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Northwest • winter-spring edition 2006/2007

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Look for your *Official Spokane Ag Expo Magazine*
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For Detailed Information, Visit Our Website:

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ON THE COVER

Tractor photo courtesy of Massey Ferguson. Inset photo courtesy of PolyExcel.

Have an article or photo submission? Give us a call at 1-800-330-3482 or e-mail: info@ritzfamilypublishing.com for image and file requirements. (All submissions subject to approval)

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Northwest • winter-spring edition 2006

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How to reduce or eliminate your dependence on insecticides & fungicides:

Give Pests & Viruses The All-Natural ONE! TWO! PUNCH

It is no secret that insects and crop viruses are attracted more to weak crops than healthy ones; crops that either are giving off 'death rattle' vibrations and/or appear to be past their prime.



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For the past two years, farmers who have applied **OceanSolution**® to their crops report less or no evidence of insect infestation or fungus; and are pleased they have either reduced or eliminated their former high costs for insecticides and fungicides while helping to safeguard the environment.

Even crops with relatively strong immune systems can be weakened by conditions such as a lack of water or altered gene structure, which can attract hungry insects and fungi.

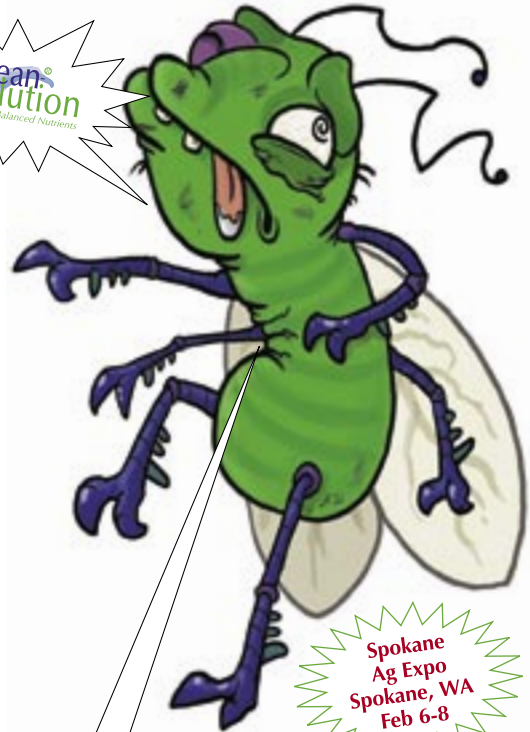


AmerOyl
Natural Plant Extracts

There are some plants that create their own natural insect repellants (known as 'phytoalexins'), which have been shown to cause insects that start to feed on them to vomit, go into a stupor, become stunted, or die.

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For the past seven years, farmers have applied **AmerOyl**™ to thousands of acres with outstanding results, and reduced their total costs while protecting the environment.



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Both **OceanSolution**® and **AmerOyl**™ are all-natural products, which can be safely applied to, and are effective with, all types of plants. Quantities vary depending on the crop and conditions. Contact us for details and case histories



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Advantages

- 1 Our wand is meant to be back filled to keep the concussion in the tunnel/burrow and keep the noise level down.
- 2 If you hear a bang you are losing 50 to 70% of your concussion that should be in the tunnel/burrow.
- 3 Saves on your oxygen.
- 4 Hand held devices are DANGEROUS.
- 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.
- 9 VARMITgetter is priced hundreds of dollars less than the handheld devices on the market and doesn't break down.
- 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.

20 Some repairs can be done while in the field, such as the check valve and wiring.

21 The single dispersion hose provides better gas mix, giving more effective and consistent blasts.

If you have any questions, would like more information or to purchase call our toll free number 1- 877-XVARMIT or go to www.varmitgetter.com 📞

PolyExcel

PolyExcel is a Utah based manufacturer producing high quality baler twines for 18 years. Their specialty is in the manufacture of wire replacement twines for big square and 3 string balers. They utilize prime polypropylene resins and the latest technology in the process. In the last 10 years they have sold over 8 million bales to satisfied customers in the U.S. Market.

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Starr Trak

As 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 cross-over 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. ☛

Finally, A Proven Solution To Your Irrigation Challenges!

The System Is Simple, Affordable & Most Effective

The time to correct your irrigation rutting is BEFORE it becomes a problem

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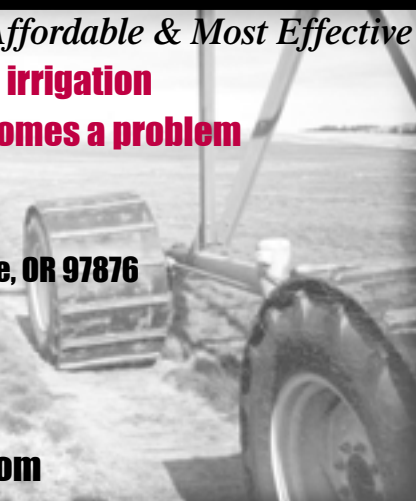
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USDA ANNOUNCES \$39 MILLION TO PROMOTE U.S. FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OVERSEAS

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service announced fiscal year 2006 allocations of \$39 million to 56 U.S. trade organizations to promote U.S. agricultural products overseas.

"Developing overseas markets is critical to American agriculture," said Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns. "These programs support U.S. producer associations so they can tap into market opportunities. Agricultural exports support not only the food and agriculture sectors, but the economy as a whole."

The allocations will be administered under three FAS programs—the Foreign Market Development (FMD) cooperator program, the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) program, and the Quality Samples Program (QSP).

Under the FMD Cooperator program, USDA establishes a trade promotion partnership with nonprofit U.S. agricultural trade organizations. Program activities focus on reducing market impediments, improving the processing capabilities of importers, modifying restrictive regulatory codes and standards in foreign markets and identifying new markets or uses for U.S. products. The 50-year-old program has supported market development activities in more than 100 countries worldwide.

Under the TASC program, USDA provides funds to eligible organizations to address barriers to exports of U.S. specialty crops. These include all cultivated plants and their products produced in the United States except wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, cotton, rice, peanuts, sugar and tobacco.

The QSP funds activities that benefit agricultural industries rather than individual exporters. Recipients are reimbursed for certain costs of purchasing and transporting commodity samples to provide foreign importers with information about the attributes, characteristics and use of U.S. commodities.

For more information on these programs, call the FAS Marketing Operations Staff at (202) 720-4327 or visit the FAS Web site at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/market-dev.asp>.

See the listings for fiscal year 2006 allocations. ☛

2006 Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program

Cooperator	FY 2006 Allocations
American Forest & Paper Association	\$3,484,081
American Peanut Council	\$554,030
American Seed Trade Association	\$134,395
American Sheep Industry Association	\$162,810
American Soybean Association	\$7,090,643
Cotton Council International	\$3,778,136
Leather Industries of America	\$158,438
Mohair Council of America	\$19,793
National Dry Bean Council	\$123,953
National Hay Association	\$36,424
National Renderers Association	\$944,218
National Sunflower Association	\$227,049
North American Millers Association	\$49,624
U.S. Dairy Export Council	\$750,938
U.S. Grains Council	\$5,235,760
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association	\$119,634
U.S. Livestock Genetics	\$606,948
U.S. Meat Export Federation	\$1,962,744
U.S. Wheat Associates	\$5,659,220
USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council	\$165,346
USA Poultry and Egg Export Council	\$1,583,360
USA Rice Federation	\$1,462,916
TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$34,500,000

2006 Technical Assistance for Specialty Crop

Organization	FY 2006 Allocations
Agricultural Research Service	\$13,414
California Agricultural Export Council	\$97,200
California Association of Nurseries and Garden	\$88,200
California Cherry Advisory Board	\$42,980
California Citrus Quality Council	\$164,710
California Dept of Food and Agriculture	\$48,260
California Minor Crops Council	\$30,000
California Table Grape Commission	\$25,000
California Tree Fruit Agreement	\$81,678
Cranberry Marketing Committee	\$30,000
Florida Citrus Packers	\$498,500
Ginseng Board of Wisconsin	\$76,500
Horticulture Research Institute/Am. Nursery	\$289,753
Idaho Department of Agriculture	\$89,786
Indian River Citrus League	\$506,000
National Potato Council	\$24,199
North Carolina State University	\$45,854
Northwest Horticultural Council	\$80,894
Northwest Horticultural Council	\$20,500
Northwest Fruit	\$15,000
Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission	\$15,320
Regents of the Univ. of California, Riverside	\$67,000
U.S. Apple Export Council	\$45,000
U.S. Potato Board	\$30,000
U.S. Hop Industry Plant Protection Committee	\$97,500
Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association	\$50,000
TOTAL	\$2,587,248

2006 Quality Samples Program

Applicant	FY 2006 Allocations
Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute	\$43,000
American Sheep Industry Association	\$305,000
American Soybean Association	\$50,000
California Agriculture Export Council	\$30,000
California Tomato Export Group	\$190,000
Cherry Marketing Institute	\$63,000
Cranberry Marketing Committee	\$24,000
Ginseng Board of Wisconsin	\$60,000
Mohair Council of America	\$231,000
National Confectioners Association	\$18,000
National Hay Association	\$75,000
National Potato Promotion Board	\$478,000
Pear Bureau Northwest	\$2,000
Raisin Administrative Committee	\$30,000
U.S. Dairy Export Council	\$50,600
U.S. Grains Council	\$141,000
U.S. Wheat Associates	\$90,600
TOTAL	\$1,803,200

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Got a bump in your road. We can help. Double B MFG INC has been taking bumps out of roads like yours for more than 11 years. Owners include, farmers, ranchers, townships, state dots, schools, grain elevators and machinery dealers. The original machine, the 2014 has changed very little in 10 years. Two smaller units have been introduced, the 9872 to be pulled by smaller tractors, and the E-48 to be towed by ATV's or garden tractors, for use on smaller driveways, hiking trails or any place where the path is rough. Brad Preslicka one of the original owners, still works in production along with a son-in-law Jamie Peters. Looking for a road grader? We have them in 21 states and part of Canada. Our company also manufactures hose reels for fertilizer, chemical, diesel fuel and water in sizes from 1/2 in to 3 in full port. We believe in quality, and customer satisfaction. Need a reference, or have a question? Call us, we can help. 320-382-6623 or 320-382-6253 🛠️

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The McGregor Company

More than 120 years ago four McGregor brothers got their start as open range (“tramp”) sheepmen in the early 1880’s. They weren’t always welcomed as they trailed their sheep from scabland winter pastures to the surrounding mountains. “Cattle owners are running from a pestilence—sheep,” wrote a growly Yakima cattleman of those pioneer days. My great-uncle, John, recalled that the biggest challenge in those years of living in tents and traversing open range was “the farmer and his shotgun”.

