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National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals Returns To Winnemucca, Nevada



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Ahren Benjamin Barnard

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 Hair Color: Brown Weight: 200 lbs.
 Eye Color: Brown Race: White

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Ahren was last seen around 7 p.m. on December 4, 2004. He was wearing blue jeans and a brown suede leather jacket. His mother is offering a reward for the location of her son. If you have knowledge of his whereabouts, please call the following:

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On The Cover

Miki Moto photo courtesy of Green Heritage Ranch. Inset photo courtesy of Highland Cattle Association.

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)

Western Farm, Ranch & Dairy Magazine

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National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals returns to Winnemucca, Nevada!

More than 350 contestants and their families will be heading to north-central Nevada when Winnemucca again hosts the 2006 Senior National Finals Rodeo, November 1-4. The

National Senior Pro Rodeo Association (NSPRA) contestants compete all year long for more than \$1 million in prize money and awards and the chance to be called "World Champion".

Imagine being over 50 and roping a calf in a time of 9.2 seconds. Cliff Keller from Fairview, UT did just that this year. What about 43 year-old Ross Murrow from Pasco, WA who earlier this year threw his steer in a time of 4.5? Then there are the team ropers—Travis Bard and John MacKenzie from Arizona who roped their steer in 5.9 seconds. This is all just a small part of the excitement the Senior National Finals Rodeo has to offer!

Changes in the format for this year's final will also increase the excitement for contestants and spectators alike. This year, for the first time at the SNFR, spectators will get to see the race for the title of World Champion unfold before their eyes each night. The top four contestants in each timed event will be competing each night, allowing the spectators to closely follow the race for the title of World Champion. Of course, there will also be the top 15 Bull Riders, Saddle Bronc Riders, Bareback Riders, and top 20 Steer Wrestlers in age groups 40-50 and 50+. Timed events will include Calf Roping, Ladies Barrel Racing, Team Roping, and Ribbon Roping with age groups 40-50, 50-60 and 60+, with a special 68+ category in Calf Roping and Ladies Break-away.



World famous announcer, Don Jesser, from Twin Falls, ID will be announcing this year's SNFR and vendors from all over the west will be set up with a wide

variety of items for sale during the week.

For more information on the 2006 Senior National Finals Rodeo, please contact the NSPRA National Office at 406-375-1400 or toll free at 866-831-5432. You can also email at info@seniorrodeo.com or visit the website at www.seniorrodeo.com. 🤠



Jim McIntyre "Fotos From"

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November 1-4, 2006
7:00 p.m. each night

Winnemucca Events Center
Winnemucca, Nevada

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Printed By

Idaho Press-Tribune, Nampa, ID

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ZERO TOYS, INC.

Zero Toys, Inc., in the best tradition of realizing ideas and inventions and bringing them to life in the marketplace, has developed a family of fun, cool, vapor toys. Now going into their fourth year, two brothers, Alan and Joel Aronie, started 'just messing around one night'. By the next day, they had a prototype of the classic Zero Blaster, which now comes in translucent blue, red, purple and opaque silver. The Zero Blaster (and Launcher) loft 2-4 "diameter vapor rings, that sail up to 10 feet away. The Zero Launcher is the equally capable non-gun version, using the same fog chamber. It's for the people who don't want anything resembling a gun.

The third member of the family is the keychain version of the blaster, very cute, also in the original colors, which makes cheerio size rings that sail up to a couple of feet. Next is the Wizard Stick, a special effects toy, for lots of fun games and tricks. There's also a Deluxe version of the Wizard Stick which includes 3 scary collectible heads. Last but not least is the Mighty Blaster, the big little brother of the Zero Toys family, which emits extra big rings (8" - 12" diameter) that sail up to 25 feet. It uses a detachable Wizard Stick as its vapor / non-toxic smoke producer.

Central to the Zero Toys family of vapor toys is their patented vapor generator, which vaporizes non-toxic water-based Super Zero Fog Fluid when it is pumped past this generator. This is what makes the vapor rings or toroids. The science behind this toy is central to the understanding of phenomena such as tornadoes, whirlpools and the like; and an explanation of "Fog Ring Physics" is included with each Zero toy.



But the real deal with these toys is not so complicated. They are simply fun. Of all the toys given during Christmas, they are usually the ones the kids keep on using and keep having fun with. We have received scores of testimonials that say just that. "You've just made babysitting really easy." "Thanks, Zero. My kids love these toys!!" "These toys are really fun. Everybody in the office has one!!" "Very cool toys!!" **VISIT US TODAY!!**

See the Zero Toys family of toys, plus a host of other very cool toys on the company website: www.zerotoys.com Order on-line or call us up. We are friendly folk. Two numbers for Zero Toys: toll-free 866-937-6869 Alt tel: 978-371-3378

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agriculture

New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranches Helping Children for 60 Years Without Government Funding



By Mike Kull

The state of New Mexico and the West are known for many things. At the mention of the name some think of the majestic beauty of the landscape while others remember our magnificent art and cultural diversity. No description would be complete without mention of the wonderful people who love this land and make their home here. These same people should be famous for something else - their amazing generosity. Let me explain...

The New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranches (The Ranches) have been providing meaningful help to children and families for almost 60 years. What is so unusual about that you ask? There are programs for children scattered throughout this country.

The thing that makes The Ranches unique is the fact that we have done this without the sponsorship of a national organization or denomination, and without accepting government funding. We like to think that rugged self reliance is still alive and well in this part of the country. In fact, many of the people who

live here don't seem to find this all that unusual. They seem to think this is the way it has always been and this is the way it is suppose to be. What very few of them know is that for years, people have traveled to The Ranches to see this unique phenomenon for themselves. Some have even tried to recreate it back in their home states. Unfortunately, I currently do not know of anyone who has succeeded. They eventually give up and start accepting government payments or sponsorship from a national organization, which brings me back to the uniqueness of the people who love the West.

Over the past 60 years. The Ranches have grown from a single Boys Ranch south of Belen, NM, to five separate but interrelated programs that are scattered throughout the state. In addition to Boys Ranch there is Girls Ranch near Santa Fe; Pippin Ranch near Clovis; Families for Children, our adoption and foster care program; and The New Mexico Family Connection, our family intervention and therapy program. Both of

the latter are in Albuquerque.

