaho CREP's goals of conserving water and reducing contaminants highlights President Bush's commitment to conservation," said Johanns. "By establishing native grassland habitat, participants will increase wildlife populations and groundwater quality, while reducing irrigation. I strongly encourage Idaho farmers and ranchers to participate in this important conservation program that protects our environment."

"This is a winning agreement for all of Idaho," said Idaho Lt. Governor Jim Risch. "The agreement benefits our agriculture community and protects the environment. After extensive research, we have determined that this unique state-federal partnership will result in better water flows for spring users, improved water quality for everyone and

an increase in wildlife habitat. At the same time, this agreement will protect the income streams of our rural communities that depend on agriculture to drive the economy."

The CREP agreement announced today was signed by Johanns and Lt. Governor Risch on behalf of Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne.

Enrolling up to 100,000 acres of irrigated cropland in the Idaho Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer CREP is projected to reduce irrigation water use by up to 200,000 acre-feet annually. The CREP will improve the Snake River's water quality and flow by increasing groundwater levels and reduce the application of agricultural chemicals and sediments. Establishing permanent vegetative cover will provide habitat for many wildlife species.

The Eastern Snake River Aquifer CREP Project area of eastern Idaho includes all or parts of the following counties: Ada, Bingham, Blaine, Butte, Camas, Cassia, Clark, Custer, Elmore, Fremont, Gooding, Jefferson, Jerome, Lemhi, Lincoln, Madison, Minidoka, Owyhee, and Twin Falls. In addition, all or parts of Bannock, Bonneville and Power counties will be eligible if the total CRP enrollment drops below 25 percent of the County's total cropland before the CREP project reaches the 100,000 acre enrollment target.

CREP sign-up begins May 30, 2006, and continues until enrollment goals are met, or through Dec. 31, 2007, whichever comes first. Land enrolled in the program will remain under contract for 14 to 15 years, as specified in the contract.

CCC estimates the Idaho Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer CREP's total cost over a 15-year period will be \$258 million, with CCC contributing \$183 million and the State of Idaho funding \$75 million.

Over the course of the contracts, CREP participants will receive CCC incentive payments as applicable and cost-share assistance for installing approved conservation practices. CCC will also provide annual rental payments based on irrigated cash rents for the life of the contract. The State of Idaho will provide incentive cost-share payments for CREP Continued on page 12







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Now offering three models from which to choose, MIL-STAK is able to fit any size of operation, from the family farm to the large commercial operator.

- The model 1030-s is designed for 3x4 bales with the big operator in mind. It is extremely strong and built to withstand many hours of continuous use.
- The all new 1028-s model is designed for the 3x3 bales and is nonadjustable.
- The model 1032 is adjustable and able to handle the 3x3 and 3x4 bales with ease.

All three models are designed to easily switch to and from mid-size bale loading with a few bolts and hydraulic quick couplers. Everything is either bolted on or plugged in – there is no welding on your bale wagon and no wires cut. By utilizing your bale wagon's existing controls, the operator can quickly and easily load a tight, uniform stack of mid-size bales. And with features like the Air Bag that virtually eliminates any side roll of the bale wagon, a specially designed Cushion Valve, which allows operators to gently place bales on a second table, and the second Table Booster that helps lift the extra weight of the mid-sized bales by lifting toward the front of the second table, which greatly reduces the stress on the pivot pins, the MIL-STAK Mid-Size Bale Loaders are not only a joy to

Models available for 8, 10, 12, 15 & 18 bale configurations. All models available in standard, 90 degree rotating head & high lift designs. We also have models for big & mid-sized bales.

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- No welding on your machineDelivered to your yard and
- mounted on your machine





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

(cannot be mounted on a 1048, 1049 or 1065 because of the engine placement)



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#### **Idaho Conservation**

Continued from page 8

enrolled land, and buy out water rights on other land in the CREP project area.

CREP is a federal-state cooperative conservation program that addresses targeted agricultural-related environmental concerns. With the Idaho CREP in place, CCC now has 36 CREP agreements with 28 states. Nationwide, landowners on 31,646 farms participate in various state CREPs, protecting 807,343 acres,

including 88,072 wetland acres.

CREP is part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), America's largest and most effective private-lands conservation program, with more than 36 million acres enrolled. Through the general CRP and CREP, farmers and ranchers plant grasses and trees in crop fields and along streams. The plantings stop soil and nutrients from washing into regional waterways and contaminating the air. They also provide habitat for wildlife.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of CRP. The program has amassed a wealth of benefits for the United States, including preventing 450 million tons of soil from eroding each year and restoring 1.8 million wetland acres.

Producers can obtain more information on the Idaho Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer CREP at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office and on FSA's Web site at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/default.htm

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he new science of hybrid alfalfa follows the history of corn. Just as hybridization steadily improved corn yields, hybrid alfalfa is improving hay yields.

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### **Egbers Flighting & Supply Co.**

### Egbers Still At It

Then 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."



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### **Commentary**

# FOODforeTHOUGHT

### Don't Allow Environmentalists to Hijack "Conservationists" By: Susan Allen

nlike skeptics, I believe that this place really does exist, because I have visited it many times, and been quite content and I have chosen to dwell there. To me it is a utopia of sorts, a respite between the mania of the uptight environmentalist and the renegade redneck. Thus, I hang my shingle here, proudly, where compassionate conservationists reside. True conservationists are people like my grandfather, Miles Ten Eyck who was committed to leaving the natural world better for future generations, generations of plants, animals and most importantly ....people. Grandpa would have been appalled at an environmental movement that would preference a fish, frog or owl over a human. He was just as disgusted by fisherman, recreationalists and hunters who carelessly trashed the flora and fauna. Like Teddy Roosevelt, the father of the conservationist movement, my grandfather dearly loved hunting; fishing, riding and a good tromp through the woods. In a pre-activist era both men comprehended the value of treading lightly on the wilderness, yet inheritably understood that if our American wilderness is to remain a valued resource the majority must appreciate it and that cannot occur without access, education and involvement, I have cherished memories of helping my grandfather build nesting boxes for migrating birds, working with him on habitat restoration and quietly observing him lower his rifle when a buck he deemed too young to shoot crept silently by.

Conservationists have a rich history of over a century of enacting environmental change from demographics as diverse as the geography they inhabit. Today a conservationist is a wheat rancher in South Dakota working with Ducks Unlimited to restore wetlands lost to invasive weeds. Conservationists exist among the ranks of executives at Dow

Agri Sciences, Bayer Crop Science, Du Pont and Monsanto who generously donated the herbicides necessary for the rancher and DU members in the Dakotas to succeed. Conservationists also reside in Manchester, Vermont where employees of Orvis, the fishing, hunting and outdoor company touch Africa daily through the Cheetah Conservation Fund Orvis established to provide African herdsmen a livestock guard dog program to save the fewer than 15,000 remaining cheetahs left in the world. To date in Namibia alone, 1000 cheetahs have been spared because of the efforts of Orvis employees and its customers, compassionate conservationists. In the Northwest, where salmon are king, the Executive Director of the NW Chinook Recovery commented, "some of the best friends to fish are the farmers that have land that abut their habitants."

In contrast, the stereotypical environmentalist happens to be white, wealthy, urban and struggling to connect with the masses. Last year a scathing essay declared the environmental movement "dead" sending irritated environmentalists into a tailspin for a more palatable label that would be embraced by a public weary of activist antics. Like a poor "camouflage" pattern environmentalists now hide behind the term "conservationists" It is critical for the survival of conservationist movement that they are exposed! It isn't difficult. Initially just look for an air of superiority, and exclusivity, as evidenced by groups like Earth Justice who advocate petition drives to keep road less areas wild, when what they really mean is that the wilderness should be kept as a playground for the entitled few. Another way to blow an environmentalist's cover is to ask their opinion on federal grazing. Environmentalists abhor cattle anywhere, despite the scientific evidence that managed rota-



tional grazing can improve wildlife and indigenous plant species habitat.

A true conservationist supports the move to alternative fuels and isn't opposed to making a sacrifice if required. In contrast, environmental elitists with Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Al Gore at the helm, campaign vocally for alternative fuel sources like wind power and Biodiesel as long as turbines aren't located near the Kennedy compound or fuel restrictions interfere with private jet itineraries. (One round—trip flight to Europe burns more fuel than most Americans will use in lifetime to heat their homes).

Most of the farmers and ranchers I know are practicing conservationists. Walk their land and they will point out where deer bed down, trees planted for stream restoration, the number of steelhead that made it up their tributary, and the Great Horned owl that resides in the cottonwoods. The legacy of conservation in America is a beautiful tapestry that stretches from coast to coast and across time. A dream of Theodore Roosevelt that matured into a movement thanks to the efforts of farming and ranching families and people like my grandfather. To carry their torch we must protect who uses the name "conservationist".