The McGregor brothers took to the plow themselves and began growing wheat in 1901. They began raising cattle, in addition to sheep, on their range eight years later. They incorporated their ranch as McGregor Land and Livestock Company in 1905. At the McGregor ranch, headquartered at Hooper, today we raise cows and calves on scabland pastures and wheat on the adjacent hills near the confluence of the Palouse and Snake Rivers.

We were pioneers in the fertilizer business beginning fifty-five years ago as a sideline to our ranch general store. My cousin, Maurice, saw great promise in the soil fertility trials a Washington State College agronomist, Harley Jacquot, had done. When public funding for Harley’s research ran out, he came on board as our full-time ranch agronomist. My father, Sherman, then a clerk at our store, started supplying neighbors with fertilizers. Dad and Harley organized research tours on the ranch every summer, attended by hundreds of farmers from across the region.

Today we’re proud to serve farmers and ranchers in many communities across eastern Washington. We’ve worked with cattle raisers since I was a toddler—providing nutrition supplements, battling invading weeds, and helping produce the best results on pastures, hay fields, and range. My Dad’s philosophy of hiring dedicated local people, investing in

the communities we serve, and building long term relationships with customers is deeply entrenched in our organization. The dedicated people who are The McGregor Company join me in saluting our cattle raising neighbors. We’re relative newcomers, with ninety-four years as cattlemen, compared to many of those we serve. We believe that farmers and ranchers are the cornerstone to our Pacific Northwest economy and are the unsung environmental leaders of our region—as good stewards of the prairie hills and canyons they manage. We tell of your achievements and of how proud we are to be of service to you every time we get a chance.

On behalf of my colleagues in each of the rural communities we serve, we the people of The McGregor Company are mighty proud of our neighbors who produce the foodstuffs that feed people around the country and the world.

Respectfully,
Alex McGregor 🍷

Lowry’s handcrafted footwear

Are you tired of sore, angry feet at the end of the day? Chuck Lowry of Baker City, Oregon just might be the answer to your problem.

After apprenticing under a master shoemaker, Chuck Lowry started Lowry’s Handcrafted Footwear in 2004. By acquiring equipment, tools and lasts, he began putting his knowledge and skills to work building custom shoes for people that were tired of looking for shoes that actually fit. Whether your feet are wide, narrow, long or short, or somewhere in between, or feet that are not the same size, Chuck applies his old world craftsmanship to build all-leather shoes for people that are tired of the poorly constructed and ill-fitting factory shoes on the market today.

Lowry’s footwear are made from full grain 5 1/2 to 6 ounce cowhide, graded and cut by hand to ensure top quality and long life for the boot or shoe. Each boot or shoe is hand lasted to exacting standards to eliminate stretching and to ensure a



proper fit, even after long periods of wear. Steel shanks, handcrafted at Lowry’s, are installed for a permanent arch that provides long lasting comfort and prevents the breaking down effect that occurs with factory produced footwear. All the pieces are sewn together with strong

nylon thread for seams that are smooth and watertight. Lowry’s features Vibram products as the sole of choice, and his boots are full stitch-down constructed to produce strong, lightweight, dust- and waterproof footwear.

Transforming tired, angry feet into happy feet is the goal of Lowry’s Handcrafted Footwear. Chuck’s different styles include cowboy packers, woodsman, work shoes, hiking shoes, and dress shoes. He also offers complete rebuilding and repair on other brands, and replacing worn heels and soles.

Lowry’s fine handcrafted boots and shoes are worn throughout the Northwest by loggers, hunters, ranchers, farmers, hikers and anyone else who demands lightweight, durable, long lasting and comfortable footwear. For a quote or more information, call Chuck at (541) 519-4523, or write to 24369 Keating Grange Lane, Baker City, Oregon 97814. 🍷

Wester □

Burrowing Rodent Control by Rodex®

Rodex® is the registered trademark of an electronic igniting of gases for rodent extermination. The Rodex® brand has been in use for over seven years, while going through some changes. It now is the most user friendly system on the market; made with quality material, assembled by experienced craftsmen and tested to insure quality and safety. After the original Rodex company went bankrupt, investors purchased the Rodex® trademark and intellectual property from the bank, (with authorization of the bankruptcy court) and it became "Rodex® Sales & Service" in December of 2003.

Rodex® Sales & Service has three models to meet the needs of our user; from the professional pest control operator, with remote firing capability, to the rancher/farmer or a small land owner that needs only to maintain their property. Rodex® has not compromised its quality for price or safety.

One of Rodex® Sales & Service biggest accomplishments is the reengineering of the Rodex® 4000 Plus, while reducing the price equal to 1999 pricing. The Rodex® 4000 Plus is geared toward the small to mid size user, making it affordable for the small vineyard or orchard grower.

The oxygen/propane system for burrowing rodent control has become one of the best systems on the market for organic farming. Parks and schools like it since they don't have to deal with poison and traps.

Rodex® Sales & Service knows that any oxygen/propane system is not 100% fool proof, so call and talk with one of our Rodex customer service personnel. We have more than 65 years of combined experience in the rodent control business. 🍷

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Hillside Farms

By: Jack Cazier, Big Bear Lake

My name is Jack Cazier. I am susceptible to skin cancer. Having been concerned with my problem, I have spent most of my life on be-

ing healthy with real food. I also have had horses a good part of my life. Discovering with the help of others that the simple problem with horses and all kinds of flesh

is placing in the body substances that cannot be digested. This simple problem can be found easily in horses because the horse food requirement is simple. It is grass. When the horse is given many different kinds of feed and remedies and shots, it sets up toxins because of the inability to digest those different feeds and remedies. The toxin then goes to the weakest part of the flesh; in the horses, it is the feet. The very simple remedy is straight alfalfa, my tea and nothing else.

My tea and alfalfa will rid the body of the toxins and the body will rebuild itself. Doing this, the horse will be healthy and cost much less to maintain for the remainder of their life. My horses have not been wormed for 8 years, and there are blood-sucking worms in the grass in Big Bear. My horses eat that grass every day. They also have the thickest hooves my shoer has ever seen and shoes are not put on my horses. The body rebuilds if the toxins are kept out and nutrients are provided. This process can correct most ailments. 🍎

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Egbers on Super Edge

“There just isn’t enough we can say about the Super Edge Auger Flighting” Agrees Doug and Laura Egbers, owners of Egbers Flighting & Supply L.L.C. The Super Edge is created in the rolling process. This is a cold rolling process so the steel is not heat treated. “This lets the steel retain its strength.” States Doug. Because of how the flighting is made, the outside edge is thicker than your common market flighting or plain flighting as they call it. Super Edge Auger Flighting has approximately 50 thicker outside edge. It gives longer wear and longer life of the auger.

And Egbers knows their augers. Their repair and fabrication division has years of experience in re-flighting and balancing auger sections. “It just makes good sense to replace the auger flighting instead of buying a new auger section.” Confirms Doug- “New auger sections can be pricey and the Super Edge Auger Flighting is priced to sell.” Along with their repair’s Egbers offers a wide assortments of replacement parts and tubing. They have you basic inside tubing, pipe, rolled tube for grain cart unloading augers all the way up to 40 ft. lengths for transport augers, “We’ve always thought freight and shipping to our customers

was a problem, we can ship pretty much all the replacement parts a customer needs from here.” States Laura “That way all your parts come from one location instead of several,”

New service for Egbers is their ability to balance combine rotors* “We’re always looking for new products and services for our customers. These rotors can be balanced at a fraction of what a new one costs,” Says Laura.

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In 1976 Twister Pipe Ltd. began manufacturing spiral corrugated steel culverts for the road construction industry in Alberta. Right from the beginning an emphasis was placed on using the best manufacturing techniques available; when other manufacturers were still producing their product by riveting Twister utilized a spiral lock forming culvert machine to produce a superior product in a fraction of the time.

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Twister's new 14-foot grain bin cone is shipped as a completely knocked down kit to totally eliminate the need for pilot cars. All structural steel is powder painted and baked to over 400oF for exceptionally long life and the cone is made from galvanized steel. One look will be enough to convince you that there is nothing equivalent on the market today.

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The benefits of galvanized steel construction, long life, corrosion resistance, and attractive appearance, have been obvious in the grain storage industry for years but until now it has not been possible to have these qualities in a hopper bottom bin. With the introduction of Twister's new line of hoppers and hopper bottom grain bins all that has changed!

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- Flat bottom grain bins for both farm and commercial markets in sizes from 1662 bushels to 52,664 bushels
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MIL-STAK has taken great care to design a mid-size bale conversion that does not damage your New Holland bale wagon. Conceived and invented by a custom hay stacking operator, the goal was to design a fast, simple way to single-handedly load and stack mid-size bales with a New Holland bale wagon. Yet equally challenging was to try to retain the ability to quickly switch back to small bale loading. In their Mid-Size Bale Loader, MIL-STAK has accomplished just that.

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



work with, but will help keep your bale wagon around longer by lessening wear and tear. Add in the matching yellow and red paint job, and it’s evident that MIL-STAK is the leader in quality and appearance.

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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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DOYLE'S THORNLESS BLACKBERRIES BACK HOME AGAIN IN INDIANA

When Kern and Mary Severson decided to retire from their farm and quit selling Doyle's Thornless Blackberry® plants, it didn't take long for the berries to find a new home. The six children of Thomas E. Doyle, Sr., who developed the berry, were delighted to have the opportunity to return the operation to the original home in Washington, Indiana.

Thomas E. Doyle, Sr. was born June 26, 1900, in Daviess County, Indiana, and



was an avid gardener until his death in 2001. He and his wife, Rose, were the parents of six children.

"Dad was in the garden every free moment", says daughter, Mariam. "He raised everything he could think of. He even tried raising tobacco once but found it killed his tomatoes, so he stopped that. Mom spent all summer canning or freezing one thing or another. We kids weren't too much help. But we did manage to show up when the food was ready to eat".

