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West/Southwest • winter-spring edition 2012-13

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ON THE COVER

Spokane Ag Expo. Photo courtesy of Jack Reber/Century Marketing.

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Company owners, Allen Hurlburt and Virginia Massey, said that the PERC® system involves a narrow steel wand that is used to probe the burrow and inject pressurized exhaust that fills the burrow in two minutes with lethal concentrations of carbon monoxide before the rodent has a chance to either escape or block the burrow.

An internal combustion engine generates the carbon monoxide and drives a compressor pump that pressurizes the exhaust gas to 110 psi in a storage tank. An air hose and a hand held probe inject the gas directly into the

burrow without any digging.

Brand new to the PERC® lineup is the PERC® 620, a trailer-mounted unit with a 20 hp Kohler motor and six reels - each with a 50' hose and hand probe. The 620 features a tandem axle with turf tires. It sells for \$14995 plus S&H.



The PERC® 412 is a trailer-mounted unit with a 14 hp Kohler motor and four reels each with a 50' hose and the hand probe. The 412 features turf tires and is designed to be pulled behind an ATV. It sells for \$8295 plus S&H.

The PERC® 206 is a skid-mounted unit with a 7 hp engine, two reels with 50' hoses and hand probes. It sells for

\$4995 plus S&H.

The PERC® 206T is the skid unit mounted on its own special trailer. It sells for \$5590 plus S&H.

The PERC® system is simple to use and safe for the operator as well as wildlife since there is no poison bait or explosion involved. Crop stands are not damaged during treatment. No other control method is as effective, efficient and as inexpensive to operate as the PERC®.

A PERC® system can treat moderately infested alfalfa fields at about 3.5 acres an hour with a single operator. Each probed location requires only about 2 to 3 minutes injection time.

Units have been shipped to customers from Southern California to central Canada and as far east as Florida. Though most of the market has been with alfalfa growers, orchard and specialty crop growers have also purchased units. The PERC® system is the best solution anywhere burrowing rodents are a problem.

For more information call (530) 667-5181 or visit the website [www.handmgophercontrol.com](http://www.handmgophercontrol.com)



## Stinger Stacker, the most versatile bale wagon 20 years and still growing...

In 2012, Stinger celebrated its 20th year manufacturing bale wagons that handle large square and round bales. From their humble beginnings on the Matlack Brothers farming operation in Burrton, Kansas, brother's Larry and Bill have turned their dream into reality. Today they now have over 500 machines in North America, Mexico, and New Zealand handling over 10 million large bales each season.

"It's come a long way from a shop built school bus that didn't even have a cab to protect you from those 105 degree Kansas summer days." Larry Matlack told us. "We started with an idea, support from our local bank, family, and commitments from other farmers who were interested in the product for their own operation."

Today, Stinger still builds two basic

models, one that will stack or roadside bales and one that only roadside bales at the edge of the field. But their premier



Pictured: The very first Stinger in 1992 and current model Stinger Stacker 6500.

stacker that has been their best selling stacker is the model 6500.

The Model 6500 carries 12 3x4 bales

and stacks them up to 6 high. Stinger has worked in partnership with the Crane Carrier Company of Tulsa, OK, since 1998 in building a chassis specifically for their bale wagon. The LE Hay-loader chassis was designed specifically for Stinger with off road use in mind.

"You simply could not buy a truck with these kinds of specs on the market today." Justin Matlack, sales rep for Stinger told us. "We have bale stackers in operation today that have handled over a million bales and I am not quite sure if you could ever totally wear a machine out." Larry Matlack also noted that their first bale wagon made on the school bus is still in operation today in Northern Kansas.

For more information, call 1-800-530-5304 or visit their website at [www.StingerLtd.com](http://www.StingerLtd.com)



# Walinga – Bulk Feed Bodies & Grain-Vacs

From concept, design and through production, Walinga meets the customer's needs at every step. Creating outstanding products that are innovative and durable, with some client's vehicles being passed from generation to generation.