### **Lane Parts Company**

### Need An Engine Rebuilt?

ost farmers and ranchers depend on engine-powered equipment to run their operations. When you find you need an engine rebuilt, Lane Parts Company in Eugene, Oregon has been serving the Western US since 1953.

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Specializing in exchange hyster forklift engines, custom engine rebuilding and engine part kits, make Lane Parts Company your "One Stop Shop" for industrial engines. We can rebuild components for those who wish to do their own assembly, or will completely rebuild an engine including fuel system and electrical accessories.

Lane Parts continues to invest in the best equipment that the industry can offer. We remain committed to upgrading our equipment and keeping our people trained. Lane continues to prosper by emphasizing service and quality. Most of our agricultural customers use Lane Parts services only once every couple of years when they lose an engine. But when they do need our services, they are usually in a hurry as engine failure is not something that you can plan ahead for.

We work on many different models such as John Deere, Caterpillar, Allis Chalmers, Case, International and David Brown.

Our parts dept. only uses the highest quality aftermarket parts. We will only sell you the same quality, and if it's not good enough for our Re-man. engines, then we wouldn't want you to put it in your engine. We are also proud to announce 3 new product lines, Deutz, Ford, and Komatsu.

These days it's getting more difficult to find a good rebuilder and doing it right. Lane Parts Company makes it easy to send major items back right away. For machine work and parts, full engine rebuilds or more information, please phone 1-800-210-8721. Website: www.laneparts.com

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### Lakeview Golf Club

akeview Golf Club, located at 4200 W. Talamore, is situated in west Meridian neighborhoods. The 18-hole course meanders through many different subdivisions with homelined fairways that give the course a tranquil setting but an intimidating look. Although there is Out of Bounds on every hole and water that comes into play on seven of the holes, the course is very playable for all skill levels.

With new owners as of April 2005, the course is in outstanding condition and is turning into one of the Treasure Valley's premier public golf courses. The course is currently under construction improving three of the holes on the front nine. The redesign of these holes will bring water a little more into play, add additional bunkers and provide impeccable greens. Course improvements are scheduled to be finished in July of 2006. In the

mean time, all 18 holes are currently open with three temporary greens in play, but this short inconvenience will be well worth the wait.

Lakeview's drastic improvements over a short time have been noticed by the community and the Idaho Golf Association, which has selected Lakeview to host the 2006 Men's State Amateur II August 12th & 13th. Some of the golf course amenities include a grass tee (no mats) practice range, putting and chipping greens, and -- being added spring of 2006 -- a practice bunker for green side and fairway shots.

After a day on the links you'll want to visit Bogies Bar & Grill at Lakeview. A variety of options are available from a beer and a sandwich to an evening dinner of juicy Tenderloin with sautéed prawns or a meaty Halibut fillet. Whatever your palate

desires, Bogies is sure to have something for you. If a top shelf drink is in the works come and sit in the bar and enjoy the view of the lake and the ridge line view of Bogus Basin. When the weather is fitting, the patio will be open for those who enjoy an outdoor setting. Of course, breakfast, lunch and dinner are available every day.

The Golf Shop has quality brand name equipment (Callaway, Ping Titleist, Cobra, Nike and more) in stock to deck you out and make you the envy of your four-some. If you're not quite ready for the course or are in need of a tune up, Lakeview has golf instructors ready to help you improve your game.

Regular green fee's run \$27.00 on weekends and \$23.00 on weekdays. Senior and junior rates are available during the weekdays as well. More information is available by calling 208-888-4080.





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- Banquets
- Quality Merchandise in Golf Shop

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### USDA AWARDS \$1.9 MILLION IN INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION GRANTS

WASHINGTON - Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced that USDA is awarding nearly \$2 million to 19 U.S. colleges and universities to enhance their capabilities to conduct international collaborative research, extension and teaching.

"Among the reasons why U.S. agriculture has been remarkably successful is the flexibility and ingenuity of our farmers and ranchers," said Johanns. "These grants will help strengthen the research and teaching that inspires ingenuity to ensure a vibrant future for U.S. agriculture."

USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service administers the funds through the competitively awarded International Science and Education Grants program. The projects will enhance the international content of curricula, provide faculty with the opportunity to work outside the United States to bring lessons learned back to the classroom, promote international research partnerships, enhance the use and application of foreign technologies in the United States and strengthen the role that colleges and universities play in maintaining U.S. competitiveness.

The overarching goal of the grant program is to strengthen the global competitiveness of students, faculty and staff in agriculture and related areas and enhance business performance in international agriculture. The fiscal year 2006 grants recipients are:

- Arizona State University \$99,969
- Clemson University \$99,751
- Florida International University \$100,000
- Kansas State University \$99,917
- Michigan State University \$100,000
- Montana State University \$99,538
- North Carolina A&T State University \$100,000
- North Carolina State University \$100,000
- Oklahoma State University \$100,000
- Oregon State University \$99,653
- Pennsylvania State University \$98,698
- Purdue University \$99,670
- South Dakota State University \$99,950
- Tennessee State University \$100,000
- University of California Davis \$99,983
- University of Connecticut \$99,976
- University of Hawaii \$100,000
- University of Minnesota \$99,995
- West Virginia University \$98,006

CSREES advances knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities by supporting research, education, and extension programs in the Land-Grant University System and other partner organizations. For more information, visit http://www.csrees.usda.gov

### USDA RELEASES BSE PREVALENCE ESTIMATE FOR U.S.

WASHINGTON -Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced USDA's estimate of the prevalence of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the United States.

"Our enhanced BSE surveillance program has been an enormous undertaking, but well worth the effort," said Johanns. "We can now say, based on science, that the prevalence of BSE in the United States is extraordinarily low. The testing and analysis reinforce our confidence in the health of the U.S. cattle herd, while our interlocking safeguards, including the removal of specified risk materials and the feed ban, protect animal and human health."

The estimate of BSE prevalence in the United States is based on data gathered from not only the enhanced surveillance effort that has been underway since June 2004, but also from surveillance conducted in the United States for the 5 years prior. USDA experts used two different methods, the BSurvE Prevalence B method and the Bayesian birth-cohort method, to analyze the prevalence of BSE based on all of the surveillance data.

The findings of the two methods were similar, indicating that the most likely number of cases present in the United States is between 4 and 7 animals. Therefore, USDA concludes that the prevalence of the disease in the United States is less than 1 case per million adult cattle, based on an adult cattle population in this country of 42 million animals.

The testing program is not part of U.S. food safety protections. The system of interlocking safeguards protects animal and public health. The most important safeguards are the removal of specified risk materials from the food supply, along with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) 1997 ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban. Science indicates that the longer the FDA's feed ban is in place, the lower the prevalence of BSE will be in this country.

USDA will use the prevalence analysis, once it is peer-reviewed, and international standards set by the World Animal Health Organization, to design an ongoing BSE surveillance program for the United States. The data and analysis will also assist in making science-based policy and regulatory decisions related to the disease.

USDA's enhanced BSE surveillance program followed the detection of BSE in an imported animal in December 2003. The target population of cattle tested included those animals where the disease is most likely to be found if it is present: non ambulatory cattle, cattle exhibiting signs of central nervous disorders or any other signs that may be associated with BSE, including emaciation or injury and dead cattle. Samples were drawn from more than 5,000 locations across the United States, including slaughter plants, renderers, farms, public health laboratories, veterinary diagnostic laboratories and salvage slaughter facilities.

USDA is providing its analysis to outside experts for a scientific peer review and making it available to the public. USDA is confident the conclusions drawn regarding BSE prevalence in the United States are sound and scientifically credible. The analysis, along with a summary report on the BSE enhanced surveillance program, are available at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/hot\_issues/bse.shtml

# GIPSA Offers Wet Gluten Testing for Wheat

Washington - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration is now providing official determination of wet gluten content for Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat and Hard Red Spring (HRS) wheat using a protein-based calibration on official near-infrared transmittance (NIRT) instruments.

"Buyers of U.S. wheat often ask for analysis of functional characteristics of the commodity being purchased," said GIP-SA administrator James Link. "This new service will provide the market with important data on wheat gluten functionality."

Gluten, the primary functional protein in wheat, is responsible for the unique ability of milled wheat to produce bread, pasta, and noodle products.

GIPSA will provide wet gluten content determination as official criteria under the authority of the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended.

For further information, contact Steven Tanner, Director, GIPSA Technical Services Division, at telephone (816) 891-0401.









### equipment

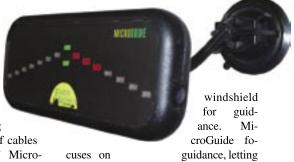
### **Farm Works Software Announces Low Cost Wireless Lightbar**

arm Works Software is proud to once again lead the industry with the first ever Bluetooth (wireless) lightbar! This revolutionary product known as MicroGuide works in conjunction with Farm Works' Guide Mate software and virtually any hardware device with Bluetooth capabilities, such as an iPAQ Pocket PC. MicroGuide is a small, low-cost, easy to follow lightbar that includes a power supply and rugged suction mount.