TOM DOYLE, SR. SHOWS HIS PROLIFIC BLACKBERRIES

Tom became well known nationally as the "plastic man" and "blackberry man" after 1959 when he developed a method of using black plastic to cover a garden and planted through small holes. Because the plastic was used for up to 30 years, he called it "Gardening without Cultivation" and marketed his special formulated plastic sheets under that name. He also wrote



a gardening book that has been printed in 13 editions.

IMAGINE THESE FRESH BERRIES IN YOUR FAVORITE PIE OR COBBLER

In the early 1970's he discovered a thornless blackberry that can produce up to 20 gallons of extra large and extra sweet blackberries and in 1975 was granted a patent on the plant as "Doyle's Thornless Blackberry®." This was the first thornless blackberry patented since 1940. His blackberry is a featured attraction at the Agricultural Hall of Fame west of Kansas City, Kansas, and for 30 years visitors have adjusted their travel plans after seeing the plants and came to Washington, IN, to meet the originator.

Nearly all popular varieties yield far less than the Doyle. The average is about 1 to 2 quarts per plant. Some may produce a gallon, which is not even close to the Doyle's production. This amazing plant yields 10 to 20 gallons per plant, that's 1 to 2 bushels! Many dwarf fruit trees don't produce this much volume.

Curious about how many berries he was getting from each plant, Tom planted one blackberry plant in a corner of his property, away from all the other berries. No one was allowed to pick berries from this plant except Tom. That way he thought he could get an exact measurement. So every day during growing season he would

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take his measuring bucket, pick the ripe berries, and write the amount in a book. But he made one mistake. He had planted the berries close to a road that was heavily traveled by walkers. One day he noticed kids walking by eating some of the blackberries. "Well, at least they're sweet enough that I don't have to give them sugar to go with them", he said. "And I have no idea how many were eaten before



I could count them!" At the end of the season he had logged over 20 gallons of berries from the one plant.

TOM DOYLE WITH FIRST PLANT VERIFIED TO YIELD OVER 20 GALLONS OF BLACKBERRIES

There are many different types of blackberries. All of them have a two-year cane or vining process. The first year the vine-like stem of the berry plant just grows and develops, and the next year it will bloom and produce blackberries. After a cane finishes bearing it dies, so we recommend to all of our Doyle customers that the cane be cut 90 days after bearing or in spring, so that nitrogen will be recovered and stored in the roots for the next spring.

There are two categories of blackberries. Varieties with thorns are called "erect" because they have a stiffer cane that grows upright but still needs support for best results. The thornless types are called "trailing" and have a more vine-like habit that needs support on a post, fence or trellis. Most blackberry plants yield more when the canes are tipped or trimmed but NOT the Doyle's Thornless Blackberry. Ordinary berry plants will produce an optimum of about 50 to 75 linear feet of laterals or branches during a good season. These canes then produce small groups of one to five berries all along the vine.

TYPICAL BUNCHES OF DOYLE'S THORNLESS BLACKBERRIES®

The Doyle, by contrast, will produce 250 to 300 linear feet of laterals, with large bunches of berries every two to eight inches for the entire length. Looking very much like grapes, several bunches should have nearly 100 berries. This large amount of fruit is not the product of one long vine, but many shorter laterals or canes. Typically there are four to seven main canes on each mature Doyle plant, which can grow up to 40 feet long.

About ten years ago Dad signed an agreement with Severtson Farms allowing them to grow and sell the Doyle Thornless Blackberry®. After much success, however, Severtsons have decided it's time for them to retire from the farm. And the timing couldn't have been more perfect.

"It seems we've lived with these blackberries all our lives" said one of Tom's sons. "So I guess it's time for us to keep Dad's plants going. Dad loved his blackberries and would talk for hours about them to anyone who would listen. It was his dream that every state would be growing his blackberries and he accomplished



that a few years ago. He also has plants growing in Canada and Bermuda.


"It's come full circle", said the Doyle's. "We are now the only legal company selling the Doyle Thornless Blackberry®. We began shipping in the late spring of 2003 and are now in full production. We are also working on a new cookbook with recipes for everything blackberry. It's outrageously tasty to just go out in the morning and pick fresh blackberries for your favorite recipes, or just to put on your cereal.

For more information about Thomas E. Doyle, Sr. and his amazing blackberries, log on to www.fruitsandberries.com, write to: Doyle's Thornless Blackberries, Inc, 1600 Bedford Road, Washington, IN 47501 or call 812-254-2654. ♣

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Potato Industry Challenges

By: Jerry Wright
CEO, United Potato Growers of Idaho

The challenges facing the potato industry today are leaving many to wonder if a practical solution even exists – especially for growers. Serious over capitalization and over capacity in all aspects of the potato production has led to excess supply, cutthroat pricing, and a significant overhead tax in almost every facet of the industry.

Moreover, fundamental changes among traditional customers and consumers are challenging the industry's long-established practices. Customers nationwide have consolidated and are gaining significant pricing leverage, ultimately reducing profitability for growers. Even worse, the real consumer, the average American, is eating fewer potatoes.

For the industry to be successful, the only variable that should remain constant is change itself. With the market, customers and consumers always changing, a new business model must be devised to identify and solve the problems within the supply "pipeline."

GROWERS

First and foremost, it all starts with the grower. Potato yields are up 65 percent over the last 25 years. Since 1987, growers are producing on 10 percent fewer acres; but on those 10 percent fewer acres, they are actually growing more potatoes. The net impact is the equivalent of adding 20,000 additional acres. Most years, 13 million hundred-weight of excess potatoes are grown. In other words, that is 1.3 billion pounds of surplus. What does that excess production do? It crushes the market.

PACKING SHED CAPACITY

Additionally, in the past 10 years, a major shift has occurred. Large growers have become "grower-shippers" illustrating that many in the industry still believe bigger is better. As a result,

these "Mega Sheds" are contributing to the 40 percent excess shed capacity within Idaho. With their focus on absorbing overhead rather than meeting actual market demand, the real market – the actual consumer – continues to be overlooked and even ignored.

Likewise, this excess production capacity represents a massive tax on every bag that comes out of each shed by flooding the market and lowering the price for everyone. In order to sustain that over capacity, it is estimated that growers and sheds alike are losing a minimum of \$1.00 to \$1.25 per bag in profit. The picture does not change when shifting from fresh to frozen processors or dehydrators. It is the same over capitalized picture.

CUSTOMERS

With over 200 sales people in Idaho alone, and probably more than 400 nationwide, all are competing for the same accounts. Because many of the industry's customers have undergone significant consolidation in the past 10 years, today there are probably no more than 40 major buyers in the fresh market. This means that there are more than 400 sales people chasing 40 buyers – all trying to sell the 1.3 billion pounds of excess potatoes produced each year.

CONSUMERS

In the last 20 years, in-home consumption of potatoes has declined 27 percent, a trend that was happening long before the introduction of low carb diets and Atkins. In 1984, some 84 percent of American households had potatoes and ate them 3.4 times per week. Today, only 74 percent of households have potatoes and only eat them 2.4 times per week. Both household penetration and frequency have declined.

THE SOLUTION

Growers are finally recognizing they

must UNITE and control their future. Recently, growers nationwide decided to make their own luck and dictate their own future. UNITED together, growers decided to stop overproducing by controlling what they planted – a major paradigm shift in North America for potato growers.

In 2005, members of UNITED cut 35 thousand acres of spuds, which was 54 percent of the USDA reported reduction in fall plantings. In September through November, growers saw the highest returns in 10 years; but it has not been flawless. The excess capacity that over-supplies the pipeline, in spite of the smaller crop, still plagues the industry.

The changes needed cannot stop at reduced plantings.

Additional steps must be initiated to reduce excess capacity in the sheds and in the sales and marketing organizations, which is literally costing Idaho growers more than a hundred million dollars each year. Measures must also be taken to fully consolidate the supply chain, encompassing both the packing capacity and sales organizations. Without it, no one will gain leverage with the consolidated customer base.

Finally, the real problem must not be forgotten. Declining consumption by consumers cannot be ignored. Significant dollars must be spent to reverse the trend. The industry, after a 20-year nap, has finally awakened to realize the consumer has moved on. Like the cheese, milk and almond industries, the potato industry must spend millions of advertising dollars to reverse this trend and remind consumers they can again enjoy potatoes.

Simply put, all players in the industry need to UNITE. Changes are inevitable, only a unified effort will make everyone profitable. 🍌

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Sid, John Jr., Carl, Nick and
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BioSafe Systems Introduces New Animal Health Line

BioSafe Systems LLC presents a new line of products for the animal health industry. BioSafe Systems' Animal Health line was created to treat entire facilities including water,

friendly alternatives to chlorine, copper, and iodine compounds. BioSafe Systems' products are EPA registered, NSF certified and easy on applicators, animals, and the environment.

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BioSafe Systems also offers equipment to complement its chemical products. The BioMat Footmat is perfect for disinfecting worker and animal's feet to keep disease to a minimum.

For more information about BioSafe Systems' Animal Health line, visit www.biosafesystems.com or call toll-free to 1-888-273-3088. 📞

Washington seed potato farmers

The weather has been kind to seed potato farmers in Washington State this season. With seven growers tilling over 2,400 acres, Washington seed potato farmers believe they are supplying seed of the highest quality from this year's crop.

Nearly sixty varieties of seed potatoes are grown in Washington, including Red Lasoda, Chieftan, Russet Burbank, Ranger Russet, California White, Umattilla, Satina, and Yukon Gold. A majority of each crop is committed to buyers at harvest, and the inventory is entirely cleared out each year. Growers are committed to meeting their customer's needs and welcome cooperative efforts to explore and grow new varieties.

Whatcom County, located in the extreme northwest corner of the geographic US, is the state's most concentrated seed potato growing area. Whatcom County is in a narrow strip of fertile soils between Puget Sound and

the Cascade Mountain Range. With this geographic location, Whatcom County growers are isolated from large commercial potato operations. There is also seed production just west of Spokane.

