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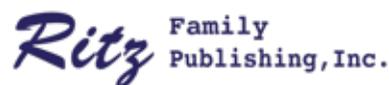
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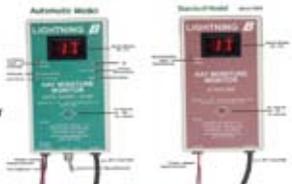
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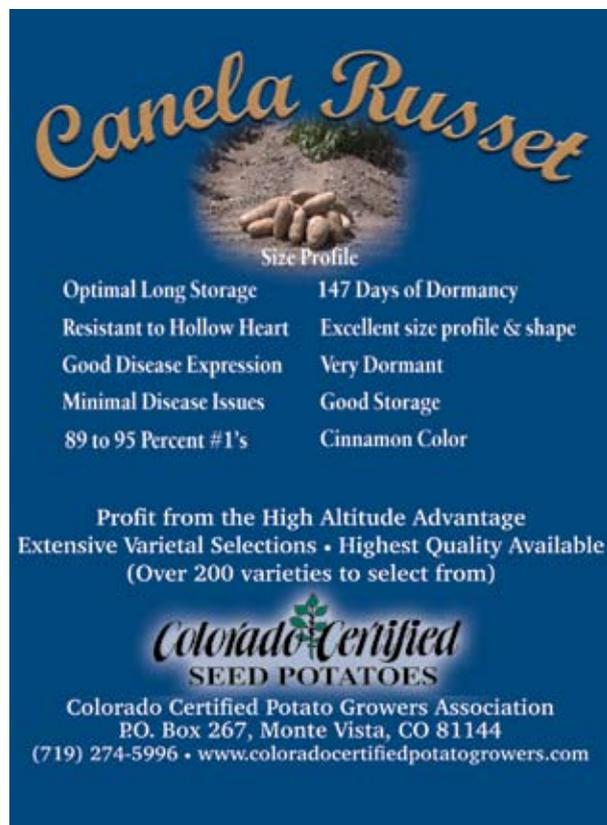
Cold, wet weather with low PAR light and few growing degree-days has made 2019 a disastrous year for agriculture in many parts of the United States. It has delayed planting in some areas and prevented planting in others – all resulting in a shortened growing season. Much of the same has been predicted for 2020. Developing a plan to mitigate the effects of difficult field conditions is essential for the farmer to survive and crops will need all the help they can get from the very start. So, what do we do to play catch-up and even avoid having to replant?

“Pop-Up”/Starter Fertilizers can be game-changers to your ultimate success. Getting your crop off to a healthy, strong start is more important than ever in persistently poor conditions. To achieve this, rapid and strong early root develop-

ment is essential. While season-long balanced plant nutrition is needed to minimize plant stress and for best yields and quality, phosphorous is the foundation for good roots, early fruiting and uniform maturity.

The use of starter fertilizer is a source of debate for many agronomists. Most growers see the benefit of early uniform harvest but are likely to over-fertilize. There are hazards to using fertilizer in close proximity to the seed and this scares-off many advisors from recommending it. Like physicians, advisors’ first concern is to “do no harm”. It is easiest to say, “Just Don’t Do it”. But in dire times, the battle for profitability and survival requires stepping out of a traditional “safe” zone.

Due to their close proximity to the roots, starter fertilizers in particular, with high salt indices are to be avoided, as they cause reverse osmotic pressures on the roots resulting in



