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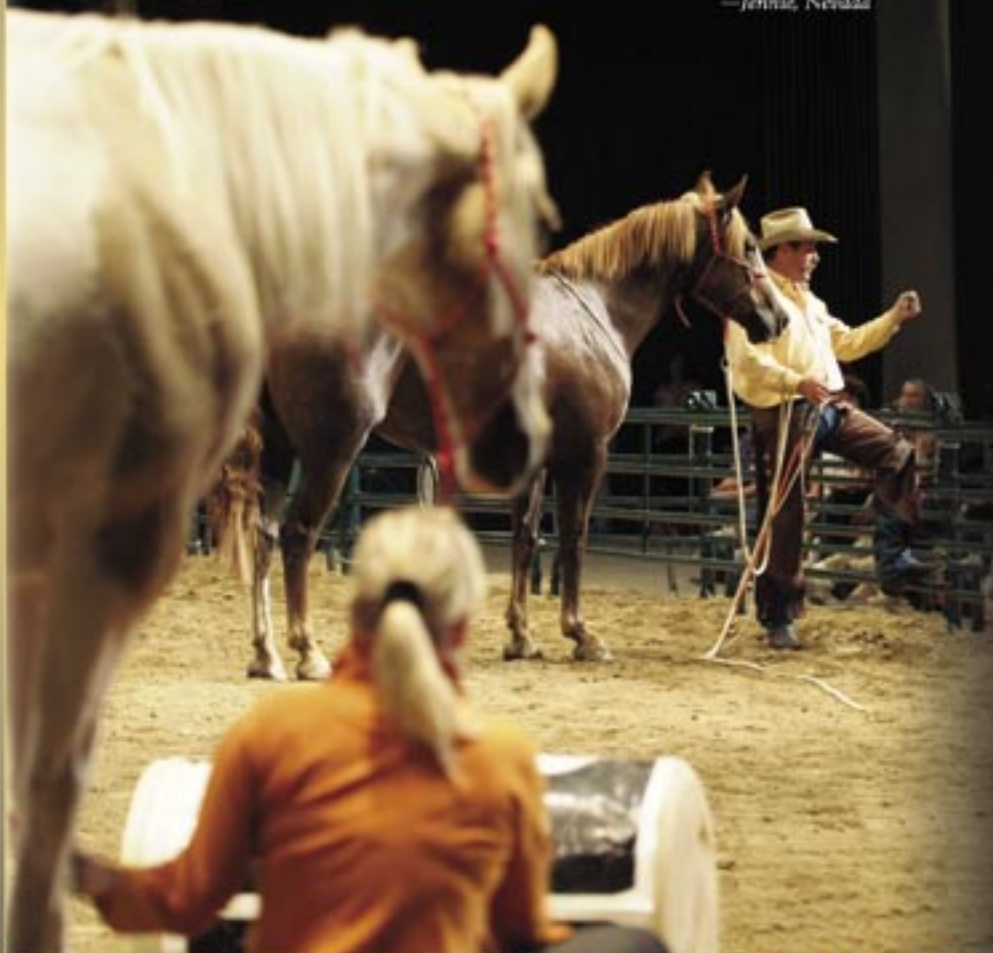
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Egbers on Super Edge

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

And Egbers knows their augers. Their repair and fabrication division has years of experience in re-flighting and balancing auger sections. “It just makes good sense to replace the auger flighting instead of buying a new auger section.” Confirms Doug- “New auger sections can be pricey and the Super Edge Auger Flighting is priced to sell,” Along with their repair’s

Egbers offers a wide assortments of replacement parts and tubing. They have you basic inside tubing, pipe, rolled tube for grain cart unloading augers all the way up to 40 ft. lengths for transport augers, “We’ve always thought freight and shipping to our customers was a problem, we can ship pretty much all the replacement parts a customer needs from here.” States Laura “That way all your parts come from one location instead of several,”

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

All in all Egbers supports a great team for sales and repairs. They’re your One-Stop-Shop for your replacement needs. Call them at 800-462-2588 or check them out on the web - www.eflighting.com. 📞

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The new VARMITgetter does not use torch handles and mixing tips (they are fine if you are cutting metal). VARMITgetter has designed a consistent mixing technique for the gas to be injected in the tunnel that is three to four times faster than other hand-held devices on the market.