Both Boys and Girls Ranch have schools on campus that have been specifically designed to get kids who are way behind their peers in school back to grade level. The children respond well to being involved with animals and a country lifestyle.

The people of New Mexico and surrounding states have donated enough to build all of these programs and provide their daily operating costs since 1944. We actually have donors who got involved when they lived in the West and have continued their support after moving somewhere else. They often tell me that a part of their heart will always be here.

Even though we are proud of what has been accomplished, we have some great plans to do more in the future. Since we do not believe in debt and do not want to take government funding, the only way this can happen is if more Americans catch the vision.

If you have a desire to really make a difference in the lives of children, consider joining us in this unique partnership. Your donations do not have to be large. Hundreds of our donors can only send a few dollars each month, but because of their numbers their collective impact is huge. Please join us. There is nothing better than knowing that you are making a life changing difference for a child or young person. People tell us all the time that it makes their lives so meaningful.

Tours are available at all of our facilities. For additional information please visit our web site at www.theranches.org or contact us at 1-800-660-0289.

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- 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.

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Colorado Agricultural Development Authority

The Colorado Agricultural Development Authority (CADA) has just completed its 293rd Beginning Farmer Loan. Since the start of the Beginning Farmer program in 1989 over 40 million dollars in tax exempt bonds have been issued for this purpose. So far in 2006, 7 Beginning Farmer Loans for \$1.1 million have been completed.

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cannot currently own more than 30% of the median county farm size where they reside or own land valued in excess of \$125,000. Individuals interested in this program should have the education and experience necessary to help assure their success in farming or ranching.

For more information in the program contact CADA at 303.815.9543 or visit the Colorado Department of Agriculture's web site at www.coloradoagriculture.com. ☛

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MISSING FROM BOISE, IDAHO

Ahren Benjamin Barnard
Disappeared 12-04-04

I am writing to my friends and acquaintances in Boise, Idaho, as well as around the U.S., to ask for your assistance. My adult son has disappeared without a trace of evidence as to his whereabouts. There are a number of suspicious elements relating to his disappearance, and he is listed on the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) as an Endangered Missing Person. Please, if you know anything of his disappearance, contact me (vicki503@verizon.net) or Sgt. Mark Barnett at the Boise Police Department (mbarnett@cityofboise.org).

I lived in Idaho for 19 years and my son has lived there nearly all of his life. In his 36 years, he has met many people and made many friends. Perhaps you are one of those people. I ask you now to please help me find him or uncover those who did him harm. Please report anything you know about this case. For more information on Ahren's disappearance, as well as pictures of him, you can visit his website at www.helpfindahren.com.

Please, please pass this on to as many people as you can, asking them to do the same. If all of you will forward this to your friends and associates, especially those in Idaho, we can reach millions. It only takes one person to come forward with the truth. It has been twenty months since he disappeared -- please help me find him.

My sincere thanks for your help,

Vicki Barnard

vicki503@verizon.net

Mother of Missing Ahren Barnard

Got Pivots?

Then you already know the challenge of keeping your irrigation on schedule for maximum profit. More than ever, high-energy costs make pivot management a critical task. In the early 90's Jerry Abts was selling a sophisticated and expensive remote monitoring and control system for center pivots; but most irrigators declined and simply asked, "what'a'ya got that will just tell me if my pivots are on?" The answer came in 1995 when Abts founded Pivotrak.com and



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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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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

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Kuhns Mfg.

“No Hydraulics or Electronics”

In the summer of 2002, Kenny Kuhns, a hay farmer in northeastern Ohio, decided he needed a more efficient way to handle hay. With small hobby farmers composing most of his customer base, he couldn't switch to large square or round bales. But with several hundred acres of hay, most of it far from his barns, he needed a mechanical handling system.

Kuhns had tried a hay accumulator, a machine designed to leave bales in groups throughout the field. A specially designed grapple moved these groups of bales wherever they needed to go. This worked well enough under the right conditions, but constant rain, uneven fields, and the occasional ill-formed bale made

the right conditions a rarity. These complaints convinced Kuhns that he needed something better, but none of the other available designs really fit his needs. With constant rain keeping him out of the fields, Kuhns decided to use his time to design his own accumulator.

Kuhns started by making a list of necessary features. His machine had to be simple (no hydraulics or electronics), fully automatic, and adaptable to all conditions, including muddy fields, stubble, and unevenly sized bales. He also wanted the bales to be on edge for better curing, since hay for horses must cure almost perfectly to avoid forming dust.

By August of 2002, the first model was

ready to test. It had several completely new features, most notably a twisted chute to get the bales on edge, and a raised platform that used gravity to sort the bales. Though the first test failed—the machine was too narrow to allow bales to slide easily—it came close enough to convince Kuhns that his concept could work. He set to work tweaking the design, removing one glitch after another. Finally, after three years of tweaking, he had a product that fit all of his criteria. With a patent pending on the design, he went into full production under the name Kuhns Mfg. LLC. Having already exceeded his production goal for the year, he is now grateful for the “ruinous” rains of 2002. 🌩

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Woodward Harding of Hamden, Ct. has been granted two patents for a landscaping tool that combines a plow blade and hydraulically controlled horizontal pivoting rake-tines allowing for quick, efficient, cost effective plowing and raking of materials such as soil, gravel, wood chips and snow.

The PLOWRAKE™ has a robust overall design that is meant for heavy use and features a patented self-cleaning hinge mechanism which expels rather than binds foreign materials within the hinge. This patent hinge design assures continuous and unhindered use regardless of what material is being worked.

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with less time and effort than with conventional plows. This significant time savings (40% or more) equates to increased profit generation in commercial applications and substantial labor savings in private use. The PLOWRAKE™ eliminates the need for awkward, inefficient and time-consuming backblading. Mr. Harding has enlisted the Kes-

sler Corporation of Freemont, Ohio in assisting with the marketing of the PLOWRAKE™ to manufacturing firms interested in licensing, production and sales agreements world-wide..