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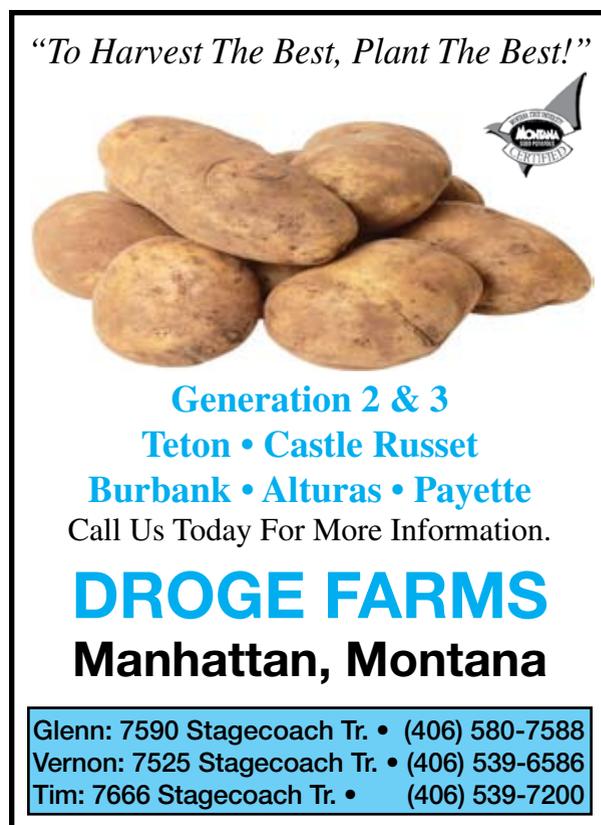
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dehydration of the plant – resulting in stress or death. Accordingly, components of starters must be carefully researched and selected.

The primary component of a starter is phosphorous. Placement of phosphorous for maximum benefit has been shown by research to be most beneficial when germinating seeds' first roots immediately hit a band of high phosphorous - especially in cold, wet soils. It is safer to place the band of starter fertilizer in-furrow in a 2x2 band (two inches below and two inches on each side of the seed). Be aware that the benefit of early phosphorous decreases by each additional half-inch away from the seed. Seed treatments are now available for sown crops. Dr. F.L. Fisher of Texas A&M University was one of the first researchers in starter fertilizer in the early 1960s.

Phosphorous by itself is seldom harmful. It is the other plant nutrients in fertilizer which have high salt that can harm germination and plant growth. Nitrogen, potassium and sulfur have high salt indices and should be kept to a minimum but are beneficial early as are micronutrients such as zinc, iron, manganese, copper and boron in minute amounts. Additions of carbon sources such as humic/fulvic acids, amino acids and sugars also help protect the seed and buffer the fertilizers. They also help keep the fertilizer in a bioavailable form for extended periods, especially in cold or alkaline soils. These carbon sources also feed the soil life thus increasing the microbial activity which raises the soil temperature slightly, enhancing germination.

Additionally, a multiple hormone (auxin, cytokinin, gibberellins, seaweed/kelp) formula can yield dramatic results, especially during prolonged bad weather. Again, many consultants avoid using these, as they don't well understand them and they must be applied in fairly precise quantities.

Phosphorous can be sprayed directly on the seed but caution is advised, as too much of a good thing can be harmful. Use products that are designed for foliar application and have low salt indices. Only one quart per acre of a high phosphorous formula next to the seed is needed to produce benefits. It is generally recommended that one to three gallons per acre of a high P formula be used that contains a balance of nutrients. This should be mixed with at least enough water to allow accurate application, 5 gallons per acre total solution is minimum but a 10 gallon per row-acre rate would be much better for dilution as well as accuracy of application.

Foliar applications while crops are under stress from excess soil moisture and cloudy conditions for extended periods are highly beneficial. Plants under anaerobic conditions can be harmed and retard growth. Supplementing with a balanced formula with phosphorous can boost plants while mitigating stress and enhancing development. Sap analysis is used to formulate the proper foliar program and customize it to specific plant needs. This will help play catch-up in times of duress.

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Stukenholtz Laboratory Inc.

Celebrating 48 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. To improve their service, Joyce and Dale Stukenholtz expanded the laboratory 21 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 39 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.



Analysis room at Stukenholtz Laboratory Inc.

Stukenholtz Laboratory continues with research and improvement. In conjunction with the Idaho Crop Production Association and University of Idaho CFEP 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 47 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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Frosty Berseem Clover: A Cold-Tolerant Cover Crop & Forage Option

You've probably heard about Frosty Berseem Clover (*Trifolium Alexandrinum*), the first cold-tolerant berseem clover. In early testing, Frosty withstood lows of 5° F without snow cover, thus earning its "frosty" claim to fame. It combines the best of berseem clover's Mediterranean genetics and adds a later maturity, cold tolerance, productivity, and nutritional forage value.