According to Brian Stark, Sales & Marketing Manager of Farm Works Software, "Most conventional lightbars

designed today can be pretty large and difficult to mount in your line of sight. Also, most lightbars are challenging to move from vehicle to vehicle because cables are permanently mounted. Owners of these lightbars end up paying more money for an extra set of cables for another tractor or sprayer." Micro-Guide eliminates the cable problem and reduces fatigue and user error.

Another advantage of MicroGuide is having access to your Pocket PC, which previously had to be mounted on the



you use your Pocket PC to concentrate on coverage maps, crop records, or variable rate. Suggested retail is \$325 for Micro-Guide. Guide Mate and Site Mate-Basic are required software for MicroGuide.

### T.R.S.Industries Inc.

or more than 22 years, T.R.S. Industries has provided many services in the tarping industry. T.R.S. Industries has been repairing and installing new Roll Tarps, Supreme Roll Tarp Systems, Electric Roll Tarp Systems and Electric upgrades with wireless remote. The Electric System works well for Potato Trucks because it can climb over heaped loads, is more efficient than hand cranking the tarp open and is user friendly for persons

with health or physical issues. T.R.S. also sells and installs Electric Grain Door openers with wireless remote for the Grain Hauler. The wireless remote allows you to open the trap doors from a distance away from the trailer in dusty conditions. T.R.S. Industries manufactures all of their own tarps in their Fabrics Division adjacent to the repair and install facility. The fabrics Division also custom builds custom tarps and covers such as Boat covers, windmill tower covers, air conditioner

covers or for just about anything you need covered. T.R.S. Industries also builds tarps for the flatbed industry as well, Lumber tarps Steel tarps, smoke tarps or custom built to your needs with medium weight tops, light weight sides and as many rows of D-rings as you need. All orders are shipped. ASAP to anywhere in the United States and Canada. Call T.R.S. Industries with your ideas at 800-246-1749 or visit them on the web www. trsindustries.com



# PFM Introduces New Tine Bucket

Precision Farm Machinery (PFM), a division of ABCO Engineering Corp, is pleased to announce their new rock-digging bucket with replaceable tines for mounting on skid steer loaders.

The Series 570 Tine Bucket is designed for digging large field rocks, pieces of concrete and rubble at demolition and landscaping sites while allowing dirt and fines to pass between the tines. The 1-1/2" dia. special hardened steel tines with 2-1/2" spacing are held in place with one bolt and are easily replaced. The segmented stone dam holds rocks in back of the bucket while allowing fines to escape. A rock shield protects the skid steer operator. The bucket carries a full two-year warranty.

PFM manufactures a full line of rock pickers, bale slicers, fork buckets, ditchers, bean cutters, vibrating screen buckets and post/tree pullers for the agricultural, landscaping and construction industry. For more



information on any of PFM's fine products, contact PFM at 319-283-5695 or toll free at 877-736-2226. You may also check out PFM's products at www.abcoveyor.com/PFM.





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### **Starr Trak**

s you know, center pivot and linear irrigation systems, under certain soil conditions, can be plagued by severe rutting problems. There are many things that irrigation managers have attempted in the past to curtail the problem such as plowing in ruts at the beginning of the year, or filling the trenches with wood chips, rock or hay bales, just to name a few. This often helps but invariably rutting problems persist and worsen leading to time and money lost to things such as:

- Digging out bogged down towers
- Erecting and repairing corner units that have collapsed while trying to climb out of trenches
- General wear and tear to machinery from crossing trenches

Rutting problems have been around for years and have spawned many possible solutions. Many of these ideas have accomplished some amount of improvement, but often end up creating more problems or simply poor results. That is until now.

STARR TRAK was designed and built as a logical answer to irrigation rutting problems. The system is simple, affordable, and most importantly, effective. Not only will it solve your rutting issues, it will do so without creating other problems.

The patented STARR TRAK system has proven to tremendously increase flotation allowing the machine to roll more freely resulting in much shallower tracks. For instance, in one field test, high-float tires were creating ruts anywhere from 12" to 24". When the STARR TRAK system was used, the ruts were only two to four inches deep. One to two feet versus two to four inches, that's roughly a 600% improvement in track depth. With this improvement, difficult soil types that have previously prevented automated irrigation systems from being installed may now be manageable using STARR TRAK.

Not only does this system increase flotation, it also helps minimize rutting from soil erosion through its horizontal traction pattern which allows water to move to the outside of the track rather than centralizing water flow as do existing tire patterns. In addition, STARR TRAK is designed to keep the tires in their factory-



Starr Trak, The Answer To Irrigation Rutting Problems

designed angle (something that can't be done with solid metal or bolt on wheels) so as to not put any added stress on the axels and support tubes. Also, STARR TRAK may be used on the entire system or simply on problem towers.

Since the development of STARR TRAK, a need was recognized for the same track to be applied to corner units. The extreme weight, varied angles, and stress created by irregular terrain previously made widening the track difficult. The development of a retrofit bracing system for corner units has solved those challenges. These are now available for new or used pivots and allow our STARR TRAK assembly to be added

to any corner unit. End tower rut crossover or simply the over watering in corner machine tracks need no longer be a problem for irrigators.

Imagine no shut down calls at midnight, no missed water timing, no digging or pulling machines out, no more filling in ruts. Then imagine, smooth field preparation and harvest operations under your pivot or linear system without damage to equipment. Imagine solving the cause of the problem rather than just fighting the symptoms. This is what STARR TRAK delivers.

The market is in need of a solution and we are ready to help solve your problems.





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- Ferguson 3-point linkage and hydraulic system deliver unsurpassed implement accuracy and control.
- Built to be solid and durable, the MF 471 outweighs the competition by more than half a ton, so you can take on heavy jobs with confidence.
- Choose the reliable 8x2 sliding-gear transmission or the shift-on-the-go 8x8 Synchro Shuttle transmission on platform versions.
- The 12x4 side shift transmission available on cab versions lets you choose the most productive gear for loader operations, field work or transport.
- Creeper option allows extra-slow ground speed at full power.\*
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\*Platform version only

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- Full range of implements includes custom-matched loaders and backhoes.
- Roomy, isolated mount platform, tilt steering, logically configured controls
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The new 6400 Series tractors combine efficient power and optimum performance, so you're ready to tackle any tough job and keep on going. Your choice of six different models ranging from 95 – 155 PTO horsepower represent a new level of power that looks every bit as good as it performs.

- All-new styling combines sleek, contemporary sheet metal with rounded grill lights and elliptical cab lights, for rugged good looks with an upscale feel.
- Both front and back lights are molded into the structure of the tractor, for a more finished, integrated look.
- New cab interior design is easy on the eyes, with logically grouped, easyto-read instrumentation that lets you monitor systems status with only a glance.
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your eyes on your work, instead of looking for levers, switches and knobs.

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### beef & dairy

### Thinking Differently About School Milk

ilk is a critical part of children's diets and is key to helping create a healthy school environment. Dairy producers, through their checkoff investment, are working to increase school milk sales through the New Look of School Milk (NLSM) program. As a result of research conducted by the National Dairy Council® in 2002, now nearly 2 million students in 3,400 schools across the country are enjoying nutrient-rich milk in cool trendy plastic bottles. Additionally, a new study shows that kids overwhelming prefer milk in plastic over paperboard containers.

It's Happening in Idaho!

United Dairymen of Idaho is encouraging innovation among industry leaders by entering into a joint venture with an Idaho processor to deliver retail-quality milk in multiple flavors in plastic single serve packaging for use on cafeteria meal lines and in a la carte and vending in schools. UDI is offering a grant for equipment as part of a national Innovation Stimulus Program sponsored by United Dairymen of Idaho. This program directs resources toward manufacturing equipment. UDI has also met with several school districts in order to gain their support for NLSM. Feedback from school foodservice and administrators regarding the program has been positive.

UDI, through the Idaho Dairy Council (IDC), has programs available to assist schools in getting children the nutrition they need by serving milk the way children like it - cold! The milk cooler program has Idaho schools lining up for milk cooler grants provided by IDC on behalf of Idaho's dairy farm families. Many kids don't drink school milk because it isn't served cold and while school foodservice providers want to serve milk that is cold, in many

instances they face financial limitations that prevent them from improving the choices and how and when milk is served. Not only do the coolers provide adequate refrigeration, they can be set up on the food line making cold milk readily available to kids in a variety of flavor choices. To date, UDI has placed more than 300 coolers in Idaho schools with an approximate investment of \$600,000.