Walinga is a leading North American manufacturer of transportation equipment and portable pneumatic conveying systems for grain, feed, seed... virtually any dry bulk material. Walinga is still a family owned and operated company. The total commitment to quality is not only our inheritance - it's our foundation for the future.

Walinga products represent the best in manufacturing excellence. Our in-house engineering and design teams utilize the most current computer technology available. State of the art equipment, combined with over 50 years of experience, ensures that our customers receive unsurpassed quality.

Comprehensive engineering capabilities allow us to offer sizes, capacities, features and options that are specifically job-matched according to individual requirements. The services of our Engineering Department are available to our customers to assist in the selection of the properly specified chassis. Every Walinga vehicle is designed and produced to best fulfill its designated function.

Custom-built aluminum feed bodies and trailers, pneumatic conveying systems, recycling trucks and bodies, aluminum and steel dump bodies... each built according to exact standards. Every stage of the manufacturing process from design to completion is performed by Walinga. The result - a cost effective, durable product line that responds to any challenge with premium.

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# LAFORGE Celebrates 20 Years In North America, Wins A Seventh AE50 Award

Laforge front hitch systems were first introduced in North America at the California Farm Equipment Show (now World Ag Expo) in 1989. After initially working with an independent importer, it was decided in 1991 to establish a dedicated subsidiary, Laforge Systems, Inc. located in Concord, CA, to provide the farmers and dealers on this market with the right products and reliable service.

Laforge Sarl., the parent company back in Europe, first entered the front hitch business in 1979. Laforge products have always been on the leading edge of technology. In fact, over 40 international patents and a multitude of engineering awards have been collected over the years, including seven (7) AE50 awards by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE, for-

merly ASAE). This prestigious award honors fifty Outstanding Innovations in Product or Systems Technology every year.

Laforge received a 2009 AE50 award for their new FrontPower PTO systems. The FrontPower is using advanced technology derived from automotive and high-end tractor transmission designs to ensure durability, low maintenance, and minimal power loss. Front mounted mowing, shredding, and snow removal equipment is seen much more now and this product becomes an essential link in these systems.

In 2007 the FLEXIMASS® ballast management system received an AE50 award. The main purpose of this system is to replace the very cumbersome wheel weights with a quick-attach system that allows adding or removing thousands of pounds of ballast weights

in seconds. With ever more powerful tractors, matching ballast to the task at hand becomes essential for improved fuel economy, eliminating unnecessary compaction, and even for safety.



Laforge took another step in improving support for our dealers and customers in 2007 by acquiring manufacturing capability in North America through the purchase of Bruns Machine, Cedar Falls, IA.

For more information visit [www.fronthitch.com](http://www.fronthitch.com) or contact LAFORGE SYSTEMS, INC; 1-800-422-5636

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# Joe's Boot Shop

There's a new sheriff in town! Well... at Joe's Boot Shop & Country Junction anyway. After nearly 50 years, owners Joe and Darla Rhodes retired in early 2012. Their grandson, Coli Hunt, is the new owner and he knows just how big the boots are that he has to fill. Coli has been managing the store for several years, and showed his grandparents the level of his experience when he held the reins alone in 2011 while Darla was receiving successful treatment for Lymphoma Cancer in Houston, TX.

Our customers won't notice the difference though. The shop still holds over 16,000 pairs of boots, 10,000 hats, and thousands of belts. The customer service level is still high, too. Joe always said, "We don't sell sizes, we sell fit'ums." With so many brands to choose from, and expert representatives to help you, you're sure to find a pair of boots you can be comfortable in all day long – and look good, too!

That level of service extends to our clothing for men, women and kids, as

well as to the feed and tack supplies. If we don't have it, we can get it! Luis, our Hat Master can fit and create a hat to suit you. He's one of the best in the U.S. In fact, there's no part of the western life-



style that can't be properly equipped from the selection and service at Joe's, including the home! The Country Junc-

tion, inside Joe's Boot Shop, has unique western furniture and décor and is packed with western accessories. Stop in today!