Frosty offers planting flexibility. Because of its quick establishment, Frosty can be incorporated into a cover cropping rotation to help suppress weeds. It can be underseeded in small grains in the spring because of its frost tolerance, and it can be used in a mixture for interseeding into standing row crops in summer or fall. Speaking of fall, Frosty will grow deeper into the fall than regular berseem.

With the potential for four tons of dry matter per acre in a two-cut system and a crude protein content of up to 21.5 percent, Frosty also is an excellent non-bloating option for direct grazing livestock. Another obvious appeal for a legume like Frosty is, of course, nitrogen fixation. Trials at Penn State showed that Frosty Berseem Clover fixed up to 150 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

Frosty is growing in popularity as an alfalfa-boosting companion. In fact, Frosty shares alfalfa's dry-down characteristics, remaining green for forage or hay. To make the most of Frosty's companionability with alfalfa, plant using a seed mixture ratio of 80 percent alfalfa to 20 percent Frosty; however, thanks to Frosty's cold tolerance, you can frost seed it directly on frozen ground before planting alfalfa. Frost seeding gives Frosty a headstart for rapid establishment in spots where alfalfa has winter killed.

Frosty prefers slightly alkaline loam alkaline, or "basic," soils, which is perfect for the western U.S., but really loves silty to medium-loam soils. It also produces more biomass than crimson clover on heavy soils. When planting with a drill, use a depth of ¼ inch at a rate of 15 pounds per acre for monoculture and about six pounds per acre in mixes.

As a berseem clover, Frosty has a low hard-seed count, which means you're not likely to get overrun by unwanted Frosty, and you would need to replant for future plantings.

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Sunny D Mfg., Co. Inc – *The Oregon Roadrunner*

The Oregon Roadrunner, manufactured by Sunny D Manufacturing Company, Inc., is the all purpose machine when it comes to loading and unloading blocks of hay, everything from a stack of bales in the field to a six-pack of 3x4 bales. What used to take several people hours to buck the hay, whether loading trucks, unloading trucks, or moving the hay from one truck to another, now takes one person just minutes to accomplish. There is no other machine that can match it.



Humble Beginnings

In 1971, Art Davina – then a rancher in Bonanza Oregon – saw the need, designed and built the first Oregon Roadrunner.

That machine is still being used today.

While struggling through the hard times, redesigning to incorporate new ideas and improving on old ones, and building a strong customer base one customer at a time, Art managed to build his back-yard business to a point where he was able to open his first shop. By 1985 the business was large enough that he began the process of incorporating it. Later, needing more space to meet customer demand, he bought a larger property, and moved the business to its current location in Klamath Falls.

When health problems forced Art to take a step back and de-stress his life, he wanted to find the perfect person to take the reins. Ed Majors took over as GM in 1998 and in 2003, began the process of buying the company from Art. Today, Ed officially owns it.

Sunny D Today

From those humble beginnings in 1971 to the 21st century, Sunny D Manufacturing Company Inc. has grown to a business totaling 15 employees. Welders, fabricators, mechanics, a painter, and various support personnel create from bare metal the machine that called “The Oregon Roadrunner.” What used to be only available in white with your choice of stripe, a customer can now choose their color and design. For more information, call 1-541-884-2361, or write 4343 Highway 39, Klamath Falls, OR 97603. 

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The **LAFORGE® Guided Hitch** allows a semi-mounted (2-point) planter and applicator to follow the RTK guidance line with a high level of accuracy in flat fields and on hillsides. The compact design allows for precision placement of seed and nutrients in separate passes. The hitch replaces the factory crossbar on John Deere's planters, and adapters for other implements and nutrient applicators are available. In addition, the **LAFORGE® Guided Hitch** has been awarded an AE50 Award for 2017 as one of the significant innovations in Farm Equipment Technology. The hitch has been well received by the customers either using it or considering it for use with an Active Implement Guidance solution. Some of the positive feedback received has been:



"This unit is clean looking and not complex"

"I like the fact that the Hitch does not add length to my planter tongue and does not need the addition of extension hoses and harnesses"

"The accuracy is amazing"

"The unit is simple to install"

"It will work with the PTO generator"

In addition to the semi-mounted guided hitch LAFORGE has also developed an Implement adapter pivot and several implement attachments, allowing different types of drawbar pull implement to be adapted and guided with the **LAFORGE® Guided Hitch**.