Advantages

- 1 Our wand is meant to be back filled to keep the concussion in the tunnel/burrow and keep the noise level down.
- 2 If you hear a bang you are losing 50 to 70% of your concussion that should be in the tunnel/burrow.
- 3 Saves on your oxygen.
- 4 Hand held devices are DANGEROUS.
- 5 VARMITgetter gets the gas in the tunnel/burrow 3 to 4 times faster than the handheld devices.
- 6 Our device does not have to be cocked and valves to be turned each time you fire it like the handheld that are out there.
- 7 VARMITgetter can be fired repeatedly over and over again, simply by applying the gas and hit the button without being near the blast.
- 8 In VARMITgetter’s owners manual it tells you how long to apply the gas depending on what varmint you are dealing with.
- 9 VARMITgetter is priced hundreds of dollars less than the handheld devices on the market and doesn’t break down.
- 10 Wired remote control -- up to 25’ away from the blast site.

11 Operator DOES NOT hold onto applicator, which produces the blast.

12 Operator is not fatigued by the constant concussion of the blast.

13 The other hand-held units cause some operators to flinch, causing not enough gas to be used for proper application.

14 You are able to see the blast from a safe distance at the control box and know how effective it is, versus just hearing it.

15 Able to cover firing cone with loose dirt to help keep gas from escaping and to snuff out possible fire.

16 More portable, easier to move from burrow to burrow, it is smaller and better balanced.

17 Well built to protect sensitive parts, yet readily accessible for easy repair.

18 Extra safety measures are built in, so in the event that the unit has been damaged or misused, you are protected by check valves, flashback arrestors and pressure relief plugs.

19 The firing cone is made smaller, therefore, easier to use on small rodents, such as the gopher and mole, etc.

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

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

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

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DOYLE'S THORNLESS BLACKBERRIES BACK HOME AGAIN IN INDIANA

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

Thomas E. Doyle, Sr. was born June 26,



1900, in Daviess County, Indiana, and was an avid gardener until his death in 2001. He and his wife, Rose, were the parents of six children.

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

TOM DOYLE, SR. SHOWS HIS PROLIFIC BLACKBERRIES

Tom became well known nationally as the "plastic man" and "blackberry man" after 1959 when he developed a method of using black plastic to cover a garden and planted through small holes. Because the plastic was used for up to 30 years, he called it "Gardening without Cultivation"



and marketed his special formulated plastic sheets under that name. He also wrote a gardening book that has been printed in 13 editions.

IMAGINE THESE FRESH BERRIES IN YOUR FAVORITE PIE OR COBBLER

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

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

Curious about how many berries he was getting from each plant, Tom planted one blackberry plant in a corner of his property, away from all the other berries. No one was allowed to pick berries from this plant except Tom. That way he thought he



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could get an exact measurement. So every day during growing season he would take his measuring bucket, pick the ripe berries, and write the amount in a book. But he made one mistake. He had planted the berries close to a road that was heavily traveled by walkers. One day he noticed kids walking by eating some of the blackberries. "Well, at least they're sweet enough that I don't have to give them



sugar to go with them", he said. "And I have no idea how many were eaten before I could count them!" At the end of the season he had logged over 20 gallons of berries from the one plant.

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

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

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

one to five berries all along the vine.
TYPICAL BUNCHES OF DOYLE'S THORNLESS BLACKBERRIES®

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

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

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



ing his blackberries and he accomplished that a few years ago. He also has plants growing in Canada and Bermuda.


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

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

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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 Pivotracc.com and patented a method of using simple text pagers to keep irrigators informed on the status of whole groups of pivots, one to a hundred or more.