Joe's Boot Shop & Country Junction hosts and sponsors numerous rodeo events in Clovis and the surrounding communities, including the Joe's Boot Shop Calf Roping and the Grab the Gold Ranch Rodeo in late April/early May. On November 2nd & 3rd, 2012, we invite you to the 2nd Annual L.J. Jenkins Invitational Bull Riding – a PBR Touring Pro Series event, at the Curry County Events Center in Clovis. With \$10,000 added money, this event will draw the biggest names in bull riding. The action will be non-stop. Tickets will be available at Joe's Boot Shop and at joesbootshop.com in October. Kid's, age 12 & under get in free with a paid adult.

Store hours are Monday through Friday: 9am to 6pm, and 9am to 7pm on Saturdays. We invite you to stop in to say hello, and see what Joe's Boot Shop has to offer.

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# Egbers on Super Edge

“There just isn’t enough we can say about the Super Edge Auger Flighting” says Doug

Egbers, owner of Egbers Flighting Company, Inc. 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 an outside edge that is approximately 50% thicker. 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 repairs Egbers offers a wide assortment of replacement parts and tubing. They have your 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 different replacement parts from different sources can create a problem for our customers, and we can ship pretty much all the replacement parts a customer needs from here,” Doug says. “That way all your parts come from one location instead of several.”

A newer 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 Doug.

All in all, Egbers supports a great team for sales and repairs. They’re your One-Stop-Shop for your replacement needs, and they’re farmer friendly! Call them at 800-462-2588 or check them out on the web at [www.eflighting.com](http://www.eflighting.com)



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# Elston Manufacturing

## From Sanders to Gopher Getters

In 1925, Rue R. Elston, the founder of the Elston Company and his wife, Clara, and son, Wendell, moved to Sioux Falls, SD from Spencer, Iowa. Rue found employment with the Manchester Biscuit Company. The next year his son Jack was born. In 1927 Rue, wife Clara, and two sons, Wendell and Jack moved to Minneapolis, MN where Rue found work as a bus driver for Twin City Motor Bus.



One snowy night, Rue saw a young man get hit by a car while spreading sand with a shovel at a bus stop. The man lost his leg in the accident. After seeing this accident, Rue thought a unit could be manufactured to mount in front of the drive wheels of a bus and be electrically controlled by the driver. Such a unit could help eliminate this type of accident by spreading sand in front of the drive wheels of the bus. After extensive testing and engineering, the first units were installed on Greyhound buses.

In 1938 a corporation was formed to manufacture the Elston Electric Sander. Today sanders are used on city buses such as those in Seattle, Washington and are mandatory on school buses in many Northern States. They are also used on fire trucks and a special design for railroad trains.

In 1952 Rue, and his son Jack, engineered and designed the Elston Cargo Space heater, a unit that controls the inside temperature of semi-trailers that transport products that cannot be frozen. Through the years several models have been designed. These units are sold in



the United States, Canada, and parts of Europe. In 1960, they were approached by the Fish and Wildlife Service to manufacture a machine to control pocket gophers. It was during this time that Rues other son, Wendell, became involved in the company. They designed a machine, The Elston Gopher Getter that forms a tunnel 7 to 12 inches underneath the ground. These runways are spaced twenty feet apart, which a pocket gopher intercepts. The machine is used by farmers in their fields, on golf courses and by many airports west of Chicago to eliminate lights going out on the runways caused by gophers eating the insulation off of the electrical wires. Since 1960 they have designed a hand held manual Gopher Getter Jr. for individuals to use in their yards and gardens. They

also process bait used in these machines. This was the first Gopher Getter machine made and sold in the United States.

In 1986 their business in Minneapolis plant had increased to where it became necessary to either enlarge the building or build another plant elsewhere. After looking over all the red tape and state regulations of Minnesota and Wisconsin they found it to be to their advantage to build in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

In 1986 they built a building in Sioux Falls, and manufactured and assembled Elston Sanders, Gopher Getters and Gopher Bait. In 1989 they constructed an addition to Sioux Falls to the Sioux Falls building and moved their cargo heater line to Sioux Falls.