About LAFORGE:

LAFORGE SYSTEMS INC., Concord, CA was established in 1991 as a first step in a carefully planned expansion to be able to support LAFORGE's

growing number of dealers and customers throughout North America.

The LAFORGE group purchased a manufacturing facility in Cedar Falls, IA in 2007, and added a new factory in Waterloo, IA in 2010. These facilities now also house whole goods and spare parts warehouses and an installation shop.

LAFORGE branded front 3-point hitch systems have been available since 1979.

The company quickly became a world leader in technology related to tractor-implement interaction, tractor ballasting and weight transfer. LAFORGE is the recipient of a multitude of patents and awards in these areas. Nine AE50 awards are just an example of this.

For more information visit www.fronthitch.com, or call 1-855-408-3332

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 TM-18-2455 2011 Ditch Witch RT45, Deutz Diesel, 42 HP, Back Fill Blade, 4-WD \$19,500	 W-18-2842 2002 Caterpillar 950G, 7,400 Hrs., GP Bucket, Cab, Air \$68,500	 F-18-2837 Harlo HC5600, 4-WD, 5,000# Max Lift \$22,500	 B-18-2835 2012 John Deere 310J, 2,699 Hrs., 4-WD, 4-In-1, Pilot Controls, Extend-A-Hoe, Aux. Hydraulics \$44,500
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Hanen Automatic Cattle Feeder Engineered To Expand For Future Cattle Herd Growth

Service Line, Inc. announced a new increased functionality of their Hanen Model LSF-12 Automatic Solar-Powered Cattle Feeder designed for feeding twelve cattle. In response to customer requests for an economical way to accommodate future herd growth, the Hanen Model LSF-12 Automatic Solar Powered Cattle Feeder basic platform can now operate as a master power unit capable of driving additional feed hoppers as needed.

The Hanen Automatic Solar-Powered Programmable Cattle Feeder is designed to dispense the correct levels of nutrition to livestock, up to 6 feedings per day. Unlike a creeper feeder, the Hanen Automatic Cattle Feeder feeding cycle is totally programmable, and animals respond to the audio signal in an orderly fashion.

The Hanen Automatic Solar-Powered Programmable Cattle Feeder Model LSF-12 is engineered to be an affordable system for those working ranchers looking for the features and benefits that an automatic cattle feeder can provide, including reduced labor costs, lower wasted feed, programmed grain rationing, enhanced nutritional value for their livestock, and more free time for other activities. Easily connect two LSF-12 systems to feed twenty-four cattle. Additional benefits of the solar-powered model include remote unattended feeding, and reduced energy costs.

New options for the Hanen Automatic Cattle Feeder Model LSF-12 include a Frame Kit for increased stability when connecting multiple hoppers, and a Farm-rated Trailer Kit with wheels for mobility.

Hanen Automatic Programmable Cattle and Livestock Feeders are available in solar-powered or AC-powered configurations and include the Model LSF-12 Twelve Head Feeder, and two AC powered models intended for indoor use: Model LSF-2 Two Head Feeder and Model LSF-4 Four Head Feeder. Manufactured in the USA, the durable feeders are constructed of heavy gauge steel and are 100% powder-coated for extreme conditions. Dave Barney, president of Service Line, Inc. says, "I am dedicated to providing controlled nutrition that result in high quality animals". The Hanen Automatic Solar-Powered Programmable Cattle Feeder is ideal for the Working Ranch, Cow-Calf Operations, Seed Stock Production and Small Acreage Cattle Producers.

About Service Line, Inc.

Service Line, Inc. manufactures Hanen Automatic Solar-Powered Cattle Feeders, Renegade Parts Washers in automatic or manual, top load, front load and pass-through configurations for general repair and industrial production process cleaning, and Renegade detergents and additives. Service Line, Inc. products are manufactured in Reedsburg, Wisconsin, and are available in the U.S. and International markets. To learn more about Hanen Automatic Solar-Powered Cattle Feeders, visit www.automaticcattlefeeder.com



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Making A Cowman's Best Time Of The Year EVEN BETTER!

The favorite time of the year for cow-calf producers has long been established as being the calving season. That is when the anticipated results of the previous year's breeding program decisions are realized. Jeff Creamer, Lazy JB Angus, a calf catcher owner, refers to his calving season as "Christmas Time." Whether the new calves hitting the ground are from AI, ET or the valued herd sire battery, there is no time of the year that a cowman looks forward to more.