In addition, IDC provides vending grants. Idaho schools interested in purchasing a milk/dairy food vending machine must contribute \$500 towards the \$4000.00 purchase price. The remainder is paid by UDI.

## DMI and Fonterra Agree to a Joint Dairy Nutrition Research Partnership

he dairy producer directors of Dairy Management Inc.<sup>TM</sup> (DMI), which manages the national dairy checkoff program, have approved an agreement with Fonterra Cooperative Group, Ltd., of New Zealand to jointly fund a strategic research plan to further investigate the health benefits of whey.

"This pre-competitive agreement between America's dairy producers and Fonterra creates a new approach to funding science that can lead the dairy industry to increased sales by showing dairy's competitive advantage over other protein-based products," said Tom Gallagher, chief executive officer of DMI.

The partnership reflects DMI's role as a catalyst and innovator to establish new markets on behalf of America's dairy producers, Gallagher said.

"The agreement with DMI leverages

our mutual resources to advance the nutritional value of dairy proteins and enhance the image of dairy products and ingredients worldwide," said Bob Major, Fonterra's director of innovation.

"Initial research efforts will focus mainly on identifying the positive nutritional attributes of whey as they relate to body composition, in order to help lay the framework for a future marketing claim for whey protein," said Greg Miller, Ph.D., executive vice president of innovation for National Dairy Council®, the nutrition research, education and communications arm of DMI.

As part of the agreement, U.S. dairy producer-funded research will focus on body composition as it relates to the overall adult population, while Fonter-ra's efforts will focus on body composition as it relates to sports nutrition. The

results of these studies will be jointly shared, and will be made available to U.S. dairy food manufacturers.

This partnership is expected to lead to expanded research in nutrition and dairy product development. Other potential nutrition research areas could include cardiovascular health, immunology, bone health, and glucose control for diabetics.

"This agreement is good news for U.S. dairy producers," said Ken Hall, Idaho dairy producer and co-chair of United Dairymen of Idaho. "It is a prime example of how our investment in promotion and research works with industry partners to carve a quicker path toward new U.S. dairy product and ingredient sales, both nationally and internationally."

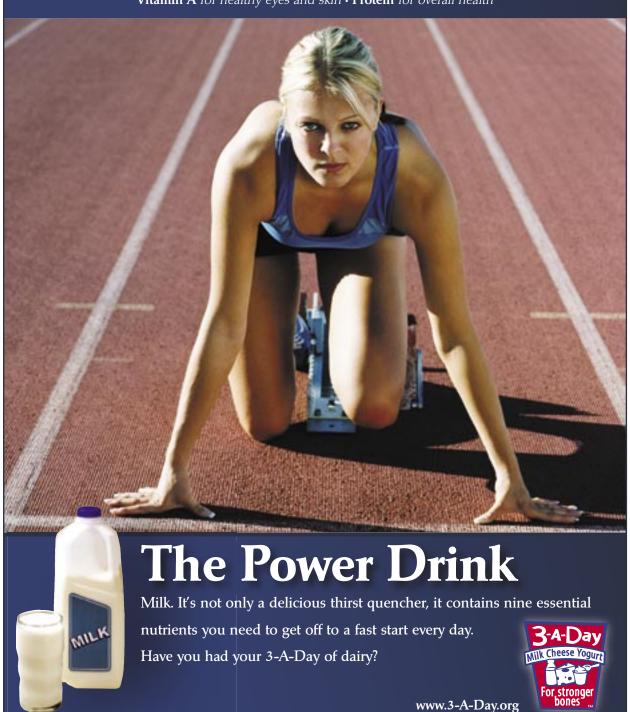
For more information about producerfunded dairy checkoff programs, visit www.dairycheckoff.com

### Milk and other dairy products provide 9 essential nutrients important to good health.

Potassium, Magnesium, Calcium & Vitamin B12 for nerve function

Calcium, Phosphorus & Magnesium for strong bones and teeth · Riboflavin & Niacin for energy

Vitamin A for healthy eyes and skin · Protein for overall health



### 2006 Budget Aims to Keep Filling Unmet Demand and Increase Sales

ational, state and regional dairy producer checkoff board members recently approved a \$158.1 million 2006 Unified Marketing Plan (UMP) budget geared to help U.S. dairy producers grow their businesses by working to convert milk into products consumers really want.

The budget includes financial commitments from the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board (NDB) and state/regional dairy promotion organizations participating in the 2006 plan. Idaho dairy producers contribute \$2.2 million to the UMP through their contributions to the checkoff program administered by United Dairymen of Idaho. More than 300 dairy producer checkoff directors from national, state and regional dairy promotion organizations approved the plan.

"The new business plan is about driving sales of and demand for U.S. dairy products," said Ken Hall, Idaho dairy producer and co-chair of United Dairymen of Idaho. "Our purpose is to solve business problems. It takes an industry-wide plan and pooled resources to make this happen."

The 2006 UMP is further leveraged by strategic partnerships that add millions of dollars to dairy checkoff-funded promotion efforts, such as initiatives with national restaurant chains and retail outlets. Fluid milk, cheese marketing and dairy image budgets include funding for several major dairy checkoff initiatives, including: school marketing efforts to make milk more competitive in our nation's schools, the 3-A-DayTM of Dairy

program, whey nutrition research, and maintaining dairy's positive image with consumers and health professionals, among others. All programs bring long-term value for producers' investment, Rovey said.

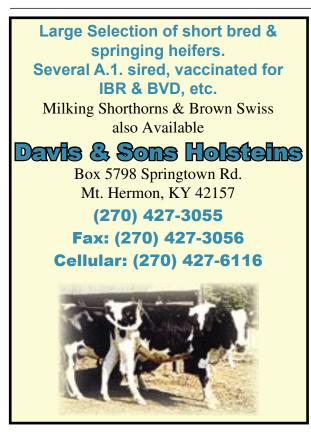
In addition, the NDB approved the authorization of \$6 million on a one-time basis for the purpose of funding a three-year study to develop methodologies to estimate air emissions from U.S. dairy farms. According to Woody Bryant, Arkansas dairy producer and chairman, NDB, the allocation of these funds will not have a direct impact on 2006 dairy promotion programs.

#### Single-Serve Milk

For fluid milk, growth will happen through innovation in fresh fluid, extended shelf-life milk, and aseptic products. The 2006 plan will work to create strategic partnerships with milk processors and suppliers to spur production capacity of plastic bottles.

#### 3-A-Day of Dairy

The 3-A-Day of Dairy program aims to increase the average consumption of dairy closer to the government-recommended three servings a day through a comprehensive nutrition-based marketing and education program. This includes advertising, retail promotions, Internet communications, and health professional outreach, among other efforts. The marketing investment by 3-A-Day of Dairy food industry partners in retail promotions more than doubles the investment of the dairy checkoff.



# Davis & Sons Holsteins Dairy Cattle and Replacement Heifers

Billy Neal, his wife Paulette, and their sons, Ben and Brent, operates Davis and Sons Dairy Cattle and Replacement Heifers. They have been in the dairy replacement business since the 1970s.

They have a normal stock of 1,200 dairy animals on their spread in Mt. Hermon, Kentucky and Barren County. The animals range in age from six months to calving. Holsteins, Jerseys, and Brown Swiss are normally readily available, and other breeds are available on request. If it's registered cattle that you are looking for, they are also available on request.

Davis and Sons have shipped cattle all over the United States as well as Mexico and Puerto Rico. In addition to the cattle, they also farm 750 acres. For more information, call (270 427-3055 or (270) 427-6116, or write Box 5798 Springtown Rd, Mt. Hermon, KY 42157. You can also email them at hpdavis5@scrtc.com

#### Reaching Kids in Schools

Generations of adult milk drinkers have been lost due to their milk experiences as kids, and specifically their milk experiences at school. Improving school milk is the priority of the dairy checkoff's childhood nutrition initiatives. Today more than 3,700 schools representing nearly 2.5 million students offer single-serve milk in plastic bottles. Dairy promotion leaders are determined to show processors and schools how investing in a product change can make a big difference for them and the entire dairy industry.

#### Milk in Foodservice

The dairy checkoff works to increase U.S. dairy product sales at national fast-food chains by making dairy available where consumers want it. More than 200 million pounds of additional sales have already been realized through efforts with fast-food restaurant chains such as McDonald's® and Wendy's®. In 2006, the dairy checkoff aims to help stimulate even more sales by working with Burger King, Sonic Drive-In and other chains to help introduce new milk offerings.

Innovation in Cheese

Innovation is the key to growth in cheese. This includes partnerships with cheese companies to help spur product innovation, particularly at retail, for Hispanic cheese, and both adultand kid-targeted snacking cheese. Partnerships also can help meet unmet cheese demand through new cheese-friendly menu items at national restaurant chains.