Whatcom County is legislatively protected to be a prime certified seed potato growing area. General commercial potatoes may not be grown in plots larger than an acre. That protection has helped win Whatcom seed a good reputation over many decades. Major customers for WA seed potatoes are in Skagit County located immediately to the south, the Columbia Basin of eastern Washington, Idaho, and the Bakersfield area of California.

2006 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Washington State Seed Potato Commission (WSSPC). The WSSPC was established in 1956 to "establish orderly, fair, sound, efficient, and unhampered marketing and standardizing of seed potatoes, and to promote and

increase the sale of seed potatoes". The WSSPC helps growers address mutual challenges and works with researchers and government agencies to make sure that Washington seed potato growers remain on the "cutting edge" of new technology, growing practices, and quality control.

Like most agricultural industries, much has changed in 50 years. What has not changed is the commitment of Washington seed growers to supply quality seed to their customers. Washington seed potato growers take pride in their field standards and grading and testing requirements that insure that their seed meets the demands of commercial potato growers throughout the world.

Those interested in knowing more about the WSSPC and the Washington seed potato industry can access the website at <http://www.waseedpotato.com/> or call 360-354-4670 for a current crop directory. 📞

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Get Grounded On the Basics For Soil That Is Ready To Produce

Knowing a few ‘Ground Rules’ will assist you all season long

(Louisville)— What your farm looks like above ground will ultimately be determined by what lies beneath. Regardless of the varieties you plant, or the amount you water, you will never have maximized yields unless you look to the condition of your soils. “You can do twenty things right, but if you get your soils wrong it will minimize even your best plans.” says soil remediation specialist, Dennis Stephens. The number one ingredient missing on most farmland is oxygen. “While traditional field practices may help, the gains can be quickly reversed by the first heavy rain.”

The goal according to Stephens is to achieve ideal soil condition: 45% mineral, 25% water, 25% air, 5% organic matter. After years of experimentation Stephens is unveiling a product that will make the process easy. Marketed under the trade name “Monty’s Liquid Carbon,” this organic soil conditioner can be easily applied using traditional spray booms or can be tank-mixed with pre-season weed applications or incorporated with seed starter, if you are using uncoated seeds. The conditioner is applied at 64 ounces per acre in 15 gallons of water directly to the soil surface.

This new product, an Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) certified liquid, works with the company’s proprietary humic technology to encourage beneficial bacteria and soil-borne microbes. Additionally, applied to the soil, it works to break up bonds between key nutrients, increase pore space and allow the roots to spread out. As the compacted, hard-pan, layer is broken up water can move through the soil profile more readily. There are other soil condition-

ers in the marketplace but none utilize so pure a humic. Many are in the form of an acid which can affect pH levels; Liquid Carbon’s unique structure leaves the humic able to form bonds with other elements in the soil which helps to free additional nutrients for the plant to utilize. The combination makes it easy for the roots to gather more oxygen, food, and water.

A Few Ground Rules for Healthy Soil

Stephens offered these few rules to follow when you head out to your lawn, garden or flower bed this spring:

1. Check For Compaction. Try to dig a small patch of earth tiling spade or shovel. If the tool does not penetrate the ground easily, the soil is compacted. Compaction is usually caused by the retention of salt (common if you regularly use granular fertilizers), which strips the soil of beneficial, essential nutrients and by an imbalance between calcium and magnesium. Healthy soil should resemble box pancake mix, loose with a few small clumps that break apart easily.

2. Three Must-Have Tests. 1) Get a soil test. They are inexpensive, available from your county extension service, and the only way to know for sure what you need and don’t need. They also will help you track your progress. 2) Do an “Earthworm Test.” Dig some dirt, if your scoop of earth is devoid of earthworms, you have problems. Earthworms are the ‘canaries’ of the soil, they will be among the first things to die when the environment beneath ground level is in trouble. 3) Do a ‘Clump Test.’ Pull a small plant. If the roots come up easily, your soil’s in trouble. Healthy soil allows roots to penetrate down deep into the ground and hold on tightly. Shallow roots indicate

that you are suffering from ‘hard pan’ and will spell trouble during a drought.

3. Think Long-Term; Think Sustainability. Many farmers are now reaping the consequences of years of synthetic chemical use. Use products like Monty’s Liquid Carbon until poor soil is restored. Once optimum levels are reached, depending on other practices and chemical usage, you will only need to reapply every 2-3 years in the spring or fall. To maintain top fertility, Monty’s also offers a line of foliar applied fertilizers for sustainable farming practices.

4. Maintain Balance. There is a lot going on beneath the soil surface, most of it unseen. Not only are the types and kinds of nutrients important but also how they interact with each other. Too much magnesium in relation to calcium, hello compaction; let potassium outpace your calcium and you are open to a host of diseases; When phosphorous is out of sync with potassium you will see more broadleaf weeds. By working to restore balance, not just volume, you can protect the delicate cycle going on beneath your lawn or garden.

You will eventually have to condition and aerate your soil. The question is according to Stephens, “Do you want to do it with multiple trips with a ripper or with one pass in a spray rig?” This season spray your way to better soil using technology, not tools, and remember these few ground rules for your best crops yet.

For a detailed analysis of your soil, call your local Agricultural Extension agent. If you are looking for tips, advice and products to help you maintain healthy soil, visit www.montysplantfood.com or call 800-978-6342. 🌱

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Spring Begins Today: 5 reasons to condition your soil now

Harvest doesn't end the season, it starts it; 5 reasons to condition your soils now.

(Louisville) – There's a saying out in the country that 'it's so quiet you can hear the corn grow.' This time of year all you will hear corn doing is settling in the bins. However, if you listen carefully some crisp, calm, autumn night you might just hear the sound of spring field work. No, it is not ringing with tractors and planters, spray rigs and seeders but buzzing with insects and bugs earthworms and bacteria. We refer to the earth as being 'dormant' this time of year, but far from dormant, the earth is alive and active; repairing, replacing, and rebuilding so that you can use it again next year to pull in another crop. Many farmers, if they condition their soils at all, either mechanically or chemically do not do so till the spring, but now, before you park the tractor in the barn for another season is the time to capitalize on the prep work that nature is already doing. A better understanding of the science of soil is showing that some of these products do offer some benefit. Joe Dedman, Certified Crop Advisor with Monty's Plant Food Company in Louisville, offered these thoughts on why using products like Monty's Liquid Carbon is so critical for the fall.

Before you can begin with any calculation of the value of conditioning you have to know where you are starting and establish a baseline. For that reason Dedman says, "Soil Testing is critical." He recommends fall as the best time for this as well because you will know what your needs are ahead of the spring and can plan for them financially. Further, the fall is when you may actually have time to soil test adequately and properly. Too many times we approach spring with the intention of testing but it is too rainy to get into the fields, then when the sunshine does break we are in such a hurry to get things planted on time that it slips off the calendar. Additionally, right now temperatures and moisture levels are moderating which will tend to give the most accurate readings for soil pH and nutrient levels. Finally, by knowing your input needs and plans now you have time to shop around for your inputs

so that you can maximize any cost saving that may be waiting. Even if you don't apply any fertility till the spring by buying it now you can reap huge dividends for your bottom line.

Time - Soil Conditioners especially conditioners which contain humic substances like Monty's Liquid Carbon provide numerous benefits like improving tilth, reducing compaction and hardpan, improving drainage, improving nutrient exchange and availability but all of these processes take some time to work. By applying it now you will gain at least 4-5 months over applications made 2 weeks prior to planting.

Time pt. 2 - One of the most valuable resources you have is your time. By conditioning now, following harvest, when you generally have more time you can free your production calendar of one more chore this spring. Additionally, Spring weather is unpredictable at best and you can find yourself late into April still hoping to get the fields dry enough to plant, much less to make an extra pass through the field with conditioner.

Water Management - One of the main benefits of humic technology is the ability to assist you in better utilization of water. By applying in the fall, you allow the soil to hold any moisture that falls during the course of the winter, while also opening up the soil profile to provide for better drainage. Imagine a spring where you are not held out of the field by poor draining soils or find yourself planting into dust hoping for a rain shower to get the crop up. Soils conditioned with a humic-based conditioner offer you the opportunity to improve drainage while holding moisture in the seed zone. This can allow for earlier entry into the field without fear of compaction problems or worries about seed rot prior to germination.

Residue Management - No-Till agriculture is no longer the exception; it is the rule. Leaving last year's crop residue does provide for some undeniable advantages, however, you can still maximize even those results by utilizing humics in your conditioning practices.

When you apply a product like Monty's Liquid Carbon you are not only working to build the soil, but you are activating the microbes, earthworms, arthropods, and small mammals that call the upper seven inches of top-soil 'home.' As these elements of the soil 'community' are energized, they begin feeding and breaking down the residue more efficiently making the resulting organic matter available sooner and releasing more nutrients into the soil profile ahead of spring planting.

Improved Soil Condition -Improved tilth maximizes aerobic activity, improves water percolation, and movement of nutrients. Improvement of pH levels for optimum seed development and early plant growth should have a positive impact on additional root establishment and photosynthesis. Humics have also shown the ability to reduce compaction, break up hard pan, and improve friability of soils all of which can make your tractor move through the field much more easily thereby reducing time and fuel operating costs.

The key to these changes is doing them before the microbes, earthworms, and microorganisms move deeper into warmer soil, die or become inactive in winter's cooler soils. By conditioning your soils now, which can be as easy as applying Monty's Liquid Carbon at 64oz. per acre diluted in 15 gallons of water directly to the soil, you are potentially buying yourself an extra week to two weeks this spring. As we all know, time, especially in modern agriculture, is money. And that is the bottom line; by conditioning your soils, by better preparing your seed beds, and by allowing them to better utilize your inputs and nature's resources you are maximizing your chances for an optimized bottom line.

"Shhh, if you quiet enough, out here in the country this time of year you can hear your bank account growing."

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127 Club Baked Potato Soup

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/4 cup butter
- 8 large baking potatoes – chopped
- 1 white onion – diced
- 1 bunch green onions – sliced
- 24 bacon – cooked and crumbled
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup jack cheese
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- 2 quarts half & half
- salt & pepper to taste
- corn starch

DIRECTIONS:

In a dutch oven cooker, melt butter and soften. Dice white onion. Add half and half. Add potatoes and green onions. Gradually add cheese until melted. Add crumbled bacon. Salt and pepper to taste. Mix corn starch with water until smooth and thicken to desired consistency.