Photographs and PLOWRAKE™ video/DVD available upon request.

Please visit www.PLOWRAKE.com for additional information. 📧



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ing used by some multi processor manufactures. We stopped and decided that in order to sell and have a machine that had a long and trouble free life we needed to build it all together as a unit (rather than put several ideas together and work around each one). We have tried to keep everything simple with less working parts that are standard and can be obtained from a local machine shop or Ag supplier. To load the bales on our bale mover/processor there are 2 cylinders that tip the loading rails. A hydraulic motor runs the loading chains. The tractor and chains on the mover should run at nearly the same speed to load. The first of six bales will be in the processor when the loading rails are lowered to transport position. Each time the rails need to be lifted enough to move another bale forward and into the processor, bales are never rolled or tumbled until the processor rollers are turned on. The processor has a rotor in the center bottom that chops the hay and throws it out the left side. We feel with the left hand discharge you are eliminating several moving parts due to the direction of the tractors PTO.

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Loomis Tank Centers is about to celebrate 100 years as the successful offspring of a century-old tradition: The Loomis family business.

The story behind the Loomis family follows a tradition of quality products, excellent service and competitive prices. Dan Loomis, the current president of Loomis



Tank Centers, perpetuates the values of his great-grandfather, E.C. Loomis.

In 1905, E.C. Loomis worked as a grain and hay broker on the Central Coast of California in the small town of Arroyo Grande. His sons later joined the business, creating

E.C. Loomis & Sons Feed.

Over the years, their business progressed to a feed mill with several retail locations, the development of Loomix liquid feed supplements, and later, the manufacture of fiberglass troughs and tanks.

Dan Loomis joined Loomix, Inc. in 1981, starting in service and, later, moving up to regional sales manager. When the business sold in 1991, Dan purchased the fiberglass division, which included polyethylene water and chemical storage tanks. The new company was named Loomis Tank Centers, which now has five retail locations, 70 nationwide distributors and over 40 manufacturing points.

"I'm very proud of the Loomis family history as we near our 100th year anniversary in business," said Dan Loomis. "I feel very privileged to carry on the longstanding tradition of serving our customers' needs. I've learned from my family's business philosophy that nothing is more important than customer service. I believe that our re-



lationship with our customers is the key to our success."

Loomis Tank Centers is a wholesale and retail distributor of polyethylene and fiberglass tanks for the storage and transportation of water and the bulk storage and transportation of chemicals and fertilizers. They also feature fiberglass, two lines of polyethylene septic tanks and the Infiltrator leach field system. Open-top fiberglass and polyethylene water troughs are also available.

In addition to Loomis Tank Centers' five company-owned stores in California, they have a nationwide network of 70 independent distributors and over 40 manufacturing points. Delivery is available to any location.

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beef – dairy

Hereford Leaders Travel to Argentina; Plan for Pan-American Evaluation

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Jack Holden, American Hereford Association (AHA) president, and Jack Ward, AHA chief operating officer and director of breed improvement, traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, in late July to further the development of a Pan-American Hereford genetic analysis.

By consistently evaluating North and South American Hereford genetics, Hereford breeders and their customers in each country would be able to fairly compare the two. Holden says the target date for this consistent evaluation is next fall, when the AHA traditionally updates their expected progeny differences (EPDs). The AHA's ultimate goal is a universal global evaluation.

The Argentine Hereford Society facilitated the Pan-American genetic analysis discussion in conjunction with the Palermo National Show in Buenos Aires. The event was well attended with breeders from both Argentina and Uruguay.

Holden and Ward not only talked about genetic analysis, but also shared information about other performance matters and AHA programs. They emphasized the importance of whole-herd reporting and ultrasound, and explained the AHA's Non-Certificate AI Sire Program and \$Profit Indexes. The floor was then opened for a question-and-answer session.

Ward had an additional agenda while in Buenos Aires. He judged the Palermo Hereford heifer and bull shows. In September, Ward will travel to South America again to serve as a Hereford judge in the Prado show in Uruguay and to continue the genetic analysis discussions.

"The AHA wants to learn how to most effectively utilize data in both countries, and eventually throughout the world, to best market Hereford genetics across the globe," Ward says.

For more information on Hereford performance matters, contact Ward at (816) 842-3757 or jward@hereford.org.



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Photo by Angie Stump Denton, Hereford World

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To take things one step further, the AHA and CHB LLC introduced Hereford Verified in August 2005. This traceable program for Hereford-influenced calves provides further bonuses and free data on cattle that meet CHB



Photo by Melissa Leander, Hereford World requirements, without the risk of retained ownership.

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For more information about the Hereford breed, AHA, CHB LLC or Hereford Verified, visit www.hereford.org or call (816) 842-3757. 🐾

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Highland Cattle

by Gary Hart

Have you seen these long haired and horned animals that look like cows and wondered what they really are? Well, they really are a beef breed of cattle called “Highlands” or perhaps you may have heard of them as the Scottish Highland breed.

Highlands are an ancient beef breed that has lived and thrived for centuries in the harsh climates of Scotland. Highlands are considered the oldest registered cattle breed on record, with the first official herdbook established in the United Kingdom in 1884.



Highlands were first imported into the United States and Canada around 100 years ago. Initially, they went primarily to the harsh mid-West ranges, and were often used for crossing with other breeds and the beef calves were sold into the commercial market. The breed is quite adaptable to a variety of climates and Highland herds are now found in 48 of our 50 states and across the Provinces of Canada.

Highlands are thickset and primitive looking animals with long sweeping horns and hair protecting the eyes. Despite all this, many people consider them “cute” and the calves are quite adorable with their shaggy hair protecting them from the harshest weather. Many people fall in love with the appearance of the breed and consider them “pets” and they are ideal in small farm situations because they do not need a barn for protection. Despite their horns and fierce appearance, Highlands are normally quite docile and calm, including bulls, and are frequently handled by children.

An attribute that makes the breed popular with their owners is longevity. Many cows have continued producing calves to the age of 18 or 19 and could probably continue beyond except their owners decide to let them “retire” to leisure. Like all cattle, longevity is more than fertility and the Highlands are known for good feet and legs that contribute to their extended productive life. Udders are generally smaller than other breeds because of lower milk production, but its richness allows the calves to grow rapidly.