Today Pivotracc combines text messaging and Internet connectivity with special radio telemetry that works everywhere to deliver on-the-go status of multiple pivots to anyone, anywhere. Pagers are still used, but most subscribers receive the text messages on their digital cell phones. In addition, the system provides remote start and stop options from any telephone



or the Internet.

There are many reasons for on-site visits to fields with growing crops being irrigated by center pivots. The difference with Pivotracc is you and your hands know immediately when a pivot shuts down (and you know when it starts back up). Priorities

Career Opportunities are Strong for Ag College Graduates

Agriculture, natural resources, and other related areas remain viable areas of study for university students says Don Marshall, Associate Dean of Academic Programs in the College of Agriculture & Biological Sciences at South Dakota State University. Farming and ranching are becoming more high-tech and dependent on a sound business plan, making a college education increasingly valuable, but most of today's graduates will be seeking employment in supporting areas rather than ag production.

Marshall indicated that while the number of agricultural producers has declined as average farm size increased, career opportunities in supporting areas of agriculture have increased. Food processing, biotechnology, livestock and pet feed, pharmaceuticals, bio-fuels, financial services, and high-tech seed development are examples. A recent USDA publication indicated that through the year 2010 there will be about 51,000 job openings in the U.S. annually for graduates majoring in agriculture and life sciences, compared to about 49,000 graduates. ☛

USDA RAISES AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS FORECAST TO RECORD \$78 BILLION FOR 2007

WASHINGTON, D.C., - U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced an increase in the forecast for agricultural exports to a record \$78 billion for fiscal year 2007.

"Projections show 2007 exports would be up \$9.3 billion over last year, the second largest increase on record, and the fourth year of back-to-back records," said Johanns. "Two-thirds of this increase is due to the grain and oilseed sectors. Several trends are driving the rise in export value and keeping U.S. competitiveness strong, such as demand for corn

due to increased ethanol production, reduced competition for wheat, and only moderate growth in South American oilseed production."

"But this year's story is not just about bulk grains and oilseeds, because we are also expecting considerable growth and record sales for livestock and horticultural products. Livestock and poultry product exports are forecast to increase \$1.2 billion, supported by higher meat volumes to many markets. Rising sales of processed products are driving a \$1.3 billion increase in horticultural exports." ☛

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ers and ATV manufacturers”, said product manager Dusty Miller. “With a good vision of what features and options were required, it became obvious that a completely new tank design was needed”.

The EZ ATV Sprayer was designed with the operator in mind for ease of operation and functional ability and safe-

Northwest Manufacturing's 2007 Models Sport New Look Introducing Natural Energy™ Furnace with Smaller Footprint

Steel sided outdoor furnaces, designed to match contemporary homes are all the rage. Northwest Manufacturing is shipping 2007 models now with the new look. “While quality has always been a critical produce component, our customers tell us that style is also key when choosing an outdoor furnace,” explained Chuck Gagner, President of Northwest Manufacturing. The furnaces, available in 12 different colors, include wood burning models 3300 and 4400 and natural energy models ASF 1100 and ASF 900.

The ASF 900 natural energy furnace has just begun shipping this Fall. “Our larger furnace was so well received that customers immediately started asking for a smaller unit, so this model is 30 percent smaller and designed to heat less square footage,” said Gagner. “The appeal is very broad for this furnace, which can heat an average-sized home and domestic hot water plus a shop, pool or spa, up to 5,000 square feet.” It connects easily into a homeowner’s existing heating system.

With the world’s ever increasing demand for energy from renewable resources, this furnace burns cleanly. Emission tests

by an independent agency confirmed The WoodMaster PLUS emitted just .2 pounds of particulate as compared to the Canadian emission standard, which allows up to .3 pounds of particulate per million BTUs for outdoor furnaces. The U.S. has no published standard.