ENJOY! (Yield: 20 Servings)

Recipe courtesy of: Kay & Traci's 127 Club

127 Club Cheese Chowder

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 cup thin sliced carrots
- 1 cup thin sliced celery
- 1/2 cup red pepper
- 1/2 cup green pepper
- garlic to taste
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup dark beer
- 3 large baked potatoes – chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon blended pepper
- 1 1/2 quarts half & half
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup shredded pepper jack cheese
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
- corn starch

DIRECTIONS:

In a dutch oven melt butter. Add onions, carrots, celery, red pepper, green pepper and garlic. Cook until soft. Add dry mustard, chicken broth and beer. Simmer vegetables in broth for 15 minutes. Add potatoes, pepper and half & half. Slowly add cheeses until melted. Add worcestershire sauce and hot pepper. Mix corn starch with water until smooth and thicken to desired consistency.

ENJOY! (Yield: 20 Servings)

Recipe courtesy of: Kay & Traci's 127 Club

Cream of Idaho Potato & Celery Root Soup



INGREDIENTS:

- 5 oz. Idaho® dehydrated flakes
- 4 oz. cut onions
- 3 oz. leeks
- 1 T olive oil
- 6 oz. celery root
- 32 oz. chicken stock
- 4 oz. half and half
- 4 oz. heavy cream
- 2 oz. sour cream
- 1 t Dijon mustard
- 1 oz. white wine



DIRECTIONS:

Sauté onions and leeks in olive oil. Add dehydrated Idaho® potatoes, celery root, chicken stock, white wine and mustard. Bring to a boil. Simmer for 30 minutes. Puree liquid (strain if necessary). Whisk in half and half and heavy cream. Simmer for 10 minutes (check thickness – should coat the back of spoon). Add sour cream and check seasoning. Garnish as desired.

Photo and recipe courtesy of: Idaho Potato Commission

Idaho Potato Irish Stew

Traditionally, lamb shoulder chops or leftover bits of beef are used to make this peppery stew. In this recipe, flavorful lean beef is simmered with vegetables in an aromatic broth. The long cooking brings out all the subtle flavors of the meat and vegetables, while the Idaho Potatoes retain their texture and shape.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 pounds Idaho Potatoes (4 medium potatoes) peeled and cubed
- 3 cups onions/ peeled, cut in half and thinly sliced
- 2 cups carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch lengths
- 12 sprigs fresh thyme, or 1 1/2 teaspoons dry thyme
- salt to taste
- fresh ground black pepper to taste
- 2 pounds boneless blade steaks (6 lamb shoulder chops can be substituted)
- 12 ounces prepared reduced sodium beef broth
- fresh chopped parsley

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 350° F.
2. In a 3 quart heavy pot with a lid, arrange half of the potatoes, onions and carrots. Season heavily with salt and pepper. Top with 6 sprigs of fresh thyme or 3/4 teaspoon of dry thyme. Place the meat on top of the vegetables and add the remaining potatoes, onions and carrots. Season with salt, pepper and remaining thyme.
3. Add beef broth and 1 cup water. Cover and cook for 2 1/2 hours until the meat and potatoes are fork-tender.
4. Discard the thyme sprigs if using fresh thyme and season with salt and pepper.
5. Garnish with fresh chopped parsley and serve. (Yield: 6 servings)

Recipe courtesy of: Idaho Potato Commission

Kay & Traci's 127 Club Rocks the Town!

Ask yourself, where does one go to have a good time? The answer of course, is Kay & Traci's 127 Club located in Meridian Idaho. With the best service, cold drinks



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great talent! Both worked for Hewlett Packard, as well as various other establishments, giving them a stellar advantage in the night club business! Kay



and Traci met at HP (Hewlett Packard) as colleagues becoming friends, after working together in the consumer call center. They decided to open a bar together and after searching for the ideal spot, Meridian won as the hot spot, and

bingo, the 127 was born! Live music every weekend with the likes of Crossroads, The Steve Wall Band and several others hand picked by Kay and Traci to ensure that this place is always rockin, come on down for the Friday Night Prime Rib and great entertainment, you won't be disappointed.



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An Update on the Oregon Potato Commission

The Oregon Potato Commission has a variety of benefits to offer the potato industry. Much of what we have been involved with this past year revolves around establishing relationships with nearby states and potato industry leaders in those states. We have also been involved with promoting our frozen, dehydrated, and fresh potato products to individuals from different countries around the world, and furthering the pursuit of ongoing research. Promotion of our locally grown potatoes has also occurred in the form of educational events and participation in public affairs. We have much optimism for the coming year and we anticipate increased potato exports from our region; especially the export of chipping potatoes.

In order to foster the relationships we have established with researchers and growers as well as the Washington State Potato Commission (WSPC), and the Idaho Potato Commis-

sion (IPC), a non profit company known as the Potato Variety Management Institute (PVMI) was formed. PVMI is a non profit company with membership of the Oregon Potato Commission (OPC), Idaho Potato Commission (IPC) and the Washington State Potato Commission (WSPC). Each commission has an agreement with their state University to receive the first right to license new potato varieties. The commissions have an agreement with PVMI to sub-license those varieties to growers. In 1996 Plant Variety Protection (PVP) on potatoes became available, which allows exclusive release and fees to be charged for licenses and royalties. For many years each of the state potato commissions have allocated funds for potato variety development. Over 20 years ago, in these three states, potato variety development programs started working together in a program called Tri-State Potato Breeding.

Stukenholtz Laboratory Inc. Celebrating 36 Years of Agricultural Testing

In 1970, there were no commercial soil and plant testing laboratories in Idaho. Farmers applied fertilizers based upon educated guesswork. Dr. Dale Stukenholtz and his wife Joyce saw an opportunity to build a business and started a soil and plant testing laboratory and field consulting service based in Twin Falls, Idaho. Dr. Stukenholtz had an unusually diverse background as an educator at the University of Nebraska, an agronomist in the fertilizer industry and a farmer, and he saw a need for more modern fertilizer recommendations to produce greater yields at less cost. His clients were the growers, so he could make unbiased recommendations that maximized economic return to the farmer.

After extensive field research, he developed these improved fertilizer recommendations that quickly became popular with growers and formed the basis for nearly all fertilizer applications in the intermountain west area. Stukenholtz Laboratory clients include growers from all neighboring states and several foreign countries including Australia, Canada, Egypt, Russia, Mexico and New Zealand.

Stukenholtz Laboratory provides 1 to 2 day service, including picking up and delivery time, across Southern Idaho from St. Anthony and Grace to Parma and Homedale. Results can be delivered, mailed, faxed, or pulled from the Laboratory's webpage: www.stukenholz.com. To improve their service, Joyce and Dale Stukenholtz expanded the

laboratory nine years ago, installed the latest in computerized instrumentation and quality control, and made it the most modern and well equipped agricultural laboratory in their market area.

Critical to the success of Idaho's most efficient laboratory and largest field consulting firm has been its personnel. Dr. Stukenholtz has had a PhD in Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition since 1964. Consulting agronomists include J.P. Kruckeberg of American Falls, a 26 year veteran of field consulting and the most successful single agronomist in the state, and Bart Kunz. The Laboratory and office staff are equally good.

Dr. Stukenholtz continues to research and improve his Laboratory. In conjunction with the Idaho Crop Production Association and University of Idaho CFEP research project, he has helped to ensure that fertilizer recommendations in Idaho are the most cost efficient possible and produce the maximum economic yield while protecting the environment. Stukenholtz Laboratory personnel have conducted field research on over 40 different products and continue to be the experts at "cutting edge" agricultural technology. As we end our first 34 years of business and begin our next, we would like to thank our current and former employees for their dedicated work and our customers and clients for their years of support. 🍌

Tri-State is one of the premiere potato breeding programs in the world. Each state and program brings unique situations and personnel to the table for the overall program. Tri-State participants are Oregon State University (OSU), University of Idaho (UI), Washington State University (WSU), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), IPC, WSPC and OPC.


Earlier this year, the Oregon Potato Commission (OPC) along with the Washington State Potato Commission (WSPC), and the Idaho Potato Commission (IPC) hosted a group of individuals from Central America. These individuals represented opportunities available in this portion of the world to export frozen potato products. Members of this group toured the Port of Seattle upon arrival and before departing the U.S., had meetings near Moses Lake and Pasco, and visited growing and packing facilities around the state.

Education and promotional events have occurred this year as well. One such event involved a series of grower appreciation days put on at McDonalds restaurants around the state. At these events, growers would greet the press and talk about how they sell their potatoes directly to this restaurant. Additionally, the OPC held a cooking contest at the Oregon State Fair where members of the public had the opportunity to enter dishes made from Oregon potatoes. One of our commissioners demonstrated cooking methods using fresh potatoes and dehydrated potato products at this event. Prizes were also distributed along with recipes to interested individuals. The event turned out to be a success and many people were introduced to new and innovative potato preparation methods.

The Oregon Potato Commission is working along with other potato growing states to promote a specialty crop industry priority document which will be submitted to the Oregon legislatures. This document has been produced by a coalition of specialty crop people that represent over 42% of all farm gate crop value in the U.S.

It is hoped that by producing this document, members of the legislature will support economic growth for potatoes in Oregon.

The economy around the Pacific Northwest is growing due to increased exports at our ports. We are proud to be part of this growth and continue to foster relationships with our neighboring states, the international community, our state universities, and the public. 🍌



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PASCO AG SHOW

A Project of the Pasco Chamber of Commerce

January 9-10, 2007 – TRAC – Pasco , Washington

Washington's agri-food industry is facing some challenging times. This industry employs more people within the state than any other sector and is critical to the economy of the greater Mid-Columbia Region. That's why for nearly 30 years the Pasco Chamber has taken on the challenge of hosting the Pasco Ag Show.

This year the focus is on education - we are committed to bringing the agri-food industry the information needed to improve profitability and planning.

Early partners in our effort include the Washington Farm Bureau and Columbia Basin College .