Another desirable attribute is their rather light birth weight, with the average calf weighing well under 70 pounds. This lower birth weight results in less birthing problems, especially important with first calf heifers, and a high percentage of live births. The mothers may be protective for the first few days but are normally quite mellow after that. They are well equipped to defend their young, and will often work together, to defeat range predators. The low birth weight attribute makes these animals ideal for using Highland bulls on young first calf heifers of other breeds. Semen from quality bulls is becoming readily available for ranchers to use in AI programs in commercial herds.



While most cattle require good pasture, and feed supplements or expensive grains to achieve and maintain good body condition, Highlands are very efficient at converting ordinary grass and can thrive and support their calves without supplemental feed. The breed has the well-deserved reputation of being a browser because of the environment they evolved from and they will often spend time munching available brush in addition to the normal grass

forage diet.

Evolving in a harsh environment has resulted this breed being insulated by a thick skin and a long double hair coat (a soft undercoat and a coarser long hair layer to shed the rain), rather than the thick layer of fat other breeds need to retain body heat in the winter. This reduced back fat results in less wastage at processing time and purebred



Highlands and Highland crossbreeds grade out very well against other breeds in carcass competitions.

The best reason for raising Highlands is the superb healthy meat they produce. Laboratory tests in the United States and in England have shown that grass finished Highland beef is substantially lower in fat and cholesterol, yet is well marbled, when compared to the products found in your supermarkets.

The volume of Highland beef being produced today is not large enough to have an established national branded market. The American Highland Cattle Association (AHCA) has established voluntary production standards under its Quality Highland Beef label. This program is a contractual obligation that requires the producers to certify to certain standards in the raising and finishing of the animals they market using the QHB logo.

Most breeders sell to family and friends by word of mouth, and through farm websites on the internet. Highlands are mostly marketed as a natural, farm raised, product where the consumer knows how the animals were raised and harvested. In this market, farm raised and harvested Highland beef commands a significant premium over other beef breeds and high customer loyalty. A few breeders across the country have developed viable and profitable markets for their beef with fine restaurants and high-end resorts, with their beef selling for a premium price.

The integrity of the purebred Highland breed in the U.S. is maintained through standards administered by AHCA and there is no "breeding up" of the breed. There are several regional associations across the country and they actively promote the breed. The regional associations have established a number of shows across the country for displaying their breeding stock in conformation competitions where the breed is judged to normal beef standards. The

largest show is at the National Western Stock Show where the breed regularly displays over 200 animals. There are also many county Fairs and Highland Games festivals where the breed is displayed and these are great venues for local breeders to market their animals and other products.

The adaptability of the breed has resulted in the breed being widely distributed and concentrations can be found in South America, Australia and New Zealand, a number of European countries, and there is a significant concentration of animals in Canada.

The 2nd International Gathering was held in Sheridan, WY in June of this year. The event coupled AHCA's annual national convention with a gathering of breeders from across the globe. There were devoted breeders from eight other countries attending and sharing the progress of the breed in their countries. Of course, Scotland and England continue to have many breeders and the meat is highly sought after in their markets. The Royal family maintains a herd at Balmoral Castle and it is the dinner beef of choice for the Royal family.

You can find more about the history and attributes of the Highland breed at the AHCA website www.highlandcattleusa.org. The site has a complete member list to facilitate finding a breeder near you and has a downloadable Highland Breeders Guide with discussions on many aspects of the breed. If you would like more information on the breed, contact AHCA at (303) 292-9102 or send a note to info@highlandcattleusa.org. 🍷



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Tasco® is a marine plant-derived feed ingredient made from pure *Ascophyllum nodosum* harvested from Canada's cold, clean North Atlantic coastline. Tasco® is an all natural feed ingredient generally regarded as safe (GRAS) in animal feeds. There are no withdrawal times and it is legal to feed in all classes of livestock including lactating dairy cows. Tasco® is backed by more than 15 years of research data that shows feeding Tasco® to livestock can improve production and producer profitability.

Heat Stress causes several production challenges to dairy producers. It is a well known fact that energy requirements increase for a dairy cow during times of heat stress (thermoregulation). Dairy cows under this stress condition experience a number of negative and expensive production problems that can include: reduced dry matter intake (causing digestive disorders), calving problems, decrease milk production and reproductive challenges.

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

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

reproductive advantages and finally milk production held when compared to Controls.

Replicated trials have shown that for best results, Tasco® should be introduced a month prior to any heat stress period. Producers like Tasco®'s ease of use. It can be easily incorporated at

50 grams/head/day, into total mixed rations, pelleted complete rations or supplements.

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

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Many dairy producers report minimal loss of dry matter intake and milk production when feeding Tasco® in the TMR during heat stress. A heat chamber study writes that animals consuming Tasco® have reduced body temperatures.

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

BioRemedies, LLC
Tel: 888.537.1533
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MILK PRODUCTION (lb/lb/d) OF HEAT STRESSED DAIRY COWS FED TASCO®

Group	Milk Production (lb/lb/d)
CONTROL	~23.5
TASCO®	~26.5

MILK PROTEIN (%) OF HEAT STRESSED DAIRY COWS FED TASCO®

Group	Milk Protein (%)
CONTROL	~3.05
TASCO®	~3.25

Stats were analyzed by treatment. Cows fed Tasco® produced more milk (3.86% increase) and milk protein (3.17%) than control. Feeding Tasco® increased total pounds of milk in lbs and lactose.

equine

Miracles Do Happen, a testimonial by Rachel Hawes...

I had always been told that if I found my mare it would be from a phone call received out of the blue. Though I had always hoped this would be the truth, believing it would be the hard part. Almost two years later, on Tuesday June 20th I received that phone call. The man on the phone started off by telling me he thought he had my horse. Previous disappointments had taught me not to get excited. He lived in Vale, Oregon and said that he had seen my ad in the "Western Farm Ranch and Dairy Magazine."