Accompanying that 'special time' are dangers, extra stress and increased labor responsibilities that are often referred to as 'a necessary part' of the business. Over the years, many people have been injured, or worse, by the instinctive mother cow during the newborn processing period. Things can go wrong fast when tagging, vaccinating, banding and weighing new calves — and the results can be devastating. Bud Williamson of West Virginia says, "My calf catcher was a virtual life saver!"



Safety Is a Priority

"We are all about safety and making calf processing easier," states Dan Leo, a long-time Nebraska rancher and owner of the Safety Zone Calf Catcher business. With the average age of cattlemen getting older, help being difficult, if not impossible to find, their calf catchers are filling a real need. Most cattle operations daily use ATV and UTVs, and now they have an important option to ensure that every calving season is safe and uneventful. Laurel Gilbertson, 74-year-old Nebraska rancher refers to his catcher as "The best piece of equipment I've owned."

Leo added, "The traditional way to tag and process calves can be dangerous and often takes more than one individual to

accomplish. Now, just one person, who can operate an ATV or UTV, can safely work calves." Allen Lippert, a Kentucky cattlemen, says his catcher is "Great for one-man operations. No more waiting for help!"

Construction and Design

The calf catcher is a durably constructed, welded steel cage that is built to last generations. Bill Helms, a Texas retired mechanical engineer and 71-year-old cattlemen applauds the design and fabrication quality adding "It is simple to use, and it works." Mounting with ball-coupler hitches permits it to perform well in all types of terrains and conditions. The quick and easy mount and dismount process takes only a couple of minutes.

Ease Of Operation

With the front gate locked open, the driver approaches the calf and captures it in the cage by shutting the spring-loaded gate. Aiding the process, the catcher is designed for quiet operation, thus does not threaten the cowherd. Typically used on newborn to week-old youngsters, but calves up to 300 lbs. can be caught for treatment of pinkeye, foot rot and pneumonia conditions.



The producer enters the cage by stepping through the near side opening, and then moves the calf to the rear holding area where it can be easily processed while being protected from the mother cow. At all times, the operator is inside the cage, and never threatened by the instinctive mother. Daryl Bernard, an Iowa cattlemen states, "I like how the calf holder restrains the calf and eliminates having to wrestle the calves on the ground."

Mother Cow's Behavior

By design, nearly 100% of the mothers remain at the back of the catcher where the rear calf holder is located. The most protective of cows are much calmer when they can see and smell their calf in a less threatening situation, as compared to wrestling the calf away from the mother.

"The unit works particularly well for pairing out as the cow will follow the calf virtually anywhere! Whether moving pairs to another pasture or during inclement weather, it is a valuable tool." states Leo. When finished processing, the operator releases the calf out the back to its mother, again accomplished from inside the cage to maintain full-time safety. Montana rancher, Andy Dorn says this about his Safety Zone catcher, "It is the best investment we ever made. Easy on the calves and great for the cows too!"

Making a Better Way

"Traditionally, producers have to get to the calves early after birth otherwise it can be difficult to catch and even hang on to them, and then it can often require two or more people depending on the protective behavior of the mother cow while the processing takes place," Leo notes. His goal is to make the best time of the year, safer, easier and with the labor requirement of only one person.

Catcher user, Wanda Thompson from Missouri comments, "To all you out there still dodging mad momma cows, wrestling big calves, and maybe not getting some of your calves done, the calf catcher is definitely a better way."

Other options developed by Leo's business include a digital,

waterproof scale — especially useful to seedstock producers — and a rear tow hitch to accommodate long-distance travel.

Safety Zone Calf Catchers LLC, internationally trademarked and registered, sells directly to cattlemen and through a growing dealer network. Current sales extend throughout the continental U.S. and into Canada, Australia, France and the UK. Leo states, "Our best salesmen are the users as they cannot keep from telling their neighbors of the catcher's benefits — and the word is traveling fast!"



Interested parties are encouraged to watch the informative action video at www.SafetyZoneCalfCatchers.com or to call (877) 505-0914 for more information or to place orders.

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