In 1997 the reins of the company were passed to the new management who brought with them expertise in the trucking industry. Today they employ approximately 16 to 25 employees in Sioux Falls. The corporate office is located in South St. Paul, MN. They are actively working on Research and Development on all three of their product lines: Traction Sanders, Cargo Heaters and Gopher Getters. They eagerly anticipate new and improved products in all three areas.

For more information, please visit their website at [www.elstonmfg.com](http://www.elstonmfg.com)

9

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# The TEXAS PLANT & SOIL LAB Story

**A** Little History - 1938 saw Dr. George Schulz establish the first soil lab in Texas, Texas Soil Laboratory, Inc. in the heart of the lower Rio Grande Valley, McAllen. Schulz had emigrated from Germany with a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1933 and was working with citrus in Florida when he was urged to come to Texas to serve the citrus growers there.

He soon began working with the many other commercial crops grown in The Valley. Because there were few soil labs back then, either university (Texas A&M didn't have soil testing until 1946) or private, his work rapidly expanded well beyond The Valley to Cornbelt crops, rice, cotton, grapes, almonds, pistachios, avocados, other tree crops, pineapples, grasses and exotics.

In 1956, E.K. Chandler, CPAg, SSc began working with Schulz on soil fertility as it relates to actual plant performance in the field. Chandler then began collaborating with Dr. Albin Lengyel of Phoenix, Arizona in 1964 on Lengyel's pioneering work in petiole (leaf stem) sap testing. Petiole analysis reveals the

nutrient levels in the plant at the moment the sample is taken. Chandler was the pioneer in the South in this research.

It is important because it allows fertilization adjustments to accommodate the plant's ever-changing nutritional needs seven to 21 days before it would otherwise show visual signs of deficiencies (or excess). If correct nutritional balance can be achieved as the needs change, the plant can achieve maximum performance and resist many disease and insect pressures, while eliminating the use of unneeded fertilizers and reducing (often dramatically!) water requirements. At some point, Chandler coined the phrase, "asking the plant" when describing his approach to soil fertility and plant nutrition, together with petiole and leaf testing.

During this time, Lengyel and Chandler were investigating soil testing methods that accurately reflected the nutrient levels found in the plant. Nearly all methods in use at that time (and still today) showed high values of some nutrients, even as the plant showed signs of deficiency in those nutrients. The conventional methods (even today) ad-

ditionally measure nutrient compounds that are not available to the plant.

This explains why these methods have to have approximate compensating calculations for every soil type variation and consequently, why soil laboratories tend to be regional. Dramatic errors in interpretation and recommendations can be made by a laboratory that is unfamiliar with the particular soil variation it has tested.

Lengyel had been researching the "Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) Extraction Method" as the soil test that accurately reflected the nutrient levels measured in the plant. Readily-available nutrients to the plant are water soluble. Slowly-available nutrients are those compounds that are soluble in carbonic acid. Plant roots exude CO<sub>2</sub> which combines with soil moisture to form a very weak carbonic acid. It is this reaction that allows the plant to survive when there are few water soluble nutrients available. If nutrients are not soluble in either medium, they are not available to the plant.

The CO<sub>2</sub> Method is one of the earliest extraction methods and much research



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Scott D. Hartwig

on it had been done by several universities. Together with Lengyel, Chandler vigorously began running experiments to calibrate soil test analyses against petiole test analyses. The result was a proprietary set of standards that accurately calibrate soil nutrition measurements to actual plant uptake.

This explains how the lab is able to consult on a World-wide basis and allows fertilization recommendations to be made which results in greater nutrient uptake efficiency, requiring less fertilizer, less water and healthier, more productive plants.

These measurements are then compared with published university plant nutritional standards for the variety and stage of growth to generate interpretations and recommendations. For most growers, lab numbers alone mean nothing. The most important components of any soil test report are the interpretations and the recommendations.

Because the CO<sub>2</sub> Extraction Method duplicates the way plant roots take up nutrients by measuring only the water soluble and carbonic acid soluble compounds, the Method is accurate for every soil type. It is used to measure the levels

of Phosphorous (as P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>), Potassium (as K<sub>2</sub>O), Calcium, Sodium and Magnesium. The other nutritional compounds are assayed using standard conventional methods.