We are excited to announce that Dr. J. Greig, interim CEO of Chemical Consortium Holdings (ChemCon), will be one of several speakers at the show. ChemCon recently leased 15 acres at the Port of Walla Walla in Burbank, Washington to construct the first large scale bio-diesel facil-

ity on the west coast. Plans are to produce 200,000 tons or roughly 60 million gallons of bio-diesel annually. Dr. Greig recently chaired the CorEventus Biodiesel symposium in Kuala Lumpur .

The Ag Show is attended by thousands of agri-food professionals that come to:

- **Network with Growers, Processors, Suppliers and Service Providers**
- **Attend Continuing Education Classes**
- **Earn Pesticide Credits**
- **Access the Latest Information on Chemical Usages, Pests & Diseases, Management, & Technology**
- **Gain a Competitive Advantage in the Marketplace**

The TRAC (Trade, Recreation and Agricultural Center) in Pasco , Washington provides one of the most diverse venues available for this event. Over 70,000 square feet of exhibit space allows for a variety displays including heavy, row crop, and vine-

yard equipment. The addition of the adjacent AmeriSuites will offer more meeting and seminar rooms than ever before!

To promote this year's show, we will use a variety of advertising methods including: farmer surveys, direct mail, print media, press releases and radio advertising .

Our goal is to bring our exhibitors more qualified buyers than ever before and improve their opportunity to reach new buyers.

An investment in the Pasco Ag Show is an investment in the future of agriculture in the great Mid-Columbia Region. Please take a few minutes to review the reverse side of this flyer for sponsorship opportunities and benefits. Our representatives for this year's show, Wahoo! Projects & Events, will be contacting you to discuss this worthwhile opportunity. Meanwhile, if you need additional information, please contact Debbie Toner at (509) 947-1316. ☛



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

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Individuals Honored for Commitment to Angus Breed

Five long-time Angus producers have been honored for their commitment to the Angus breed and programs of the American Angus AssociationSM. Jesse Bontecou, Millbrook, N.Y.; Eddie Sydenstricker, Mexico, Mo.; Dale Runnion, Longmont, Colo.; and Robert Weaver, Peoria, Ill., were inducted to the Angus Heritage Foundation, during Angus activities at the North American International Livestock Exposition, Nov. 11-14. Collin Kennedy, formerly of Webster City, Iowa, were inducted posthumously.

Each year the American Angus Association honors individuals who have made significant contributions through their time and dedication, financially, via research efforts to enhance the breed or through their breeding of superior Angus cattle. A committee nominates and selects the individuals for induction to the heritage foundation, which was started in 1983.

Inductees and their families receive a framed certificate for their achievement; their name is engraved on a permanent plaque hung in the Association headquarters; and their brief biography and photograph are included in a book, which will next be published in 2010.

Following is a biography of each of the inductees highlighting their contributions to the Angus breed. Photos are available upon request or you can request photos of the individuals with their awards following the Angus awards banquet, Nov. 13.

Jesse Bontecou

Jesse Bontecou, Millbrook, N.Y., has been breeding and promoting purebred Angus Cattle for more than 60 years in the heart of Dutchess County. Rally Farms was established by his father Senator Fredric H. Bontecou in 1929, and is today one of New York's largest and oldest Angus farms consisting of

2,800 acres and has about 135 mother cows. Rally cattle have been shown across the country, and they showed the grand champion bull in Denver in 1982. Exported cattle and semen have gone abroad to Europe and South America. Jesse is a past president of the New York Angus Association and served for two terms as a director of the American Angus Association.

Dale Runnion

Dale Runnion joined the Aberdeen-Angus Journal as a fieldman in 1952, after a short stint with the Drovers Journal and serving in World War II. During his 16-year career, which included time as advertising manager and general manager of the Angus Journal, he revitalized the field staff, and they contributed to the breed's rapid growth in the 1950s and 60s. He was brought back to serve as general manager of the Journal in 1981 when the Journal was purchased by the American Angus Association, and today, many of his policies and key staff promoted by him are still serving the Angus breed. Dale is a native of Ohio and attended Ohio State University. He currently resides in Longmont, Colo., with his wife June, who also served as a service representative to Journal advertisers.

Eddie Sydenstricker

Eddie Sydenstricker served as the first president of the first junior Angus association ever formed in 1956, helping set the direction for modern-day junior Angus programs. About 25 years later, daughters Kim and Lee Ann both served as officers in that same Missouri Junior Angus Association. Eddie has maintained a leadership role both in farm machinery and Angus cattle in Missouri, receiving the University of Missouri Livestock Person of the Year award in 1995, the Certified Angus Beef Seedstock Award in 1997, and the

BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year in 2001. Eddie served on the boards of the American Angus Association and the Missouri Angus Association. He is a founding partner in ORIgen, Inc. and serves on the Advisory Board to the Angus Foundation.

Robert Weaver

Robert Weaver, co-founder of Weaver Angus Farm in 1935, is a well-known breeder and exhibitor of Angus cattle. The operation based in Peoria, Ill., hosted the first Illinois Junior Angus field day in 1965, and Robert has been a positive influence for the breed in Illinois and across the nation through the years since. Weavers have exhibited a grand champion at the National Western Stock Show every decade since the 1960's. Since exhibiting at the inaugural NAILE in 1974, he has missed exhibiting at only one. In addition to being a successful Angus breeder, Robert and his wife Virginia share a passion for their carriage collection and teams of Hackneys and Gelderlanders. He is a member of the New York and British Coaching Clubs, and is involved with the Salvation Army and the Youth Home, a home for troubled young men.

Colin Kennedy

Colin Kennedy was a well-known and highly regarded livestock journalist and photographer based in Webster City, Iowa. He started his career in journalism in 1929 with the Drovers Journal, and later worked for the Aberdeen-Angus Journal, where he served as managing editor. Colin is likely most remembered for his regular column in the Journal, "Along Angus Trails," where he displayed his deep love for the Angus cattle, along with his thoughtful insights and keen wit as he documented the story of the Angus breed throughout the second half of the 20th Century. 🐾

Article courtesy: American Angus Association

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Northwest Liquid Transport 1, Inc. was founded in 1987. Their main focus was primarily agricultural operations in northwest Washington State. Since that time, they have diversified to include bio-solids and industrial wastes, and have branched out to neighboring Idaho and Oregon. Almost twenty years and over 500 million gallons later, they now have the ability to service all your waste needs throughout the entire Northwest.

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Hereford Leads the Efficiency Charge

Hereford breeders throughout time have bred efficiency into their herds. Expected to do more with less — or be sent down the road — Herefords have naturally excelled in converting grass and grain into dollars of profit. So, as the tools become available to scientifically select for efficiency, it is only fitting that the Hereford breed is leading the charge.

The American Hereford Association (AHA) is pursuing genetic progress through a feed efficiency trial composed solely of Hereford cattle. Monty Kerley, University of Missouri-Columbia animal scientist and professor, is utilizing Hereford cows in a study designed to explore the possibilities of selecting for feed efficiency, as well as to understand the physiology that



determines residual feed intake (RFI) — the amount of feed an animal eats, more or less than what's expected for

its weight and gain.

Kerley has begun to select for efficiency in the cow herd. Eventually he will look at the effects of selection pressure on other performance traits, calf efficiency and pasture carrying capacity.

Kerley explains how RFI dramatically affects production economics. Researchers at the University of Missouri Beef Research and Teaching Farm fed a group of calves that origi-

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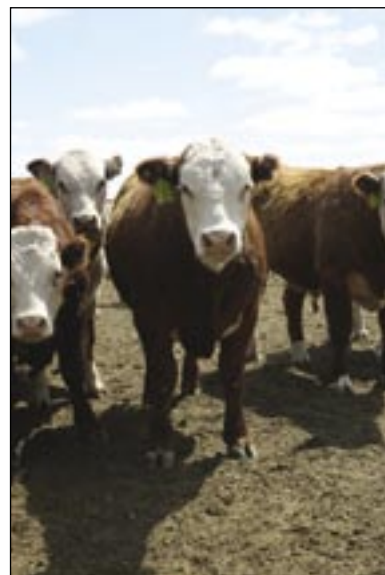
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nated from a single herd and were produced as artificial insemination (AI) progeny from one sire. Measuring intake and efficiency during lean growth (up to 950 lb.), the three most inefficient calves had an average intake of 3.7 lb. of feed to 1 lb. of gain, compared to the three most efficient calves with an average feed to gain ratio of 2.1. The inefficient calves consumed 814 lb. of feed compared to the efficient calves, consuming only 462 lb. Estimating \$145 per ton of diet, the efficient calves consumed \$25 less feed up to 950 lb.

In another experiment at the Missouri farm, the most efficient calf in the feedlot consumed \$92 less feed than the most inefficient calf at the \$145 per ton of diet estimate. "The potential for improvement in feed efficiency can be greater than the potential profit margin of feeding the calf," Kerley says.

He adds, "Researchers have shown



that the range in RFI among animals is

large, and that it is a moderately heritable trait similar to growth and carcass traits. Thus, with selection pressure substantial improvements (in efficiency) can be made."

The AHA is excited to be involved in this cutting-edge research that has the potential to be of significant benefit to commercial users of Hereford genetics. For more information, contact AHA staff at (816) 842-3757. 📞

Article courtesy of American Hereford Association
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FEBRUARY 1 IS DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR 2007 FRED STOUT EXPERIENCE AWARD

Reynoldsburg, Ohio, November 16, 2006—High school graduates who have a strong desire to pursue a career in managing and/or marketing Registered Jersey™ cattle are encouraged to apply for the 2007 Fred Stout Experience award.

The award is presented annually in memory of Fred J. Stout Jr., Mt. Carmel, Ill., a lifelong Jersey breeder and member of the Jersey Marketing Service staff from 1978 to 1997 who believed that the best learning experiences happen in the everyday world. This award provides partial support for a two- or three-month internship with Jersey Marketing Service, Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

To apply, submit a one-page resume listing previous work experience, skills and other qualifications, plus a separate cover letter stating your ambitions, goals and career aspirations, including plans

for achieving them. The letter must also explain how and why the Fred Stout Experience will be of benefit in achieving future goals. A summary of involvement with and interest in Registered Jersey™ cattle is required.

Applicants must request two letters of support, one from an active breeder of Registered Jersey™ (excluding immediate family members), and the other from a teacher, mentor or past employer. These must be mailed directly by the supporters to the AJCA office.