Back in April of 2005 Chuck Paterson, of the "Western Farm Ranch and Dairy Magazine," contacted me because he had seen my flyer. Chuck really felt like he could do something to help. He ran a free colored ad. The first ad came out in their April issue. Admittedly by then my hopes of finding my horse had started waning. About four months later Chuck called back again and asked if I'd found my mare. I remember feeling



ashamed at myself for not being more excited to receive his assistance and amazed at his persistence to continue helping. I had given up looking. A year and a half of searching with countless ads, flyers, phone calls, and emails to no avail had caused me to give up searching. Chuck wanted to give it one more try, so he ran my ad again in the Fall/Winter 2005 issue.

To me the amazing part of my story is the chance that someone would see an ad in a six-month old issue and recognize that it might be my stolen mare. Somehow one of my flyers made it to Chuck's sight, and if he had never contacted me with an offer to help, my mare would not be home with me right now. I am often asked how it feels to have her home. My word choice is usually "great, or wonderful," but how can I possibly explain the comforting peace of mind I now have. Being able to feed her every morning and evening, to listen to her nickers, and not having to worry if she is being cared for, abused, or loved is a great relief. A huge load has been lifted off my mind because of the generosity provided by the "Western Farm Ranch and Dairy Magazine." 🐾

FOR THE LOVE OF GYPSY'S

Do you want to own the perfect horse - - beautiful & gentle? Well, so did I. Being a new horse owner I was drawn to the breed of the Gypsy Vanner after reading an article of how sweet & gentle they are - - not to mention gorgeous!

Once I went to meet them it was all over - I had to own one. Now our mare has had a filly and she is so sweet & gentle (& social) - - she's like an oversized dog.

There is a reason for their gentle nature. The Gypsy's use them in their circus' and thereby have their children running to & fro. If they ever had an aggressive horse, they had it put down - hence breeding OUT the aggressive nature.

They originated in the UK and have only been here in the United States for about 8 years thanks to 2 men who began

importing them. That process is long and very expensive so it is much easier to purchase one here once it's gone thru quarantine, etc. Or better yet, a foal who's been born here.

You know in the U.S., us Americans - we love our pets. But horse people - we REALLY LOVE our horses!

Well, these Gypsy's are ones you can love & who will love you back. My husband wasn't so keen on getting horses but these have won him over bit 'n bridle with their affection.

We have a baby due in March, 2007 whose sire is an awesome looking fellow standing in Florida. If you are interested, please call us at the Green Heritage Ranch at 832-334-2363 or 281-516-7367 and ask for Dennis or Ginger.

Next time you see the horse treats Luck & Love at the feed store think of us. The Gypsy Vanner is actually the horse on that box! Happy Trails! 🐾



16 Goodman Rd., Gwinn, MI 49841

Victoria Jenea - Owner

(906) 235-4780

ravhawran@aol.com • www.ravenhawkranh.com

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STI Safety Breakaway Stirrups

By: Becky McCoy

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

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

away when the stirrup makes a drastic enough angle with the stirrup leather; it won't break when it's not supposed to. From personal experience, the stirrup breaks right before you hit the ground. After dusting yourself off and picking up the stirrup, you just re-cock it, set it back in your leathers and hop back on.

My dad, Mike McCoy, was one of those old cowboys that had an idea. He knew the inherent danger of riding but it didn't bother him until he had us kids riding through the hills. We grew up riding these stirrups and know they aren't just for kids. They are for any person, cowboy, trail rider, competitor who puts their foot in a stirrup. A little added insurance to help your guardian angel. The hardest part about the stirrup is that every time there is a dragging we seem to hear about it. Someone sends us a news clipping or writes a letter telling us about someone's little girl or someone else's father. The pain of losing



someone you love is too great to let your foolish pride hold you back from riding with us. You can reach STI toll-free at 1-888-308-0848, or on the web at www.breakawaystirrups.com ☛

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Why Buy Gypsy Horses?

Gypsy horses' owners will tell you the same thing: few breeds can boast such a winning combination of qualities as Gypsy horses do. If you are new to the breed, you will quickly discover that Gypsy horses are extremely intelligent and learn quickly. Besides being easy to train, they are exceedingly handsome animals. They have wonderful personalities. And they love being around people!

Best of all, these high-quality Gypsy horses are very affordable. We breed our stock of Gypsy horses using our own broodmares, with stallions that have established Gypsy bloodlines, to produce beautiful fillies & colts — which are for sale.

Gypsy horses sold at Blarney Stone Acres are purchased from private Romany families in England who have been breeding these Gypsy horses for generations. Working strictly within

established family lines, we have made it our goal to maintain the quality and proper lineage of the Gypsy (or "Romany,") horse. At Blarney Stone Acres, we breed with equal emphasis on the conformation, movement, and temperament that are the hallmark of an outstanding Gypsy horse.

Our Website, www.blarneystoneacres.com is full of information about Gypsy horses, so feel free to browse. If you would like to learn more, or if you are interested in purchasing one of our Gypsy horse foals, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Our farm is located on 8 beautiful acres in a lush, green corner of northern New Jersey. With a mix of woodland and paddocks, there are plenty of turnouts for our Gypsy horses to graze. The animals are housed in a spacious, well-lit, 12-stall barn that can only be described as state-of-the-art, with hot and cold running water,

special birthing stalls, and even a heated floor. This makes this a perfect facility for breeding these fine Gypsy horses. There are both indoor and outdoor arenas, so the Gypsy horses can be worked year-round. In addition, we often use outside trainers that are available for on-site consultation.

Blarney Stone Acres is a private facility, open for visits by interested buyers by appointment only.