#### **Dairy Ingredients**

Several partnerships are underway in the area of whey research and promotion. A whey consortium, a whey research project co-funded with two global companies, and an upcoming worldwide research and promotion effort will all make dairy more competitive worldwide with soy.

"The checkoff is working with industry partners that share our common goals, leveraging our respective expertise and resources, to grow incremental sales," Hall said. "We are becoming the 'go-to' experts with research, knowledge and insights that stimulate innovation and new thinking. This is how we will grow the business for dairy producers."

For more information about dairy checkoff programs, visit www.dairycheckoff.com

### **WESCOR**

### MAS-D-TEC® DAIRY MASTITIS DETECTION

AS-D-TEC by Wescor offers a new development in electronic technology: Early Mastitis Detection. It meets the requirements of a modern dairy operation and provides the manager with a simple, convenient and instantaneous means of detecting subclinical mastitis. It eliminates the guesswork and time-consuming fuss associated with old-fashioned chemical tests for mastitis detection.

MAS-D-TEC measures electrical conductivity in a small sample of milk. Research has shown that conductivity increases markedly with the onset of mastitis infection. MAS-D-TEC uses sophisticated technology to detect increases in conductivity long before other clinical symptoms and signs are evident.

With an average dairy of 120-150 cows losing up to \$37,500 to mastitis every year, it is no wonder there has been so much talk among dairymen about mastitis. It is estimated that at least 40% of all cows are infected with mastitis. Most dairy farmers deal with the obvious clinical cases and usually overlook the less obvious, but far more costly, subclinical mastitis. Those dairymen who are best informed as to herd health will be those who, through the application of good management factors, will ultimately have the "cleanest" herd. In the past, detecting subclinical mastitis was difficult. MAS-D-TEC makes it easy to detect and provides critical feedback.

Laboratory analysis of somatic cell count in milk can indicate the presence of mastitis infection. However, since such analyses are performed away from the dairy and are not specific to the individual quarter, the results do not provide a means for mastitis detection as effective as MAS-D-TEC. Frequent herd monitoring with MAS-D-TEC will enable prompt action, providing effective, economical control of mastitis in your dairy herd.

For more information phone 1-800-453-2725 or visit our website at www.wescor.com/biomedical



### **Pearson's Continues Keeping Pace With** Livestock Industry's Demands In 2006

earson Livestock Equipment is proudly moving into its 44th year of producing quality equipment for the livestock industry. Our hydraulic chute has been on the market for 3 years and has been received with excitement! This year we are adding a kit which will make any Pearson alley hydraulic by going from the chute controls with the power beyond capability. The valve for the alley is mounted top front center, where it can be controlled from either the right or left catwalk of the alley.

This simple hydraulic package can be put on any of our alleys that are equipped with the screw jack for adjustment. If you already have a hydraulic chute you may put our alley behind

The screw jack on the alley is replaced by a hydraulic cylinder,

which will adjust the inside width of the alley from 16" to 30".

it and come from the chute valves with the power beyond to control the alley. Chutes and alleys can be powered by the hydraulics off most tractors or can be ordered with an eight horse Honda engine or single phase 220 V motor.

Pearson's offers a complete line of Cattle Working Equipment, including our "Original" Straight-side Manual Chute, AI extension, the "Original" Pearson Automatic Headgate, Working Tubs and Alley. We also produce a complete line of Bison Handling Equipment. Quality products and customer satisfaction continue to be our goal.

For more information on any of our equipment or inquiring about a distributorship or dealership, call (308) 645-2231 or e-mail us at pearsonsinc@nebnet.net

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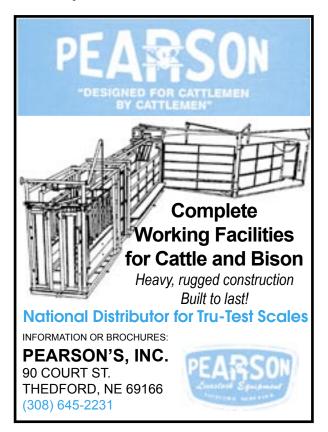
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errick's mission is to manufacture animal feed products and ingredients for a worldwide market, providing quality and service exceeding the expectations of our customers. Merrick's began selling dairy products to the feed industry in 1959. The experience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

#### **Innovative Product Development**

After pioneering in the manufacture of 60% and 80% dry high fat products, we expanded this line to include 100% fat for both swine and dairy cow rations. Merrick's was the first to develop and introduce many innovative products that optimize the survival and health of baby animals. In 1982 we began manufacturing and marketing a full line of branded milk replacers for calves, baby pigs, foals, lambs and kids. In the search to develop nutritionally advanced products for use in milk replacers, we test many alternative proteins. This testing resulted in the successful formulation of gg protein milk replacers for both our branded milk replacer and private label customers. Merrick's continues to develop innovative supplements, additives and electrolytes for all species.

#### **Research and Product Formulations**

At Merrick's, research is a basic belief and an ongoing process. Research in all aspects of animal nutrition results in our ability to offer formulations with a wide range of protein and fat sources, allowing us to fulfill a variety of needs to help guarantee the survival and health of valuable animals. Merrick's qualified nutritionists can recommend formulations to help determine which products will best meet producers needs.

#### **Private Label Manufacturing**

New technologies continually push our industry to new levels. At Merrick's we know that in order to keep up with customers needs we must provide the innovative products that best serve them. Merrick's expertise guarantees products formulated to exact specifications. In addition, we are committed to providing a high level of quality and service that our many customers have depended on for years. Take advantage of Merrick's experience in custom manufacturing and the production of tablets and boluses. Discover the possibilities with Merrick's blending and spray drying facilities and let our team assist your team in getting your products to market.

#### Merrick's, Inc. Brands:

Milk Replacers: Centurion, Millennium, Super Star, Winter Star, Gold Star, Silver Star, Blue Star and for Calves; Soweena Litter-Gro and Litter Life for Baby Pigs; Super Lamb and Super Kid; Grow-N-Glow for Foals; All Star Universal for Baby Animals Additives, Fortifiers & Supplements for Calves: Dried BC Powder, Plas/Magic, Super Calf-Kit, Super Guard-Type



B, Merrick's Whole Milk Fortifier and Extender, Brelactis Certified Microbials for Calves Electrolytes: Blue Ribbon Electrolytes with Direct-Fed Microbials – for Calves, Lambs & Kids and Poultry Poultry Vaccine Stabilizers: Vacci-Guard & Aqua-Mix Nursing Equipment: Super-Calf Nipples & Bottles and Super-Calf Oral Bottle Feeders Dry Fats: Dairy Ultra 100 for Lactating Cows; Soweena 7-60/4-80 & Select 100 for Swine Rations Boluses.

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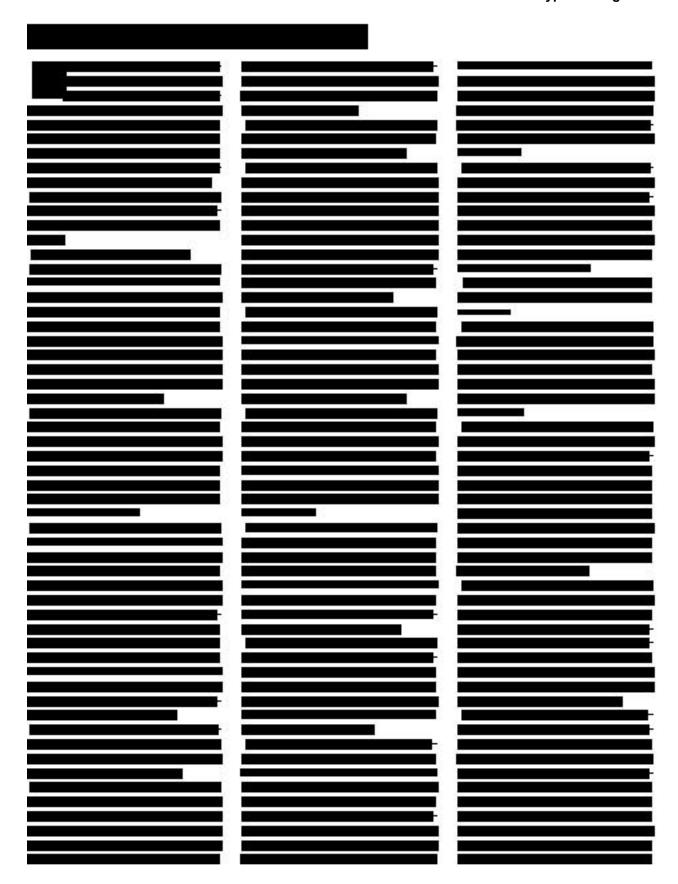
Aspirin Bolus™