The WoodMaster PLUS natural energy furnaces reduce fuel costs by as much as 75 percent, efficiently burning corn, wood and paper pellets, barley, beet pulp, sunflowers, dried cherry pits, soy beans and a variety of other renewable fuels. “We’re helping homeowners reduce dependence on energy sources from politically unstable regions,” Gagner explained.

Featuring new proprietary “on-demand heat” technology, the furnace only burns when heat is needed. As the home uses heat from the furnace and the water temperature lowers, the ignitor automatically turns the furnace back on to recover the water temperature. In the Spring or Fall, the furnace may not need to burn all day long to maintain the water temperature.

For more product information, visit www.woodmaster.com, call 1-800-932-3629 or send an e-mail to sdlarson@woodmaster.com ☎



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ty. With the sleek design brings the weight forward and more to a center of gravity for better machine balance. Allowing the legs of the tank to wrap around the fenders of the ATV gives



the sprayer dual sumps to give maximum drainage and the ability to run on side hills without losing its prime. The pump, strainer, and main shut-off are mounted underneath the tank in a protected cavity, which also serves as a dual slosh baffle. The top of the tank is designed with a fill catch area to prevent chemical from getting on the operator. The EZ is fitted with a 4 gpm Shurflo Pump and a quality Tee-Jet trigger style handgun in the convenient control panel at your side. All brackets and boomless nozzle or boom accessories are attached to the tank for quick and easy mounting. The EZ ATV Sprayer has several different options and accessories to meet your requirements and needs.

C&R Supply, Inc. is a distributor and manufacturer of agricultural and roadside spray equipment located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. For over 25 years, C&R Supply, Inc. has been a leader in the distribution and servicing of many quality products from Raven Industries, Spraying Systems, Banjo, and more. They also lead the way in designing and manufacturing new and advanced products such as their C&R Foam Marker, Spot Sprayer, and the EZ ATV Sprayer featured in this ad. C&R is a provider for precision ag products such as GPS guidance systems, variable rate controllers, and chemical injection units. C&R prides themselves on the knowledge and experience that is required to keep up with today's technology. 📍

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A yellow and black EZ ATV Sprayer machine, a four-wheeled utility vehicle with a large white tank and a spray boom mounted on the back.

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A woman in a black shirt and blue jeans stands next to a white and black Woodmaster Corn Pellet Fuel Furnace. The furnace is a large, boxy unit with a hopper on top and a chimney pipe extending from the back. The background shows a house and a large pile of wood.

Jacobs Wind Energy Systems

A Look into the Past and Present of Wind Energy

Have you ever seen a wind turbine in motion? Watching the blades as they whisk through the air. The sound of a quiet whisper as the Jacobs' machine produces alternative energy for your home, or business. The knowledge it must have taken to develop such a fascinating machine.

When did the Jacobs Wind System come about? Well, it all started back in the 1920's, when Joseph and Marcellus Jacobs developed a practical wind energy system to provide electricity to their remote Montana ranch. Recognizing the need for this energy source, the Jacobs Wind Electric Company was founded in the mid-1920's. After moving to Minneapolis in the early 1930's, the company established a modern manufacturing facility to produce wind electric plants which provided power to isolated farms and ranches. During the next 30 years, thousands of these systems were manufactured and sold throughout the world.

In the 1950's as the supply of other types of energy was becoming more plentiful and less expensive, and power lines funded by the U.S. Government were extended into the remote regions of the country, wind energy development and advancement were almost halted. The Jacobs

Company halted its large scale manufacturing in Minneapolis and established a research facility in Florida.

With the energy crisis of the 1970's, attention again focused upon alternative energy sources. In 1970 Control Data Inc. entered into a minority stockholder agreement with Jacobs Wind Electric Co. for the purpose of getting into the wind energy field and a production of a new generation of Jacobs wind energy products began. In 1982 because of manpower requirements and capital required to enter into wind farm applications, controlling interest was acquired by Control Data Inc., Renewable Energy Ventures Inc., was established in 1983 for the acquisition of land, permits and planning of wind farms. With the pending acquisition of Winco, an alternator and portable generator manufacturing company located in Le Center, MN, the corporate name of the company was established as Earth Energy systems Inc. (EESI) to better reflect the nature of the corporation. Jacobs' products included all wind related components and Winco was the manufacturing facility and supplier of all generators and lighting standards. Both divisions marketed existing products under existing trade names and logo's as divisions of EESI.