In 1981, Chandler and Lengyel purchased Texas Soil Laboratory, Inc. and changed the name to Texas Plant & Soil Lab, Inc. Lengyel, in particular, had a keen interest in sugars as applied to plants. In 1986, he was granted two patents relating to the use of foliar-applied sugars to reduce freeze damage and to reduce damage to plants in acidic atmospheres. Since then, the lab has greatly expanded the research into the many other benefits of sugars applied to soil and plants.

Lengyel died in 1993 and Chandler, in 2008. In 2009, an agriculture research corporation purchased the lab and it is now Texas Plant & Soil Lab (TPSL®).

Today – Over the years, TPSL® with its field-proven performance, has grown into a World-respected institution. Being results driven, the lab continues its research in soil fertility and plant nutrition. With the closure of the USDA – ARS center in Weslaco, Texas, the lab was able to acquire the services of a se-

nior research scientist, Dr. Larry Zibilske as Vice President of Research.

Along with a long list of credentials and experience, Zibilske is a practical, out-in-the-field researcher with considerable experience in many crops. Accordingly, the lab's research has greatly accelerated in the roles of biology, Carbon-based compounds, micronutrients and trace elements as relate to soil nutrition and plant health.

Even though often ignored, micronutrients have long been known to play essential parts in plant health, nutrition and resistance to insect and disease pressures; this research continues. However, more recently, much university research is being done on the roles and sometimes previously unknown benefits of trace elements in plants. Accordingly, as the research develops, TPSL® continues to add these elements, as appropriate, to its suite of tests for specific crops.

Water availability and quality are becoming critical issues. TPSL® is seeing more and more poor to bad water used for irrigation. Water high in some suspended or dissolved solids can do great long-term damage to soil chemistry and

Continued on page 20

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# Montana Seed Potatoes

Certified seed potato and commercial growers alike from throughout the United States know they can expect extremely high quality, clean and disease-free seed from Montana. Montana seed potato producers have the luxury of the best geographical isolation in the United States. Montana's seed potatoes are produced in mountain valleys with virtually no commercial production. Relatively cool growing conditions in the secluded mountain valleys result in reduced insect pressure and the arid environment limits the spread of diseases. The excellent quality of Montana Seed Potatoes is backed by the most rigorous testing and inspection standards in the country. All

potatoes certified as seed originate from in vitro plantlets produced by the MSU Seed Potato Certification tissue culture program. No out-of-state potatoes are allowed to be used as seed stock for seed certified in MT. During the summer growing season, all early generation potatoes are 100% tested for viruses PVX, PVY and PVY, and all Generation 2 potatoes are tested for PVA and PVY. Many growers also choose to have their generation 3 and 4 crops virus tested. After harvest, samples are collected from all Montana seed fields and make the voyage to Hawaii where they are grown out in the winter post-harvest test. Approximately 40 days after planting, all seed lots are visually inspected and leaves

are picked from each plant and shipped back to Montana for virus testing. The pairing of virus testing with visual inspections results in a very accurate crop-health status for buyers of Montana seed potatoes.

Every year, the Montana Potato Improvement Association hosts an annual Seed Potato Seminar. This year will mark the 77th gathering of Montana growers along with potato growers and industry representatives from throughout the US. The annual Montana Seed Potato Seminar will be held November 8-9, 2012 in Bozeman, Montana at the Grantree Hotel. Call the Montana Seed Potato Certification office at 406-994-3150 for more information. 