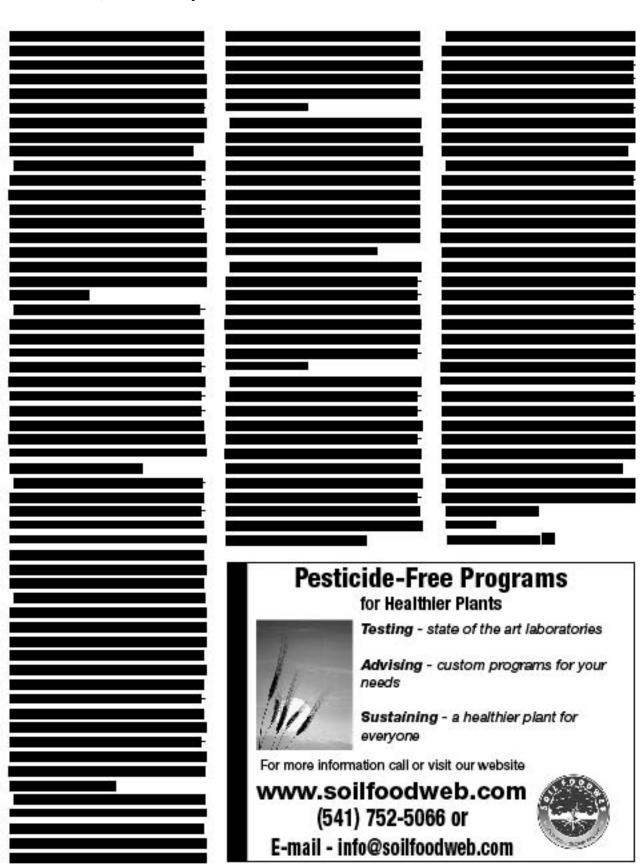
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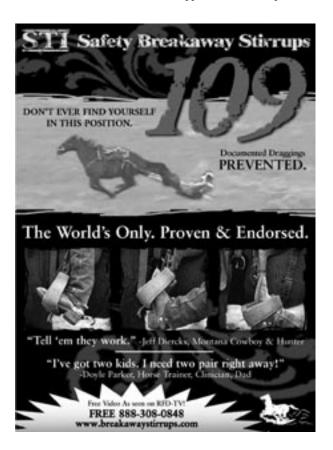
### equine

### STI Safety Breakaway Stirrups

By: Becky McCoy

very time I put my foot in a stirrup and jump on a horse, I am in danger. Danger, what kind of danger? What ever goes up must also come down. Will I be stepping off my horse just as easily or will something dreadful happen on this ride? Did I wear boots that will slip off easily? Do they have a good heel? If my horse falls, will I have a chance to slip my feet out? If my horse bucks, will I stick with him? There is now a product that takes the fear of draggings out of riding.

You might be thinking it'll probably be just another gimmick, a stupid little thing that doesn't really work. Well, let me tell you they do work. STI Breakaway Stirrups are designed to release when a rider is hung up in a stirrup. A couple of old cowboys got together and made a stirrup that has a highly precision-engineered bi-directional release mechanism. It looks and rides normally in the harshest conditions yet breaks away when the stirrup makes a drastic enough angle with the stirrup leather; it won't break when it's not supposed to. From personal





experience, the stirrup breaks right before you hit the ground. After dusting yourself off and picking up the stirrup, you just re-cock it, set it back in your leathers and hop back on.

My dad, Mike McCoy, was one of those old cowboys that had an idea. He knew the inherent danger of riding but it didn't bother him until he had us kids riding through the hills. We grew up riding these stirrups and know they aren't just for kids. They are for any person, cowboy, trail rider, competitor who puts their foot in a stirrup. A little added insurance to help your guardian angel. The hardest part about the stirrup is that every time there is a dragging we seem to hear about it. Someone sends us a news clipping or writes a letter telling us about someone's little girl or someone else's father. The pain of losing someone you love is too great to let your foolish pride hold you back from riding with us. You can reach STI toll-free at 1-888-308-0848, or on the web at www.breakawaystirrups.

### MANE STAY "Real" Horse Stall

ven though **Tuttle Blacksmith & Welding** was established by R.G.(Ray)Tuttle in the horse and buggy days of the 1920's, our principal products of today are keeping in step with current needs of the modern equine industry.

Tuttle Blacksmith & Welding in New Plymouth, Idaho is the home of the MANE STAY "Real" Horse Stalls. We are Jerry and Jeanette Jones, creators of this custom built, maintenance free, indestructible and safe stall fabricated in our shop to the highest quality possible. The stalls are tailored to your needs and style with such specifications\* as:

3" Concrete Reinforced Walls

#3 Steel Rebar, 12" on center

C3 Channel steel frames

1/4" Woven **Steel Wire** Openings (optional)

1" Tube Steel Vertical Bar Openings (optional)

Tube Steel Frames

Custom Stall Sizes and Heights

Front Halter Bars (optional)

Individual Feed and Social Doors, hinged or removable (optional) Stall Floor and Wall Pads (optional)

Floor Drop Door Latches with Horseshoe Handles

\*Unlimited options available

We at **Tuttle Blacksmith & Welding**, having horses ourselves, know that maintenance can be a problem with other less durable facilities and we also understand the costs involved with continuing repairs. That's the reason we've developed the stall system we use. There is nothing the horses can touch inside the stall that is destructible. Thus, the on going expense and concern from chewing/cribbing, leaning, rubbing or kicking can be forgotten forever. Wall padding is available.

We all realize that horses are social animals. The optional vertical steel bars or woven steel wire stall openings provide the view they like. Removable or hinged panels can provide touch between horses or people and horses, if desired. Hinged feed doors are often a nice option. However, if isolation of brood mares or studs is necessary, solid divider walls are available. Your needs and safety drive our ultimate designs.

The quality and lasting value of your investment is another of our goals and we pride ourselves in being able to stand behind our **MANE STAY Guarantee** of top quality, workmanship and elegance. We won't build "crap" just for the all mighty dollar!!

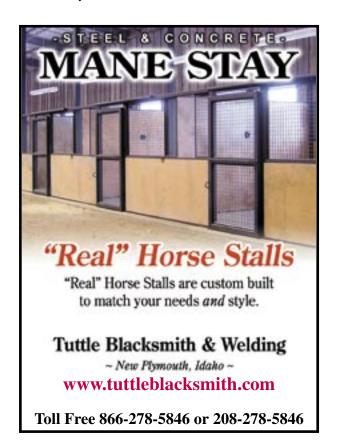
**Steel and concrete** construction makes **MANE STAY "Real" Horse Stalls** able to live up to the name and they will be here long after we're all retired or gone. Life can be made much safer and easier with no repairs or vet bills from cribbing, together with low maintenance and ease of cleaning.

Call (208)-278-5846 or (208)-371-9315 and/or stop by our site at 116 West Maple in New Plymouth, Idaho for a personal tour of the 'Ole Tuttle Blacksmith & Welding Shop'



Original Building Moved to Current Location in 1919.

while we discuss your needs and thoughts of what it takes to make the 'best horse stall in the world'. We're wise enough to know that there is never one completely right answer to most questions and never only one completely right way to do something. Anyway, two heads are always twice as thick as one. See ya soon!



### alpaca - Ilama

# Alpacas Produce World-Class, Luxurious Fiber

ith the steady growth of the alpaca breeding industry in North America, the demand for alpaca fiber and garments steadily grows, too. The unique qualities of alpaca fiber make it both luxurious and practical.

Alpaca fiber is frequently compared to the softness of cashmere. It is stronger, warmer, and lighter than sheep's wool. Making it even more desirable, alpaca contains no lanolin, thus making it hypoallergenic. People whose skin is extra-sensitive to wool's itchy and scratchy feel often choose alpaca fiber instead. Unlike wool, alpaca fiber has unique scales on its shaft, making it lie



down flat on each follicle. The itchy prickle, common to other natural fibers, is avoided. This unique design also prevents the fleece from holding animal dander, a major contributor to allergic reactions. Alpaca fiber is also naturally flame retardant, water repellant, and tremendously strong and resilient.

Two distinct alpaca breeds create two types of fiber. Huacaya (wa-Ki'-ah) alpacas are fluffy and grow soft, spongy fiber. Huacayas have a corrugated crimp that holds the finished yarn together. Once spun, this dense fleece makes a very soft, yet durable, string. Huacaya fiber is commonly used in knit and crochet applications, but can also be used to fashion felt or quilt batting. The Suri (surrey) has the same body structure as the huacaya



but its fleece grows as long, silky locks. Suri fiber is smooth, shiny and has no crimp. Suri fiber grows to great lengths, creating majestic waves, swirling about the alpaca's body as it moves. When processed, suri is commonly used in fabric or woven applications, utilizing the weft and warp of a loom to hold the fibers in place. The most prominent Italian suits are crafted from suri alpaca fleece.