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Western □

From 1980 to 1986 EESI sold approximately 1500 wind energy plants in the United States and 8 in other countries. It also set up five wind farms, three (3) in California and two (2) in Hawaii. Several factors contributed to the large number of sales in the United States. As mentioned previously, electric costs rose dramatically due to the oil crisis of the 1970's and the resulting increase in oil and gas prices. Also, homeowners, farmers and businessmen received Federal Income Tax credits and sometimes state income tax incentives for purchasing wind energy systems. Also the 1978 Federal Law (PURPA) regulation in the National Energy Act mandated that local electric companies were required to purchase excess electricity generated by wind turbines privately owned. In addition, many people realized the long term benefits of installing an energy system which did not have an adverse impact upon the environment and which used as its energy source a renewable resource.

In late 1985 and early 1986 Control Data decided to divest itself of its wind energy division. It is believed this decision was based upon several factors - falling oil prices, repeal of Federal Income Tax credits for wind energy systems and the internal financial position of Control Data.

Wind Turbine Industries Corporation ("WTIC" or "Company") was incorporated on May 28, 1986 as a Minnesota corporation. Beginning in 1986 Wind Turbine Industries Corporation, owned and controlled by Archie Pavek, purchased all exclusive rights, title and interest in trademarks, patentable rights, trade secrets, technology, tooling, engineering and manufacturing drawings and all other documentation on the 10 thru 20kw wind generators which includes the Grid Intertie System and the Hybrid System.

Currently due the increase in energy costs the sales in wind energy has increased dramatically. Also the awareness of global warming, and the effect our current energy source has on our environment has greatly influenced the public's views on this type of alternative energy.

If you are interested in any other information on the Jacobs Wind System you can check out our website at www.windturbine.net or contact us at 952-447-6064. ☛

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2007 National Clydesdale Sale

April 27th & 28th, 2007 – Illinois State Fairgrounds – Springfield, IL.
Sponsored by the Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A.

Make sure to check out the schedule so you can mark your calendars so you won't miss a single event! The National Clydesdale Sale is the largest offering of Clydesdale Horses in the world! This sale is the only annual breed association sponsored sale in the industry! Vendors will be open during the entire course of events selling horse tack, equipment, feed, jewelry, are, and much more!

Schedule of Events at 2007 National Sale & Annual Meeting:

Thursday, April 26, 2007 - At 7:30 A.M. – 9:30 A.M., a breakfast will be held in the Livestock Center at the Fairgrounds, open to all who wish to attend. At 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Educational Seminars will be held, also open to all who wish to attend. More Seminar information can be obtained through the Clydesdale Breeders Office. At 1:30 p.m., a voluntary halter show of sale horses will begin. At 4:00 p.m. or immediately following the halter show, a hitching preview of sale horses will be held in Arena Lot 146. Then at 8:00 p.m. the Board of Directors will hold a business meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. CBUSA members are always welcome to attend.

Friday, April 27, 2007 - At 7:30 a.m., the day starts off with a mandatory preview of the sale horses, allowing potential buyers another chance to select their favorites. At 12:00 p.m., the sale begins, starting with Geldings and possibly the Yearling Stallions. Then at 6:00 p.m., join the membership and guests at the Crowne Plaza for a delicious banquet. The Annual Meeting of the Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A. rounds out the evening with Association reports & awards. Following our Annual Meeting will be an auction with the proceeds going to the World Clydesdale Show.

Saturday, April 28, 2007 - The National Clydesdale Sale begins at 7:30 a.m., with the sale of Stallions and Mares. With over 200 horses entered,



this is the largest offering of purebred Clydesdales in the world!