Applications and letters of support must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2007 and addressed to Fred Stout Experience, American Jersey Cattle Association, 6486 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-2362.

Previous recipients of the Fred Stout Experience Award are Tara Bohnert, Illinois (2003), Allison Waggoner, South

Carolina (2004), Dan Bauer, Wisconsin (2005) and Aaron Horst, Pennsylvania (2006).

Financial support is provided by a permanent endowment created in 2001 by friends and colleagues of Fred Stout. More than \$18,000 was raised for the fund from the sale of a heifer calf donated by Benny and Janice Rector and Family, Turlock, Calif., on November 5 during The 54th All American Jersey Sale in Louisville, Ky.

For more information on the Fred Stout Experience, contact Dr. Cherie L. Bayer, AJCA Director of Development, or Herby D. Lutz, Manager of Jersey Marketing Service, at 614/861-3636. ☎

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Strategic supplementation can lure cattle to areas they otherwise would not graze.

By Clint Peck



Like people, cows have their comfort zones. In western rangelands, getting cows to leave the comforts of green, cool riparian areas to gaze the drier, steeper mountainsides and ridges has always been a challenge. But, several years of drought have prompted some mountain ranchers to dig deeper in their bag of grazing management tricks in an effort to increase cattle comfort.

“We’re now using low-moisture protein blocks to draw the cattle to grass in places that they wouldn’t otherwise find,” says David Voldseth, of Lennep, MT. “It’s the best way that we’ve found to keep a good scatter on the cows.”

The Voldseth family, along with two other permittees, grazes cattle on the rugged Comb Butte Allotment in the Lewis and Clark National Forest of central Montana. On Comb Butte, there’s plenty of forage, even in dry years, to sustain the roughly 600-cowcalf pairs intended for the allotment.

Voldseth and the other permittees have spent thousands of dollars developing water systems to improve cattle distribution. They also used the old practice of locating salt on the higher ground.

Still that wasn’t enough, so Voldseth and the other permittees had to reduce

livestock numbers and duration of grazers were allowed another week of grazing because of better cattle distribution on the allotment.

“A week longer on the allotment means a lot this time of year,” Voldseth says.

On Comb Butte, the block of choice is Crystalyx® low-moisture blocks. There are other similar blocks made and distributed throughout the country by several feed and animal supplement manufactures.

Skeptics turn believers

Forest Service range conservationist Wayne Butts, Harlowton, MT, approves of what he sees at Comb Butte and in other allotments. At first he was skeptical. After seeing the system in action, he thinks the idea can be used effectively in an overall management plan. He stresses that the system is just a tool, “not a silver bullet.”

A lot of the tension he sees from between the ranchers and recreational users in the forest centers on the use and condition of the creek bottoms. Both parties, he says, use the riparian areas of the Lewis and Clark Forest very heavily.

“With the use of this supplement, the permittees bought themselves 10-20 days extra grazing on the permit (in 2003) when used in conjunction with

riding,” Butts says. When used in combination with herding, they really do a good job in getting cattle off the creek bottoms.”

Low-moisture blocks (125- to 250-lb. Barrels) are the supplement form preferred by the Comb Butte permittees because of the steep terrain and distances cattle and cattle managers have to cover in the allotment.

Derek Bailey, Havre, MT, a scientist, has spent a decade examining cattle distribution and behavior. He believes in using self-feeding, low-moisture blocks as a lure for cattle to graze rugged upland terrain.

“Once cattle find them, the blocks have a unique ability to hold them in the rugged areas,” Bailey says. “There’s no question such blocks improve both pasture and animal production efficiency.”

For example, in a study conducted in the Bear’s Paw Mountains near Havre, Bailey and his colleagues observed 32% of the herd grazing the rugged upland areas near supplement blocks and salt. But, just 3% of the cows were observed working similar areas that contained only salt.

Pretty cheap grazing

Bailey has been tracking animal movement and grazing behavior using collars fitted with global positioning system (GPS) technology. He’s found low-moisture blocks are a stronger attractant than water to cattle during fall and winter grazing. Cows spent more time within 200-600 yds of low-moisture blocks than within similar distances to water.

“This contradicts the notion that water is the most powerful attraction to move cattle in the fall and winter,” Bailey says. But, summer or winter, the influence of the low-moisture blocks rapidly declines beyond about 600 yds. Supplement should not be expected to lure cattle to areas beyond 600 – 700 yds from the site of placement.

What’s the cost of this strategy? About \$4/animal unit month (AUM), estimates Voldseth, which nearly triples the \$1.43/

AUM permittees pay government to graze public domain.

“That includes about \$2 for the product and about \$2 in labor necessary to get the cattle use to it,” he says. “It’s still pretty cheap grazing when you consider everything that’s involved and everything that we have to gain over the long haul in doing a better job of grazing the allotment.”

Voldseth emphasizes through that as the price of grazing increases, say on private lands where rates could be valued as high as \$30/AUM, the payoff of better forage utilization using this kind of practice becomes a real no-brainer. In fact, he used the low-moisture blocks as a fall grazing management tool on 3,000 acres of private grazing land for six years before getting the go-ahead to use it on the forest permit.

“It takes the cattle a couple of weeks to develop a taste for the blocks,” he explains. “But, once the animals find the blocks and become accustomed to them, getting cattle to go back to them is not a problem.”

Bailey’s research also shows consumption patters are fairly consistent among cattle using the low-moisture blocks. He suggests ranchers first introduce cattle to the supplement near a water source. Then, as the cattle utilize the forage around the supplement, the rancher can continue to move the blocks away from the water to the rougher terrain.

Voldseth says that in the past years (“pre-block”), his cowboys would try to drift cattle to the grassy ridges in an effort to keep them away from the creek bottoms.

“Most of the time the cows would beat the riders back to the bottom,” he says. “All things considered, this system works about as well as anything we’ve tried to get better use of the upland ranges.”

Summer herding is key

Dennis Froeming, Bozeman, MT, has seen a lot of gimmicks in his career as a range conservationist. The range consultant admits he’s surprised by what he’s seen in using low-moisture blocks to manage range resources.

His analysis shows that in one case the practice yielded forage utilization rates of 25% near the block site, and 21% at 1/3 to 1/2 mile away from the site. This is compared to nearly zero utilization without the combination of blocks and



herding.

“The blocks give cattle an incentive to stay away from water,” he says. “But, I don’t think you can separate riding from the use of the product during the summer when it is hot.”

In a recently completed study at the

Bair Ranch, Matinsdale, MT, Bailey also found the forage stubble heights near streams in pastures where strategic supplementation was integrated with riding were 2 in. higher than in control pastures where cow-calf pairs were allowed to roam freely.

On public lands where stubble heights are often used as grazing standards, such a reduction in riparian zone grazing could mean the difference between staying on the allotment and taking the cattle home early and purchasing alternative forage.

In a separate study conducted by Bailey at the Ross Ranch and Thackeray Ranch in the Bear’s Paw Mountains of north-central Montana, placement of low-moisture blocks on rugged uplands reduced the time cow-calf pairs spent within 50 yds of streams during the summer without herding.

“Strategic supplement placement without riding is most effective during the fall and winter,” Bailey says. “But low-moisture blocks are another tool for improving cattle grazing patterns during the summer as well.”

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goat – sheep

American Meat Goat Association

By: Marvin F. Shurley

With the weather having been cold and windy lately I've had some time to look at our A.M.G.A. membership archives. During the search through our old, along with our current membership list, some interesting facts have come to light. As of November 14, 1993, when the goat industry to a large extent was centered in Texas, approximately 13% of our members lived outside of this state. Since that time there has been a growing expansion of the meat goat industry across the United States. In 1993 approximately 85% of the goat population was in Texas. Within the past thirteen years that number has shrunk so that only 60% or so of the total U.S. goat population is currently residing in Texas. What is so unique about these percentages is the fact that the A.M.G.A.'s non-Texas membership numbers have risen also to where they now comprise approximately 47% of our A.M.G.A. membership as of November 3, 2006.

When you look at these numbers you quickly see that the membership composition closely mirrors that of the goat population here in the United States. As the demographics of the goat population distribution have changed so have the membership distribution numbers. While we were aware of these changes here in the office, never had we run an actual comparison of today's membership composition to that of thirteen years ago.

Our awareness of the changes in membership demographics though is evidenced by our growing outreach program and "outside Texas" efforts to

reach producers. A prime example is that we held our 2004 annual membership meeting and conference in Cookeville, Tennessee and the 2005 conference in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Along with this we are also working towards holding an A.M.G.A. judges training course in one of the far Western states this year. For a long time there has been a perception by many goat producers that the A.M.G.A. is a Texas only organization. Nothing could be further from the truth as our efforts benefit all goat producers across the U.S., although I will admit that in the past the largest percentage of our efforts in terms of meetings were held in Texas; however, one must consider that early on 87% of our membership resided in that state.

That plus the fact that around 85% of our U.S. goat population was also centered in Texas dictated that our efforts be focused there, to the largest extent. It is with great pride and expectation that I look forward to holding our future membership meetings outside of Texas. In recent years Tennessee, Nebraska, Kansas and Kentucky have experienced a phenomenal growth of the goat industry within their respective states, which will act as the main driving force in our decisions as to the location choice for our future annual conferences.

During the research through our membership archives another discovery was that there are numerous members who have been in the A.M.G.A. since that November, 1993 date and active in the association for over a decade. Out of these very few of them were focused on Boer goats at that time, most producers

were focused heavily on Spanish goat production, with several falling into a mixed production category. There were also at that time a large number of Boer breeders/speculators who were members of the A.M.G.A. but are no longer involved in goat production in any form. As the industry has grown and expanded so has the A.M.G.A. and we look forward to continuing this positive trend and also towards providing representation to you the United States meat goat producers. The A.M.G.A. is the only nationally recognized, non-breed specific goat association of its type here in the U.S. that represents the interest of every single goat producer whether they raise Dairy, Fiber, or Meat goats. While "meat goat" is in our organizations name the end product of every goat breed is meat as they all enter the food chain at sometime in their life, if they don't die on your farm or ranch.