Alpaca fiber is warm, soft and one third the bulk of wool. The softness is a result of a fine fiber diameter, which can be measured on a micron scale. A human hair has a micron level of about 100 whereas alpaca can range from sixteen microns, in the form of Royal Baby Alpaca, through the twenties, for Superfine Alpaca. Micron levels determine the nature of the finished products. Baby Alpaca and low micron fibers are used to create finished goods worn next to the skin, for a sublimely soft and luxurious feel. Higher micron fibers create finished goods too, but typically produce outerwear and apparel that can be layered. The benefits of warmth and durability, however, remain. Course fibers, not suited to wear next to the body, have many applications. Course fibers can be felted, used as lining between other fabrics, or can create the most exclusive rugs.

In today's marketplace, alpaca is used to

create long-lasting fashions that are both useful and desirable. Alpaca fashions are present in some of the most prominent stores and catalogs throughout the United States and elsewhere around the world. Furthermore, its use by prominent designers is increasing, as those designers recognize the many positive attributes of alpaca. Wholesale distributors provide convenient opportunities for retail buying agents to add the latest alpaca fashions to their store inventories.

Alpacas were first imported into the United States in 1984. Since then, the alpaca industry has grown steadily. According to AOBA spokesperson Jerry Miller, the interest in alpaca farming has increased significantly since September 11, 2001.

"After the 9/11 tragedy, many people were looking to move out of the cities and searching for business opportunities in a more rural setting," says Miller. "They were seeking a more peaceful yet rewarding lifestyle and raising alpacas offered just that."

Current estimates total over 70,000 registered alpacas and 4,500 alpaca owners and breeders, who represent every state including Alaska and Hawaii.

The reasons to raise alpacas are plenty. People choose to raise alpacas because they are beautiful, intelligent animals. They are relatively easy to raise and require minimal acreage. They offer a rewarding lifestyle and business opportunity. More people who already own livestock such as cattle and horses are discovering and capitalizing on alpacas' breadth of appeal.

Alert and curious, 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. Social animals that seek companionship, alpacas communicate most commonly by humming. Neck posturing, head tilting and ear and tail positioning are other com-



munication methods.

Unlike some other livestock, alpacas are not killed to be profitable. Alpacas are shorn every year. Most breeders shear in the spring. Shorn with sharp, well-oiled sheep's clippers, alpacas can stand upright or be laid down and stretched out. One shearing, typically ten to fifteen minutes per animal, produces approximately five to ten pounds of fiber. Variables such as age, genetics, environment and nutrition all influence fiber production.

After alpacas are shorn, there are several options to process the fiber. Both the United States and Canada process alpaca fiber in small and medium-sized lots. One advantage of sending fiber to these mills is that when the yarn is re-

turned, the specific product of a specific alpaca can easily be identified. This is a strong selling point in the cottage industry. An alternative to this is to send the alpaca fiber to a regional or national co-op. Co-ops pool fleeces and collectively manufacture sweaters, hats, scarves, gloves, socks, and other items for wholesale and retail distribution.

Alpaca owners and breeders continue to develop and improve their herds. They genetically select the most productive animals to produce the best quality fiber. 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 AOBA at: 1-800-213-9522.

## The Beginning of Red Barn Alpacas

ed Barn Alpacas is situated on a little over five acres in the foot hills of Mt. St. Helens. We started in 2003 with the purchase of two geldings and a Jr. Herdsire to see if we "liked" working with alpacas. Of course we fell in love and by the end of 2003 we added four females and another Jr. Herdsire. Needless to say we were hooked.



Raising alpacas has become a way of life for our family. It is something that our children and extended family all participate in. Our alpacas are part of the family. We believe strongly in customer service which includes ongoing contact with customers as well as potential customers. Alpacas are wonderful animals and we want anyone who is interested to love them as we do.

If you are considering becoming an alpaca farm we offer the following words of wisdom based on our own experiences. First, visit as many farms as you can before your first purchase. Every farm operates a little different and it is important that you feel comfortable to ask questions. When you are ready to make a purchase it can be very hard not to buy the first animal you see. Okay now you see an alpaca that you can not live without. Have a vet check that animal before you purchase it. This is an investment and you want the healthiest animal you can buy. Now that you have purchased your animal do not hesitate to continue asking questions. There is a

wonderful networking system out there about alpacas. Talk to your local farms. Get on the internet and check out articles and talk to your local vet. All are great sources of information.

Over the past three years we have been focusing on developing a strong healthy herd that can produce healthy crias with excellent fiber. We are excitedly looking forward to this year's crop of crias. Come visit us and ask all the questions you want. We love to talk alpaca. We can be reached a 360-686-8462 or stacey@redbarnalpacafarm.com.



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# All About the Alpaca Registry

ou must, one day, approach a herd of alpaca in the wee hours of the morning. When they lift their heads and fix you with their warm, russet gaze, stand still, and listen. Listen beyond the chuffing of their breath, the rustling of the hay, the humming of the cria suckling. If you listen past all that, you'll swear you hear them "thinking" at you. Thinking at each other, sizing you up and discussing your presence, maybe, probably even, chuckling at you. It's an odd feeling. More than just a peaceful, communing-with-nature type feeling. It's that little tingle you used to get when you were a kid catching fireflies on a sultry, summer evening. Re-

member the feeling that just beyond the forest edge, fairies were watching? In a word, alpacas seem "magical."

Talk to any alpaca farmer and they'll tell you the same thing: There's something... "special" about these creatures. Couple that with the fact that alpaca breeding is a very lucrative business, appealing to people from all walks of life, is it any wonder that the popularity of alpaca farming has seen a dramatic increase in the past decade?

For over 5000 years, the alpaca has been raised as a domesticated animal throughout South America. But here, in the United States, they're still novel in comparison. In 1980 the first 10 alpacas

to reside outside of zoos were imported into North America. Both the cute, fluffy Huacaya, the more well known of the two types of alpacas, and the elegant-looking, sleek Suri alpaca began gracing our shores only a few short decades ago. Brought here not just for their "magical" quality, both types of alpacas have always been prized for their thick, soft fleeces. Known for centuries as "The Fiber of The Gods," quality, versatility, and rarity are some of the factors that have kept alpaca fiber growing in demand over the years. In the fashion world it is considered to be one of the most exclusive fibers, competing only with wool, cashmere, and mohair. Alpaca fiber can be used in a variety of ways, from as sheer as the finest silks, to as thick and chunky as tweeds and wool. It dyes easily, makes the warmest batting, the softest felt, spins like a dream, and can be mixed with other fibers to combine textures and beauty.

Prior to 1995, the Alpaca Registry existed in various forms as a part of other organizations. In 1995, the Alpaca Registry became incorporated and began its existence as an independent organization. By the end of 2005 it was estimated there were around 80,000 alpacas in the United States. And they still command top dollar in the livestock industry, thanks to a group of forward thinking people who sought to maintain the value of these enchanting animals. Since its inception, Alpaca Registry



Big Meadow Creek Alpacas, Troy, Idaho
Home of the suri shine and fleece so fine!
Breeding, Ajisting and Stud Services

Now offering breedings to Fiorano of PVA, the prize-winning son of Cantano.



Inc.(ARI), has maintained and administered a database housing the scientifically-qualified genealogy, blood typing/DNA and ownership records of alpacas primarily in North America.

ARI immediately mandated blood-typing as a requisite for registration. At that time, less than two thousand alpacas existed in North America. Most were recent arrivals, without documentable pedigrees or known bloodlines. The Alpaca Registry was created specifically to protect the alpaca gene pool in North America by identifying alpacas and establishing a scientific and documented lineage.

Just a few short months after the Alpaca Registry was created, nearly every alpaca in North America had been blood-typed and entered into the Registry database. Estimates put the compliance rate at 95 percent. Afterward, only alpacas whose blood types proved to be compatible with their registered parents would be admitted to the Registry automatically. Alpacas without registered parents (usually newly imported) could for a time enter the Registry through a screening process. However, that time period was limited, and the Registry was closed in 1998.

When it first began, the management of the Registry database was contracted with outside vendors. But as the registry continued to grow, and blood-typing turned to DNA- typing in 1998, the membership saw the need to bring management of the database in-house. In late

2004, ARI opened its own Administrative Office in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Today, ARI serves as a valuable storehouse of information for North American alpaca breeders. Its primary job is to gather and maintain accurate genealogical records, focusing on the expansion and accuracy of those records. Up-todate owner and member lists are maintained and new accounts created for new owners and breeders. Applications for registration of alpacas are processed and scientific testing is coordinated with an independent DNA-testing laboratory before alpacas are added to the ARI database of registered alpacas. This ensures that no alpacas are registered unless they can be scientifically verified to Continued on page 40

# Cascade Shadow Alpacas Living the Alpaca Lifestyle

ascade Shadow Alpacas is nestled in Oregon's beautiful central Willamette Valley, just minutes from I-5 and Highway 22. We are a family-run ranch, and have been breeding top quality alpacas for the past 3 years. Our whole family, from kids to grandparents, enjoys owning and raising these fascinating, and gorgeous animals.