Catalogs for this sale will be available by mid-March from the Clydesdale Association office for \$5.00, and will list all horses consigned to our sale. The Clydesdale Education Foundation will also be holding its Annual Silent Auction where successful bidders will take home unique and useful Clydesdale related items.

** Win a Registered Clydesdale Filly **

There will again be a raffle for a fine registered yearling Clydesdale filly to be given away on Saturday, April 28, 2007, at the National Sale. The winner can either keep the filly or put her through the Sale as his or her own horse. Tickets are available now at \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for a book of six tickets. **You need not be present to win.**

Congratulations to All-American Clydesdale Exhibitors and Breeders! Thank you to the Draft Horse Journal for sponsoring the All-American program and to all the

judges who participated in the selection process!

The 2007 Clydesdale News is available now for \$15 (\$20 out of country) – This issue is bigger and better than ever!

For information on the Clydesdale Breed, National Sale or Sale Catalog, Clydesdale Store Items, Clydesdale Publications, or raffle tickets contact:

Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A., Betty Groves, Cathy Behn, & Cathy Ludeking, Secretaries, 17346 Kelley Rd., Pecatonica, IL 61063 - Phone: 815-247-8780 - Fax: 815-247-8337, E-mail: secretary@clydesusa.com or see our Web Page at: www.clydesusa.com

The Clydesdale Breeders Association of the U.S.A. is open to all people interested in the well being and advancement of the breed and has a membership reaching into the four corners of the country. Its purpose is the collection, revision, preservation, and publication of the history and pedigrees of purebred Clydesdale horses. ♣

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The Appaloosa Museum

The story of the Appaloosa Museum and that of the Appaloosa Horse Club is comparable to siblings growing up in the same family. While they have many



experiences in common and even share physical characteristics, there are distinctive features to both. Like the Horse Club, the Museum had its birth in the basement of the home of George and Iola Hatley in Moscow, Idaho in the early 1940's. Claiming one corner of what was to become the early office of the registry, a collection of Appaloosa horse related artifacts and archival material began to grow. These items chronicled the critical involvement of the horse in both Native American and Western American history.



When the ApHC had grown beyond the confines of the Hatley home it moved to larger quarters on First Street in Moscow in 1958. The growing col-

lection of Museum items could then be displayed on more wall and floor space. Three years later and growing like a teenager the Club moved to a storefront location in downtown Moscow on Jackson Avenue. Following its older sibling the Museum moved with the Club.

The Museum now had space prominently located in one of the storefront windows of the reception area of the Club. The initial space, which had seemed so large, compared to the basement corner, over time, filled



both walls and the floor to overflowing. Fortunately for the Museum the ApHC was experiencing a similar phenomenon. So, in the late 60's plans were discussed, commitments were made and ultimately a new ApHC building was built at its present Idaho/Washington state line location in 1974.

Included in the new building was a distinct and separate, but attached, "Museum Wing" of about 1850 square feet of space. This new space seemed enormous at the time. The move also marked the transition of the Museum from "younger" sibling to becoming an adult. The Museum became incorporated as an IRS 501 (c) (3) corporation in 1975.

By the early 1990's it was evident that once again we had outgrown our

home. An active and major fund raising program was begun and with the help of literally hundreds of loyal Museum patrons and members, funds and materials were gathered and construction on the Museum addition was begun in 1997. This marked the first large scale construction project by the Museum. The Museum made the leap into the cyber age in the late 1990's and now has a beautiful website, www.appaloosamuseum.org, where web visitors can explore Appaloosa history, view many of our exhibits,



and shop in our internet gift shop. In 2006, the Museum added on yet again by fencing in a one acre pasture behind the Museum and Horse Club where two colorful Appaloosas reside from May to October of every year.

We hope to "see" you at either our real or "virtual" museum in the near future.