Keeping with this heritage, we continue to breed established linebred horses, culling where necessary. We use only Gypsy horses with original foundation bloodlines and history, which decreases the likelihood of passing along genetic defects and other undesirable traits. Thus, with the true blood stock that we have acquired, we are able to maintain the strong foundation that has already been laid by past Gypsy horse breeders. 🐾

Blarney Stone Acres

Consistency in:



Conformation



Movement



Temperament

*Lise McNamara : Owner
(973) 650-0304*

www.blarneystoneacres.com

alpaca - llama

Picket Fence Alpacas LLC

Picket Fence Alpacas LLC started as a business after I saw a commercial on TV and did research on the internet. Dave was not convinced so I had two years of research and several ranch visits ahead. We visited a ranch we found in our area through a person at work. Our first touch of an alpaca at our first ranch visit was amazing! She was only 2 weeks old and true black and her name was Crystal. We continued our research and found the money to make our first purchase at the first seminar we attended. We purchased a 7 month old light fawn male. We went backwards because that was all the money we had and we did not want to finance our way into the business. Once we purchased our first alpaca the research continued with feeding, health and herd management, and business management. We boarded Lehi the first year until we bought land of our own. Once we had our own land we began to purchase females after having our business plan in place.

This was our first year of having crias born on property and it was a wonderful year for us! We had 4 females and 2 males born this year. The bloodlines included on our ranch are Timoteo, Silversmith, Felix, Hemingway, Schwartzkopf, and Dom Lucilio. We have numerous colors to choose from ranging from white to true black and ages from juveniles to 10 year old females. Our herdsires colors are true black, medium fawn, and a paint with medium brown, black and white. This lifestyle is exactly what we have looked for in preparation for when we retire. Right now we pull full time jobs and ranch full time with alpacas



and love every minute we spend with the animals. The people in this industry are so friendly and helpful we love

to spend time just talking and getting to know them and making new friends! 🐼

Picket Fence Alpacas

Marcella and David Bryant

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Welcome to Sack Race Ranch...

Welcome to Sack Race Ranch where history has been made and continues to be created- Our ranch located in Mason Valley at Historic Wabuska Nevada is experiencing many changes thanks to Alpaca's.

After not being worked for 40 years we had to start from scratch. We build our pens with growth in mind and started with a Circular shed (it still gathers attention). Soon after that we brought our first three animals home. They

did not have to stay lonely for long for many others soon followed. My partners and myself now have 24 plus animals, huacaya's in all shades. With the blood lines of Augusto and his son Generator added to Hemingway, Mustachio and Dracula we anticipate many champion cria's.

The team work of Jim and Marti Perry and Patty Scarlett has taken the ranch from 30 acres of bare dirt with a little (700 ft) house to 3 areas under triple fencing, two pastures with barns with

the addition of a new main ranch house. We broke ground on our full service alpaca barn today and are looking forward to it being done before snow.

Our long range goals include continuing to gather champion blood lines and continuing superior breeding standards. We hope to have our online store up by September with a show room at the ranch for quality alpaca products.

So stop by, have a cup of coffee with us, lets explore the old west and talk alpaca's. 🐾

One L lama or two LL llamas?

By Jerry Dunn – Bear Track Farm, Golden, Colorado

Have you ever had the longing to find something to enhance your life and fill it with joy? Try adding llamas or alpacas into your plan. Lamas are used for packing, fiber, 4-H projects, therapy, guard animals for livestock and companion animals.

As you read through this article you will see the use of one "L"lama which indicates the members of the camelid family which includes alpacas, vicuñas, guanacos, and llamas, and two "L" llama which represents the group of ani-



mals called llamas.

Several years ago I was thumbing through a recreational equipment catalogue and came across an advertisement for pack llamas. Immediately, I decided that llamas had to be included in my lifestyle. After twenty-two years of llama ownership, I have never regretted a moment making the decision to have llamas in my life. We pack, drive, show and volunteer for the state park system with the llamas.

Shortly before my discovery a small group of enthusiastic llama owners came together in 1982 in Monument, Colorado to form an organization encouraging more people to become involved with llamas and share in common activities focused around packing with llamas; hence the formation of the Rocky Mountain Llama & Alpaca Organization, making it one of the oldest non-profit llama organizations in the U.S.

Since its conception, RMLA has expanded its mission statement and has become a leader in education and the promotion of sound llamas. The organization sponsors nearly thirty events yearly that include fiber workshops, training clinics, fun youth activities, shows and the Fairplay Llama Race. The organization has also become a leader in the promotion of medical research and the publishing of "Caring for Llamas and Alpacas". Considered as a standard for the llama industry, "Caring for Llamas and Alpacas" offers guidelines in health care and maintenance for everyday care. Other notable and important publications are the RMLA 4-H Manual, the RMLA Journal and a yearly RMLA calendar.

RMLA publishes yearly a service directory which is a "yellow pages" listing services provided by our membership and it is distributed to over 2000

non-RMLA members. Working hand in hand with the membership is our informative RMLA website which posts the latest articles concerning health information, results of research and a calendar of events.



dar of events.

RMLA continues to move forward with the hard work of its volunteers. Volunteers make up a seven member board of directors and head up committees in fiber, the RMLA Library, RMLA Journal, promoting new membership, packing, research, website, 4H/Youth activities. The different committees promote a variety of activities and services for the members as well as interested non-members. Many of our packing enthusiasts regularly volunteer with their llamas for the forest service carrying tools for trail building, maintenance and forest fire litigation.

To obtain more information about llamas and the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association visit our website at rmla.com 🐾

Rocky Mountain Llamas “Adopts a Road”

by: Bobra B. Goldsmith

Several years ago, it occurred to me that we might participate in the local “Adopt a Road” program. On country roads, I observed signs indicating that a business or family had “adopted” a section of road for clean-up. Since our farm was near the middle of a section not signed up for adoption, why shouldn’t we do our share, using our pack llamas to carry the trash bags, and have our farm name posted on signs for our section?

At an orientation, we learned that clean-up has to be done twice annually, and everyone participating must wear a blaze orange vest supplied by the county, which also supplies orange trash bags. The county made no objections to our using llamas.

When all the formalities were fulfilled, the county erected signs at either end of our section of the road saying, “Adopt a Road / Rocky Mountain Llamas / Next 2 Miles.” We alerted the owners of several of our boarding llamas that we had joined the program. All offered enthusiastically to participate, and we planned our first clean-up for a Saturday.

Around 10:00 a.m., our friends assembled. We saddled eight pack llamas, donned blaze-orange vests and put orange trash bags in the llamas’ panniers. We divided the group in half. Each group went to the end of its respective section on one side of the road and returned along the opposite side. We met near



our farm entrance and unloaded the trash bags near our gate where the county picked them up.