## Stukenholtz Laboratory Inc. Celebrating 42 Years of Agricultural Testing

In 1970, there were no commercial soil and plant testing laboratories in Idaho. Farmers applied fertilizers based upon educated guesswork. Dr. Dale Stukenholtz and his wife Joyce saw an opportunity to build a business and started a soil and plant testing laboratory and field consulting service based in Twin Falls, Idaho. Dr. Stukenholtz had an unusually diverse background as an educator at the University of Nebraska, an agronomist in the fertilizer industry, and a farmer, and he saw a need for more modern fertilizer recommendations to produce greater yields at less cost. His clients were the growers, so he could make unbiased recommendations that maximized economic return to the farmer. After extensive field research, he developed these improved fertilizer recommendations that quickly became popular with growers and form the basis for nearly all fertilizer applications in the intermountain west area. Stukenholtz Laboratory clients include growers from all neighboring

states and several foreign countries including Australia, Canada, Egypt, Russia, Mexico and New Zealand.

Stukenholtz Laboratory provides 1 to 2 day service, including picking up and delivery time, across Southern Idaho from St. Anthony and Grace to Parma and Homedale. Results can be delivered, mailed, faxed, or pulled from the Laboratory's webpage: [www.stukenholtz.com](http://www.stukenholtz.com). To improve their service, Joyce and Dale Stukenholtz expanded the laboratory 15 years ago, installed the latest in computerized instrumentation and quality control, and made it the most modern and well equipped agricultural laboratory in their market area.

Critical to the success of Idaho's most efficient laboratory and largest field consulting firm has been its personnel. Dr. Stukenholtz has had a PhD in Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition since 1964 and his son and Laboratory Manager Paul has nearly completed his own. Consulting agronomists

include J.P. Kruckeberg of American Falls, a 33 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.

Stukenholtz Laboratory continues with research and improvement. In conjunction with the Idaho Crop Production Association and University of Idaho CFEF research project, Stukenholtz Laboratory has helped to ensure that fertilizer recommendations in Idaho are the most cost efficient possible and produce the maximum economic yield while protecting the environment. Stukenholtz Laboratory personnel have conducted field research on over 40 different products and continue to be the experts at "cutting edge" agricultural technology. As we end our first 41 years of business and begin our next, we would like to thank our current and former employees for their dedicated work and our customers and clients for their years of support. 

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Zapata Seed Company, located in southern Colorado in the San Luis Valley, is owned and operated by Brian and Deborah Brownell. This certified seed farm proudly raises potatoes from plantlets in the greenhouse to fourth generation tubers. We are committed not only to producing clean, healthy seed but to reducing our water usage and protecting our fragile soils.

Three generations of Brownell's have been planting trees and winter rye to prevent erosion. We currently use two to three tons of compost yearly



Brian, Elaina, Bridget, Anna, Patrick and Deborah Brownell (holding her grandson Ezra)

on potato ground. During pre-plant and throughout the season, our compost tea brewers are utilized to add bacteriological diversity to the fields. Alternating with cover crops such as hot mustard, clover, radish and Sudan grass rather than growing small grains, has helped to bring fertilizer back to the surface and add nutrients to the soil while further reducing water usage.

By limiting fertilizer and using crop consultants on a weekly basis to monitor insect populations and detect disease we try to give our crops the best environment possible to thrive in. We also have a seasoned roguing crew with many years of experience in the certified seed business.

At Zapata Seed we are working to conserve this environment that we depend on to raise future generations of both potatoes and farmers. 

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# North Dakota Seed Potato Crop

Willem Schrage, ND State Seed Department

After a favorable growing in season in North Dakota the seed potato growers were not disappointed in the second largest seed potato production area of the US. This year growing potatoes in dry land meant dry land for a large part of the season. After wishing for rain the rains came in October before the harvest was finished..



A North Dakota State Seed Department seed potato inspector in the field.

Seed potato certification in North Dakota is managed by the North Dakota State Seed Department. A department in its own right. North Dakota is unique in the sense that no other state has such an approach to seed potato certification. Legislation in other states either has certification delegated to the state Department of Agriculture, or a university or an industry organization. The Seed Department manages certification of all seeds. Its potato program also serves other sectors of the potato industry. The first priority is seed potato inspection in field and storage. With around 15,000 acres of seed potatoes planted the state is the second largest seed potato producer in the US. The best virus control is the post harvest test. In North Dakota the Certified Seed Potato Growers Association actually owns the land for the post harvest or winter test. The Department carries out the winter test in southern Florida on land owned by the growers and managed by Bruce Dunn of Dunn Brothers Farms. The winter test covers about 16 acres and inspections are visual except for potential symptomless varieties and when growers request a laboratory test on leaves. The changes in strains of Potato Virus Y have caused

more varieties to become potential symptomless carriers.