We are a recognized, respected, and well received, organization by the legislative and regulatory entities that set national policies affecting the U.S. goat industry and would like to invite you to join us in our efforts. As a fledgling industry the meat goat industry needs a centralized voice to represent our interest in governmental affairs and the A.M.G.A. is certainly poised to do so. If supporting "your goat" association appeals to you, you may contact our office at 325-387-6100 or by email at amga@sonoratx.net. We also have a website set up for your convenience at www.meatgoats.com which contains additional information about the American Meat Goat Association. ♣

American Boer Goat Association

A brief explanation of an expanding industry

The American Meat Goat Industry has experienced substantial growth in the last decade, and much of its growth is producer-driven. Improved genetics, agricultural policy, growing ethnic populations, marketing potential and movement to smaller acreage farms have also placed a significant impact on the industry. Additional production from the producer segment is a valued priority to satisfy the demand of goat meat and opportunities within the industry.

The journey of the Boer goat to the United States in 1993 positively impacted the meat goat industry providing improved production and carcass traits to the already existing goat genetics. This year also marked the formation of the American Boer Goat Association. At nearly the same time, due to the three-year phase out of the Wool and Mohair Incentive Payment Act, many Angora goat producers sent some, if not all, of their herd to market. This change in agricultural policy created a void in the goat meat trade. This void was fulfilled

by the introduction of Boer goats to the United States and direct meat imports from Australia and New Zealand.

Boer goats are a horned breed showing a variety of color patterns, and have a high resistance to disease adapting well to various climates and temperatures. Boer goats are also a valuable commodity presenting a stout build, lean meat, remarkable size and rate of growth, and gentle nature and fertility reached at an early age.

The main consumers of goat meat are members of a variety of ethnic groups. Hispanics, Muslims and Peoples of the Caribbean are the largest goat consuming ethnic populations in the United States. As ethnic groups become a growing segment of population, the demand for goat meat exceeds the current production capacities. Forecasts estimate that production in the United States may take ten years to meet the current goat meat demand.

The American Meat Goat Industry does not fit the business models employed in the beef and pork industries. The in-

dustry contains a network of smaller producers, defined end-consumers and non-traditional marketing channels. This business model allows producers the opportunity to directly market the end consumer, therefore demanding a higher price for quality products.

Utilizing small acreage farms for goats is more and more becoming to the American public seeking an agricultural avenue. Unlike some agricultural ventures, regardless the size, producers can impact the meat goat industry in their backyard.

To exceed the path to expansion, meeting the needs of the various segments within the industry is valuable and the journey begins with the producer.

With over 6,000 members nationwide, ABGA provides registry services to the Boer goat industry. ABGA also features a junior association providing opportunities in leadership, education and scholarship. ABGA is headquartered in San Angelo, Texas. Check out www.abga.org, or call 325.486.2242 to speak with an ABGA representative. ☛

OREGON MEAT GOAT PRODUCERS

Sharon Findling – President – Oakland, OR

In the fall of 2002 a few of the area producers started talking about the need for a meat goat association in Douglas County, OR. There was a lot of miss-information out there, no where to go for help, and the marketing for meat goats was left to either selling them off your place or taking them to auction. Our mission is to promote and expand the meat goat industry, on a local level, through education, cooperative marketing, presentations, shows and networking using honest and fair trading. We welcome and encourage new members with introduction and training seminars in meat goat husbandry.

At the first organizational meeting in November 21, 2002, we had 18 people attend and 14 of them became Charter

members. We officially began January 01, 2003, filed for and obtained our non-profit status, wrote our by-laws and generally got all our paperwork together. We could envision perhaps 25 of us sitting around a table every other month talking about meat goats. That idea changed rapidly over the next year.

Today Oregon Meat Goat Producers has over 400 members in six states. We have divided our membership into 17 areas, each has an area representative that is responsible for organizing area meetings and being available to field phone calls from members in his/her area. Area meetings are centered around education and marketing. Most areas also have a member that organizes marketing, usu-

ally forming the areas shipping pools or other marketing schemes.

Twice a year the association sponsors pen sales, one in Milton-Freewater, OR in the summer and one in Redmond, OR in the fall. This is a chance for all members to get together to buy and sell meat goats in a central locality. This year we sponsored a USBGA Show in Cottage Grove, OR and hope that it will become an annual event.

Our monthly newsletter always contains an educational article, marketing report, calendar of events and member and commercial ads. For more information about OMGP, call 541-430-4003, www.omgp.org, herdmaster@omgp.org; we can help you be successful meat goat producers. ☛

Purchasing “Bottle Babies” as pets for New Owners

Most people have heard that you must raise your baby goat from a bottle in order for them to be friendly and personable. The truth is that most Pygmy Kid Goats are very curious and are friendly at an early age if they have been socialized and handled regularly by the breeder or owner.

A true “Bottle Baby” just sees the bottle and does not really care who or what is attached to the nipple. I have raised many kids; some by bottle feeding and others by just picking them up and loving on them between their feedings from their dam (mom.)

I have found that it is really the young goat’s personality... some want attention and love to be held and others quickly out grow the need for a bottle and only want to see you if you have feed in the bucket. I have many that have never been bottle-fed that are nicer than some that were bottle-fed.

If time is spent with the newborn kids at an early age they become socialized and are like a new puppy, you can

handle them and love them and they respond with affection.

Many people that were given or sold newborns as “Bottle Babies” develop problems. The young kids can die several days/weeks later if not properly handled. New owners usually do not know how to start the kid on a bottle and sometimes the kids will not accept a bottle after they have been taken off their Dam (mom.)

Newborns need special care, worming & vaccination schedules and time with other goats to learn to eat and graze. Most people do not realize that young herd animals learn eating/drinking behavior from their Dam and/or older animals.

Bottle babies are sometimes the hardest to get to eat and drink on their own from a feed/water dish or bucket. All they want is a bottle and this can cause growth problems if they do not start eating and foraging. There is a fine line when you start cutting back on the number of bottles and the amount of milk that the older kid gets each day.

If they are not eating solid foods along

with the milk by the age of 6-8 weeks, then you may have some problems. Kids must eat and drink on their own; the bottle at this age should be extra nutrition, not the only nutrition! Most kids, even nursing on their Dams, are eating on their own by this age.

Many people do not offer fresh grass, hay or pellets to their bottle babies because they think all they need is a bottle until they get older. Grass, hay, pellets and water should be available at all times to your new bottle baby. Kids are curious and put everything in their mouth. This is how they learn and start sampling foods. They may not be able to eat at 1-3 weeks of age, but they will sample and play with the pellets, hay and water when they get hungry between bottles. This is how they will learn to eat on their own and learn to graze. Just be careful to place small shallow bowls down for the water so the kids do not fall into the bucket and drown.

One of the most important things is to allow your bottle baby to be outside in a secure area for several hours during the day. This allows him to learn and

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develop his eating habits by grazing and browsing on grass and leaves from the yard or pasture and helps him learn to be independent. Even goat moms leave their kids in a safe place and walk out into pastures or fields to graze during the day for several hours. Keeping bottle babies inside and not allowing them to move around and learn to graze can be detrimental to his digestive health and nutritional needs. Goats must move and graze to develop and maintain healthy stomachs and digestive systems.

Beware if you decide to purchase a newborn "Bottle Baby."

Many people will take newborn kids away from their dam just to have a "Bottle Baby" to sell. I only have "Bottle Babies" when the Dam dies during kidding problems or if she has too many kids and she refuses to nurse one or more of the babies. Many problems can occur with a new owner trying to raise a newborn bottle baby.

Possible Problems:

- Newborns MUST get colostrum from the Dam's milk within the first 12 hours (after 24 hrs kid's system is unable to absorb the large proteins.) This insures proper immunity from many diseases;

and kids can die up to a week or two later from complications if not given colostrum.

- Baby Goats need goat milk or goat milk replacer. Sometimes feeding kids cow milk can upset their stomachs. Goat milk has smaller proteins than cow's milk. This is why many people use it for other animals and people who have digestive problems. Milk Replacer is balance for the needs of baby goats. Feed as directed on label. Most milk replacer powders can be purchased at your local feed store and the powder last for long periods so you will always have some on hand when needed.

- "Bottle Babies" can be dependent on the bottle and not learn to eat/drink on their own. This can be deadly and cause serious health problems from dehydration or urinary tract infections.

- Some kids can get diarrhea changing too fast from the bottle to feed & grass. This can also be deadly, remember a kid can dehydrate within hours.

- Kids can get internal parasites or even coccidia at an early age even if they are just on a bottle. Baby goats put everything in their mouth, so they can easily pick up worms or coccidia. These organisms can be

deadly to a small body so scheduled wormings are a must with a safe product for kids. Have a medicated (for coccidia) pellet feed out at all times for kids to sample.

Baby goats do not have the live bacteria that help them digest grains, hays and grasses like adult goats. They are just developing their stomachs and need an added boost to help their little digestive systems start. Sometimes they can develop diarrhea from changing to solid foods too fast. There are several products on the market today that supply these vital microorganisms that help develop the young goats digestive system.

Most products can be purchased at your local feed store or cooperative. Probiotics & Fasttrack are some name-brand products of live bacteria that come in a paste. Placing a small pea-size amount on your finger and then in the kid's mouth once a week will help inoculate the bottle baby's digestive system with these much needed organisms. Probiotic products are also good to have on hand in times of stress or illness. 🐐

Article courtesy: Joy L. Rogerson, BS Animal Science, Texas A & M, "Class of 2003" (254) 723-4940
 P O Box 66, Reagan, TX 76680
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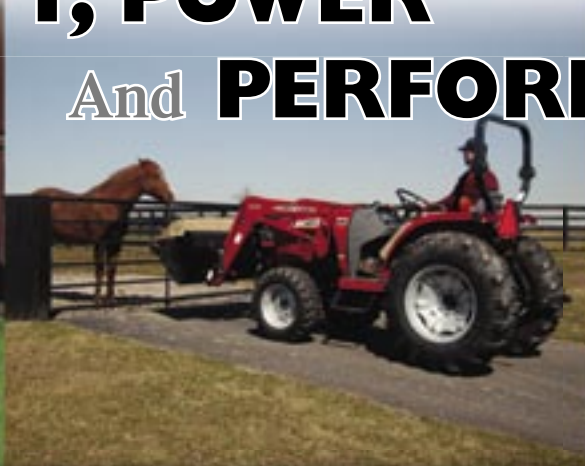
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