On that first clean-up, besides the beer cans and bottles, we found scraps of metal, pieces of plywood, paper, cardboard and other oddities we were able to load in the packs. We kept the panniers carefully balanced. It was leisurely work for the llamas, who browsed on the grass along the way. Since our first outing, we have not found as many large items. The roadsides are much cleaner, and while we do our twice a year clean-up, people driving by wave at us and say “Thank you!” 🌸



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Our llamas are winners in the show ring and on the trail.

Tall Tail Ranch Llamas

Focusing on Excellence in Conformation, Fiber and Performance

Welcome to Tall Tail Ranch, located in beautiful Grand Junction, Colorado, where Llamas, Peafowl and Swans are our passion. Driving our passion for llamas is their incredible Diversity. Our first llamas were purchased with the intention of carrying our



camping gear into the backcountry. It soon became apparent that they were so much more! As we worked with and spent time with our llamas we discovered their wonderful nature and manageability. We love to watch our animals hiking along the trails or maneuvering obstacles with friends of all ages. Llamas also produce exquisite fiber that is compared to the finest fiber in the world, which comes in an incredible array of natural colors and has many uses. Llamas are very clean, easy to care for and are a wonderful addition to any Ranch. Their soothing nature is perfect after a long day.

Tall Tail Ranch is proud to offer Silky and Suri type Llamas bred for excellence in conformation, fiber and performance. Our llama herd of 35 allows us time to provide individual attention to all. Our breeding program focuses the utmost attention on conformation, fiber and disposition, which can be seen in the show ring. Our 2004 and 2005 cria have all been awarded Top Honors in both Halter and Fiber throughout their show careers. Our breeding stock have all earned their ALSA ROM or Championship status in Halter. All of our males, along with some of our females are at various stages of performance and pack training.

Tall Tail Ranch offers Top Quality males for Stud Service. TSX Independence is an awesome Top Flight and

Chilean LeRoy Brown Grandson with outstanding conformation and luxurious fiber, which are both passed on to his cria. "Inde" is a beautiful silver paint with wonderful Silky, Suri lock fiber offering a calm disposition and is an ALSA Champion. Tall Tail's Trinchero, was awarded his ALSA Rom as a juvenile and his ALSA Champion just after turning a year. He earned the honor of Reserve Supreme Champion at the Virginia Christensen Classic held in Reno, Nevada in March of 2006.

Tall Tail Ranch is a full service Llama Ranch offering sales, breeding, on going support in all areas including training and shearing. We offer beautiful, correct and healthy llamas for sale with our ranch guarantee. We also offer llama fiber for sale from the raw fleece, roving or processed in the yarn. Tall Tail Ranch is also home to 7 color types of Peafowl and Black Swans. We offer the following peafowl for sale: India Blue, Black Shoulder, White, Pied, Spalding and Cameo. What an incredible show of color!

Visitors are always welcome, we invite you to share in our enthusiasm for llamas, peafowl and swans. 🐼



Tall Tail Ranch

Quality Llamas
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goat – sheep

THE ROMNEY AS A SIRE AND A DAM BREED

The Romney is truly a versatile breed, as demonstrated by its ability to produce quality meat and wool under diverse climate conditions and management systems. This breed's quiet disposition, unique fleece characteristics, the flavor and quality of its meat, and its lambing percentage make it an excellent choice for purebred, commercial, or crossbred programs. These same characteristics, plus the handspinning qualities of the fleece, also make the breed attractive to the small, or spinners flock.

The Romney's versatility, as a top producer of both meat and wool, has enabled breeders to select for different traits in their breeding programs.

Some emphasize large, long-bodied, fast-growing rams to produce market lambs. Others, who market the early or Easter lambs demanded by specialty markets, may prefer a smaller size.

The range of acceptable spinning counts allows breeders to select for coarser or finer fleeces, or they may choose to

increase overall fleece weights regardless of spinning count. This has enabled the Romney to be adapted to the damp, rainy regions of both coasts, or to the near desert conditions of eastern Washington and Oregon. Numerous flocks boast a lambing rate approaching 200; other breeders, preferring a range-style operation, may not be as concerned with prolificacy.

As a dual purpose breed, a Romney ram contributes several important traits as a sire. Rams begin to reach sexual maturity at six-to-seven months of age, and grow into medium-to-large sheep, weighing 175-to-275 or more pounds as yearlings. A Romney ram can add extra fleece weight to lambs from white-faced or black-faced ewes in a crossbred setting, and in the next generation will help correct the dark fiber found on lambs from black-faced ewes.

The offspring of Romney rams are suited to the dual purposes of lamb and wool production. The ram and wether

lambs grow well from heavy-milking ewes, where weights of 50-to-70 pounds at 60 days of age are common. Ewes sired by Romney rams make excellent replacements for the commercial flock. They tend to lamb easily, and their higher quality, heavier fleeces are a bonus.

American Romney ewe fertility is repeatedly confirmed by high lambing percentages under varied feed and geographical conditions. Ewes can rear quality, high-scoring market lambs, while producing an 8-15 pound wool clip of excellent quality and a high clean yield. Other traits making the Romney a top mother breed are a calm, gentle disposition, prolificacy, milk production, ease of lambing, vigorous lambs, and natural mothering instinct.

Ewe lambs begin to cycle at 8-to-10 months of age, and mature ewes typically breed from September through January. In many flocks, ewes regularly produce twins and can feed triplets with proper nutrition. 🐐

NEW MEXICO WOOL GROWERS, INC.

Winkler Receives Wool Growers Award

Terry Winkler, Winkler Feeds, Roswell, was awarded the New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc. (NMWGI) *Amigo Award* at a special presentation made in late April in Roswell, according to NMWGI President Mike Corn, Roswell.

"The *Amigo Award* is traditionally given every other year during the annual NMWGI convention, however an exception was made for an early presentation this year for Terry, who has long been an NMWGI member and a friend of the entire agriculture industry," explained Corn.