Shipping point inspections are also done on fresh potatoes. For destinations such as school programs processing potatoes are also inspected. The latest adaptation has been that inspectors are licensed by the USDA to carry out the USDA food safety audits on the farms, where customers request such. The USDA food safety audits are on good agricultural practices and good handling practices (GAP/GHP).

There is a pride amongst the seed potato inspectors, because the rich black soil in North Dakota grows seed potatoes of good quality that perform well wherever they are sent. The superior production characteristics express themselves in emergence and vigor. The warm summer and early planting are expected to provide seed that will emerge quickly. The red color of the Red River Valley is well known.

In 2012: 14,446 acres of seed potatoes were certified in North Dakota. Red potatoes were still the largest acreage with varieties such as Norland selections , Red LaSoda and Sangre. Russet Burbank is still the most popular processing

variety, but there are other processing varieties produced in the state such as Ranger Russet, Prospect, Bannock Russet and Umatilla. Dakota Pearl is the chipping variety most in demand and besides private varieties there is Atlantic. In the fresh russet sector it is still Russet Norkotah including selections. North Dakota produces a large number of new varieties in smaller acreages such as: the chipping varieties, Harley Blackwell, Lady Claire and Monticello or russets such as Alpine Russet and Teton Russet, but mostly fresh market varieties such as Colorado Rose and Dakota Rose and yellow flesh varieties such as Melody, Sierra Gold, Agata, Milva, Satina, Augusta, Ambra, Romanz, Bellarosa.

The North Dakota Seed Potato Directory can be found at: <http://www.ndseed.com> or a copy can be obtained by calling: 701-231-5400.

## North Dakota Certified Seed Potatoes

Contact North Dakota State Seed Department for more information and a Copy of North Dakota Seed Potato Directory. [www.ndseed.com](http://www.ndseed.com) (701) 231-5400 P.O. Box 5257 Fargo, ND 58105  
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### Texas Plant & Soil Lab

Continued from page 13

physical qualities. Bad water can also very quickly kill plants or contribute greatly to disease. Accordingly, it has become more essential than ever to provide balanced nutrition to the plants to reduce water needs and to remediate soil on an ongoing basis where good quality water is unavailable. Addition-

ally, TPSL® consults for hydroponic and aquaculture operations.

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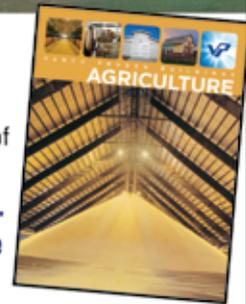
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We continue to hear of our Rotary Converters that have been in service for 25 or 30 years or more, and which are still working flawlessly. It could go on to do another 25 or 30 years. The reason for the reliability is fairly obvious. Phase-A-Matic, Inc. Rotary Converters do not have start capacitors or contactors or mechanical connections of any kind as most other converters do, which contributes to and is usually the most common cause of failure. All connections are soldered, which is not feasible with other designs. Even though some other manufacturers claim to use Baldor motors, they still have start capacitors and switch gear, which we have eliminated by working with Baldor for approx. 2 years to develop the way these are engineered. It pays to buy Phase-A-Matic, Inc. for long life and high reliability. There is very little to go wrong with the Rotary Converter.

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## CRYSTALYX® Releases Body Condition Score App – BCS Phase 2



In order to deliver an even more effective management tool for supplement and forage decisions, CRYSTALYX® Brand Supplements has released an updated version of the Body Condition Score (BCS) app that is used to monitor Body Condition Scores for beef cow herds. The BCS Phase 2 app has additional features and added content to make it more responsive while retaining its simplicity of use.