Our specialty is breeding for solid, colored, suri and huacaya alpacas. We emphasize correct conformation, friendly personalities, great fleece qualities, and soundness. We have lovely alpaca

fleece for sale, as well as our wonderful animals, in a range of colors.

We also offer breeding services. Our blue-ribbon-winning solid black suri, Captain's Midnight Buccaneer, is just beginning his stud career. His grandsire is three-time Herdsire of the Year, Macgyver, and his sire is Reserve Herdsire of the year, Captain Morgan. With genetics like that, we

expect some amazing offspring from Buck!

The benefits of owning and raising alpacas have been more than just financial for our family. We love to talk alpacas, and to share the alpaca lifestyle with others. We are easy to find, and would encourage you to contact us to arrange a visit. You can learn more about us at www.cascadeshadowalpacas.com.



#### **Alpaca Registry**

Continued from page 39

two ARI registered parents.

At the end of 2005, ARI had records on over 90,000 alpacas in several countries worldwide, although the vast majority (over 90%) of those herds reside within the United States. Thousands of owners actively conducted transactions with the ARI in 2005, and as the popularity of alpacas continues to grow in North America, it's expected that the number of owners and their transactions will grow exponentially.

In addition to the task of maintaining the growing database, ARI also manages lists of animals owned or sold by breeders, and Certificates of Registration are printed and provided to owners displaying up to five generations of ancestry. The ARI staff responds to telephone inquiries, to online contacts via email, and to letters. In addition, online queries available to ARI members can provide all recorded and qualified ancestry for any alpaca in the database regardless of the number of generations.

Appropriately enough, those that make up ARI are those who benefit most from its existence. All owners of a living, ARI-registered alpaca are, by default, members of ARI and receive ARI related information, including ARI Policy and Procedure and Bylaw changes

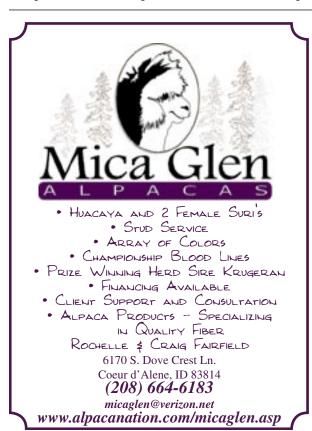
ARI members can also elect to become a voting member. Voting members are entitled to free database queries and to vote for board positions, changes to bylaws, and the usual governing issues. Each Voting Member receives ARI mailings,

which include ballots, surveys, and communications.

An enormous effort has been put forth by the individuals that make up ARI to maintain the magic that alpacas bring into the world. The Registry is constantly adding services for owners and breeders. ARI is constantly working to improve the services available to its members. Recently, ARI has been progressively adding additional services available via the internet, including printable forms, electronic registrations and transfers as well as query capabilities. ARI also serves as a research center for members wishing extended pedigree information on multiple generations, progeny lists, country of origin, age and color - invaluable tools in a breeding program. Statistical data provided by the ARI enables the entire alpaca community to monitor industry growth patterns. In fact, the only thing the ARI HASN'T been able to do to date is provide DNA positive proof that alpacas ARE enchanted. Who knows? That may be yet to come.

To learn more about the day-to-day operation of ARI, its history and future plans, as well as alpacas, you can contact ARI at:

Alpaca Registry, Inc.
4711 Innovation Drive, Ste. 160
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(402) 437-8488 fax
www.alpacaregistry.net



# Mica Glen Alpacas

hen we say Farm, Fiber & Fashion we mean it! Mica Glen Alpacas is a small farm that is totally involved in the care and production of

our alpacas.

Rochelle is working on her apprenticeship as a Certified Camelid Fiber Sorter through the National Fibre Center in Alberta Canada. She has learned the value of sorting and grading this wonderful fleece to make even better end products. Every alpaca has value outside the show ring and by learning about the fiber their value can only increase.



Craig & Rochelle also have a farm store displaying the wide range of goods these animals can give us.

# Isn't it about time to explore the softer side of Life? Our answer to that question was "Yes!"



nowline Alpacas has 13 acres located on a hilltop among the trees just outside Spokane, WA. Our farm name comes from the snowline that begins at our rural mailbox during the winter.

Having been animal lovers all our lives, when a business associate started raising Alpacas in 1993, we were curious. She sent us photos of her new Alpacas and literature on the growing interest and investment potential. The seed was planted and grew in our minds and hearts during county fairs and farm visitations over the years.

In February 2005, we jumped in with both feet and invested in 5 bred females, followed by another bred female, 2 Junior



Herdsires, a juvenile female and a "Guard" Llama. Then, the unheard of happened....we had 6 female crias (baby alpacas)! This pretty much guarantees we'll have our initial investment compounding within a couple years. Girls are the "factories", carry the most consistent product value, and are very sought after. We're teased by many on our beginner's luck, and very grateful for our good fortune.

Grandparents now and approaching the last quarter of our working lives, the biggest future event we talked about was retiring from our long time careers. That all changed in an instant. Now we look forward to so many things because of our Alpacas. Undoubtedly, the next 15 to 20 years will be full of energy filled conversations on which shows we are going to, the daily antics of the herd's vast personalities, which sires we'll breed our girls to for the best results, what great animals we just bought, and the short commute to the barn.

Come visit us and our amazing animals including our new Jr. Herdsire, Scottish Peat. We'll share what we have learned and give you all the support you need to get started, whether you purchase from us or others, we would be happy to help. Come check out the softer side of life, and see what all the excitement is about!



#### A cost-effective beginning for your alpaca business

tarting an alpaca business offers lots of ways to begin. There are plenty of ways to spend money on starting your alpaca business, but not all of them will put you on the path to success. Perhaps the most cost-effective way to begin is with non-breeding alpacas; called fiber males, geldings or wethers. Why start with a group of non-breeding fleece producers?

First and foremost, the alpaca is a fiber production industry. Fiber boys are the foundation of the future textile industry, so these are the real 'product' of the breeding industry. Gelded males have lower testosterone levels, so they keep their fineness years longer than intact breeding males, which coarsen with age.

Hand-spinners, knitters, weavers and fiber artists prize this fleece that comes in 22 natural colors, is durable, warmer than wool and incredibly versatile. National and international markets are demanding access to this elite fiber for the fashion industry. The main problem with alpaca fiber is that there isn't enough of it.

There are two breeds of alpaca; the fluffy huacaya (pronounced wha-kai-ya) and the silky suri. Most alpacas are huacayas;

about 15% of the US herd are suris. End uses of each are different, but the primary measures of good fiber are much the same - fleece fineness, uniformity, density and brightness or luster and "hand" or "handle". Suris are more rare, and some people find they are more elegant. Suri fiber specializes in luster, and is much like silk. Fineness will always matter, but it's not the only breeding goal.

For folks interested in getting started in alpacas, there are five major areas to master before your alpaca business becomes a success. These are 1) animal husbandry like farm management, handling, feeding etc; 2) learning the features of good alpaca fiber; 3) managing the actual fiber production, including nutrition, shearing and processing; 4) the complicated subject of breeding and genetics, and of course 5) marketing and business management. Each of these areas will take several years to learn. Do you really want to start with pregnant females when you don't yet know how to handle, feed or evaluate your alpacas?

Before you purchase breeding livestock, would it make sense to first develop your

own breeding goals? Do you prefer huacayas or suris? Are you attracted to white or colored alpacas? Do you want to produce offspring for the show circuit (which is not easy), or create a fiber production herd?

One of the highest uses of geldings is helping you get started in your alpaca business in a low-risk manner. Let your boys teach you how to handle alpacas, how to trim toes, learn haltering and the other basics. This gives you time to figure out if you like this livestock enough to want to invest in becoming a breeder. If you do want to breed alpacas, you could first develop your breeding goals and then purchase your foundation herd. You could save a lot of money and effort by choosing the low-cost strategy to enter the world of alpacas. Gelding alpacas can offer you a fantastic education and a world of opportunity without risking your savings account.

We think that alpacas have a substantial market that will endure for years to come. We hope that many folks will choose a wise investment strategy that will help them to ensure financial success.

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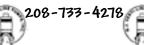
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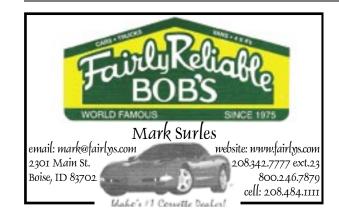
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