"We all could not have been more fortunate than to know and work with Terry and to have the opportunity to honor him in this way," said Mike Casabonne, past NMWGI president

and current New Mexico Federal Lands Council president, Hope.

The *Amigo Award* is a distinguished service award given to an individual who has shown outstanding support of the New Mexico sheep industry. The recognition included a sheep pelt with Winkler's brand embedded within it.

Winkler was born in the Texas panhandle and made his way to the Roswell area early in his animal nutrition career. While in Roswell he sold Morman Feeds for many years before pursuing his own feed store.

"Terry is more than a feed salesman," said Cassabonne, "he has always been ready and willing to offer a helping hand." Winkler has sponsored both the Joint Stockman's and Wool Grower's conventions by offering coffee breaks

and shoe shine services. He is an advocate of young livestock producers and the future of the livestock industry, donating countless hours and miles in assisting junior FFA and 4-H families with their livestock projects. He also has been involved in local fairs and was honored for his support of the Eastern New Mexico State Fair at the *Amigo Award* presentation.

Winkler has been battling cancer. A fund to assist with expenses has been set up at the Roswell Wool Warehouse, 212 E. 4th, Roswell, New Mexico 88201. Alderman Cave Feed Mill and Standard Mineral have offered to match donations to the fund up to \$10,000. For more information, contact Roswell Wool at 505.623.3360. 🐐

Roswell Wool

Hello. We would like to tell you about our company and how we can be of service to you.

Each partner is actively producing and/or feeding lambs here in New Mexico. We purchased the Wool Warehouse in Roswell in 1992 and purchased a second warehouse in 1994, Roswell Wool and Mohair. We combined the two businesses and renamed it Roswell Wool.

In 1994, I began managing the business. At that time, 100% of the wool we handled was from New Mexico. Currently, with our growth, 50% of the wool we handle is from out of state, even though the amount of New Mexi-

co wool we handle has grown. We are now the largest wool warehouse by volume, under one roof, in the United States. Therefore we attract wool buyers from all over the world. We offer our wool on consignments to all wool buyers at our regularly scheduled wool sales each year. We have sales in January, February, April, May, October and December. Wool buyers who come to our sales have core information/grab samples/sample bales from each lot of wool offered for sale to make their visual inspection of each lot.

Our sales are by seal bid offerings - meaning that each buyer who bids on a

lot of wool is by sealed bid. When the bids are all in, I announce the high bidder, but not until the end of the sale do I announce what the bid was. Therefore, keeping the speculation on what each buyers is willing to offer secret, thus adding a bit of excitement when several buyers are needing the same types of wool.

We look forward to earning your business, so you can see why when we say "Dedicated to a Tradition of Integrity", isn't just our motto, it's our reputation.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at 800-624-WOOL. 🍷

HISTORY OF THE SUFFOLK

The Suffolk breed, an original English breed, as the result of crossing Southdown rams on Norfolk Horned ewes. The product of this cross was determined to be a great improvement over either one of the parents. Although the Suffolk was a recognized breed as early as 1810, the flock book was not closed until much later.

In 1930, Southdowns were described as large sheep without horns, dark faces and legs, fine bones and long small necks. They were gray to mouse brown on the face and legs. They were low set in front with high shoulders and light forequarters; however, their sides were good, rather broad in the loin and were full in the thigh and twist. Today's Suffolk derives its meatiness and quality wool from the old original British Southdown.

The Norfolk Horned sheep, now rare, were a wild and hardy breed. They were black faced light, fleeced sheep. Both sexes were horned. The upland regions of Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridge on the southeastern coast of England are very rugged and forage is sparse. It was this dry, cold and windy area in which the Norfolk breed adapted itself to traveling great distances for food, thereby developing a superbly muscular body.

It was said at that time of the Norfolk Horned, "their limbs are long and muscular, their bodies are long and their general form betokens activity and strength." This breed and its crosses were valued highly both by farmers and butchers. However, sheepmen of that day did not like the long legs, flat sides, nor wild nature of the Norfolk Horned. They noted that Southdowns crossed with Norfolks produced a progeny that reduced most of the criticisms of both breeds.

In 1886, the English Suffolk Society was organized to provide registry service and to further develop the use of the breed. Through selection and careful breeding by many great English sheep men, the Suffolk brought to this country retained the qualities for which they were originally mated.

The first Suffolks were brought to this country in 1888 by Mr. G.B. Streeter of Chazy, New York. During a visit to England the previous year, Mr. Streeter had been greatly impressed by Suffolk sheep. These prize breeding animals had belonged to Joseph Smith of Hasketon, and one 21 month old ewe weighed exactly 200 pounds when she came off the ship. A 9 month old ram weighed 1295 pounds and in the spring of 1890, a 7

week old twin weighed 85 pounds. That spring Streeter had a 200 lamb crop.

The Suffolk did not make its appearance in the western states until 1919. Three ewes and two rams had been donated by the English Suffolk Sheep Society to the University of Idaho. One of the rams was to be sold at auction at the National Ram Sale in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Several leading sheepmen saw these sheep at the sale and they liked what they saw. After several rounds of bidding, the ram was finally sold to Laidlaw and Brockie (developers of the Panama breed) of Muldoon, Idaho, for \$500. These men were so impressed with the offspring from their Suffolk ram that they made several importations and were consistent buyers at the National Ram Sale.

Mature weights for Suffolk rams range from 250 to 350 pounds (113-159 kg), ewe weights vary from 180 to 250 pounds (81-113 kg). Fleece weights from mature ewes are between five and eight pounds (2.25-3.6 kg) with a yield of 50 to 62 percent. The fleeces are considered medium wool type with a fiber diameter of 25.5 to 33.0 microns and a spinning count of 48 to 58. The staple length of Suffolk Fleece ranges from 2 to 3.5 inches (5-6.75 cm) 🍷

Funds Available to Help Sheep & Goat Industries

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

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


According to the terms of the agree-

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

To date, the NLPA/ Sheep &/ Goat Fund has extended 42 loans to 32 entities in 19 states and has received 70 applications. More than \$15 million has been loaned to the sheep and goat businesses, leaving funds still available for new applications at a current interest rate of 5.25%.

"We hope to get all of the money

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

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

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