“We’ve had very positive feedback

about the BCS app from cattle producers, and we’ve learned how to make it even better,” Dr. Dan Dhuyvetter, Director of Research and Nutrition Services for Ridley Block Operations, says.

Producers can now edit or save a record as a draft. That means a producer can collect photos in the pasture and score the cattle at a later time or edit the records when time permits.

“The value of a picture record is that when taking BCS photos of the

same cow 45 to 60 days later, a producer can determine if the management changes are having the desired effect,” Dhuyvetter says. “Producers are encouraged to body condition score cows at least four times during the year to determine best management practices in the four key areas of late lactation, weaning, pre-calving and breeding.”

Another new feature of BCS Phase 2 is the ability to calculate the mean or average for a date range or a specific date.

“You can then compare that with another point in time and determine if cows are gaining, slipping or maintaining their condition,” Dhuyvetter says.

“No matter what color or breed type of cattle you own, you can now build your custom collection of BCS photos to use in your reference gallery,” Dhuyvetter says. “So Hereford producers can use Hereford cows, Brangus owners can use Brangus cows and any composite operations can use their composite cows.”

“It’s clear that the BCS app has proven its usefulness as a quick and easy tool for collecting extremely important information when managing beef cows from small to large herds,” Dhuyvetter says. “This update takes its effectiveness to the next level.”

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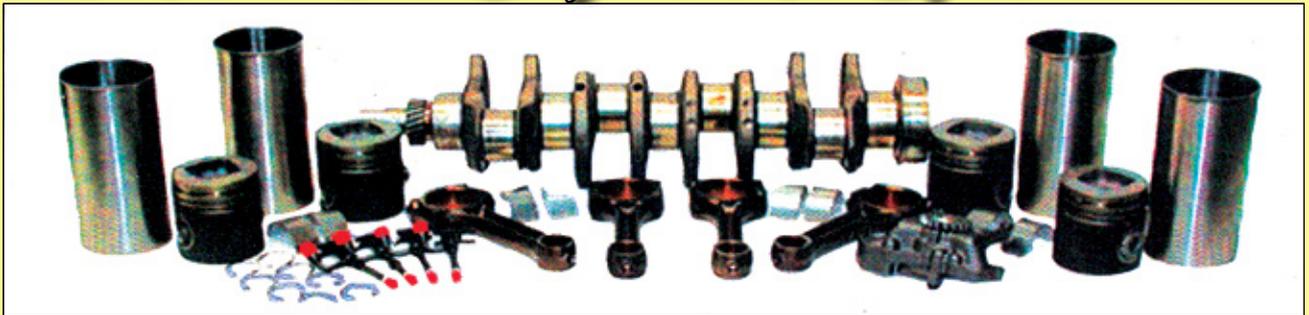
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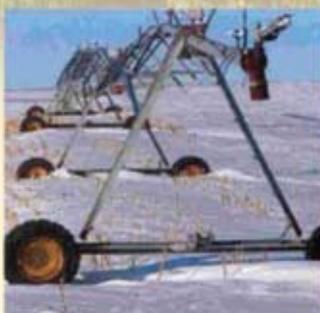
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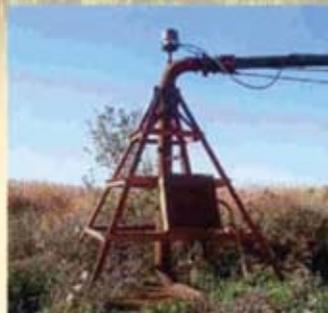
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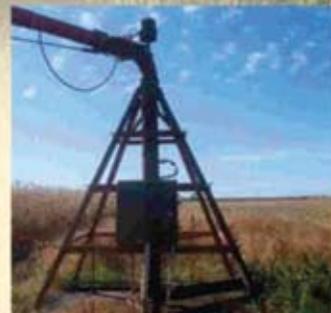
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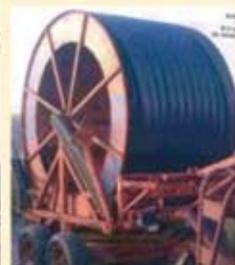
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