The collection includes:

- Early evidence of the spotted horse around the world
- Native American artifacts
- Early settler & Cowboy artifacts
- Appaloosas in the media and pop culture
- Appaloosa Horse Club memorabilia and history
- Horse show, rodeo, and race artifacts
- Children's hands-on learning area
- Live Appaloosa exhibit (May – October)
- Extensive Library and Archive

The Appaloosa Museum is located at 2720 West Pullman Road, Moscow, Idaho ~ at the Idaho-Washington border. (208) 882-5578 ext. 279 ☛

The Idaho Horse Council Horse Council

Presenting Horse Expo 2007

My Kingdom For A Horse

The Idaho Horse Council is proud to present the 21st annual Idaho Horse Expo this year on April 20, 21 and 22 at the Idaho Horse Park in Nampa, Idaho. This year's featured clinicians are Curt Pate, Alice Trindle, Jeff Spencer and Dee Craig. The Expo offers a wide variety of events, shows, seminars and sale horses.

The Private Treaty Horse Sale has become a very large part of the Expo. Owners with horses for sale bring them to the Expo, and anyone interested in buying is able to deal with the horse's owner face to face. No other involvement is necessary, and – best of all—no commissions to pay. Sale horses are pre-viewed in the Northwest Dodge Arena each day. There are stallions on display, and they are also shown all three days in the Northwest Dodge Arena in the Stallions on Parade.

The Round Pen Challenge is always an interesting event, with three clinicians exhibiting their skills in starting young horses. A test ride in a round pen is available to all who want to experience what it's like to ride a well-trained horse. There are also many youth activities available for the kids, as well as educational seminars and symposiums put on by the College of Southern Idaho all three days.

A Ranch Rodeo will be held in the outdoor rodeo arena on Saturday, and on Sunday there will be an Extreme Cowboy Race in the Esther Simplot Eventing Arena. In addition to all of these great events, we will offer over 100 vendors – so shopping will be great! Silent auction items are on display all three days and on Saturday evening the Expo will offer a Scholarship Auction and Freestyle Reining.

If you like, love or are passionate about horses, this is the place for you! The Expo is open Friday, 12:00 to 9:00; Saturday, 9:00 to 9:00; and Sunday, 9:00 to 5:00. For more information, please visit: www.idahohorsecouncil.com

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Stress and probiotics

By: Lark L. Burnham, Ph.D.

The gastrointestinal tract (GIT) of all mammals contains billions of microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, and protozoa). These microbes present both a physical and chemical barrier to opportunistic pathogens. They are an extension of the animal's own immune system. Indigenous microorganisms also degrade indigestible material.

When an animal experiences stress, physiological changes occur in response to hormones secreted by the brain. Many of these changes negatively impact the GIT and its inhabitants. One of the first responses to stress involves redirecting energy from the GIT to the muscles. Without energy, digesta stops flowing and nutrients are not actively absorbed. Stressed animals also reduce or stop feed intake. Since many of the beneficial mi-

croorganisms are either attached or non-motile, they starve and die. Gaps appear in the protective barrier and the host becomes vulnerable to infection.

Opportunistic pathogens are always present in the GIT, but proliferation is kept in check by cooperation between the immune system and the indigenous microflora. Pathogen establishment can lead to further GIT disruption, toxin production, and/or tissue invasion. Even if the animal survives the primary stressor, it can still succumb to the consequences.

Stress is part of livestock production. Stresses can be everyday events such as weather and some handling, or they can be more severe. Birth, weaning, processing, castration, shearing, transportation, and showing are all examples of major stresses. The more severe the stress, the

greater the damage to the GIT microflora.

Although it's not practical to try to protect livestock from stress, there is a way to prevent or ameliorate the consequences. Probiotics are beneficial microorganisms that temporarily fill the gaps left in the protective barrier by stress and disease. The severity of the stress determines the probiotic concentration required.

Probiotics generally come in two concentrations – feed additive (approximately 1 x 10⁸ cfu, or colony forming units, per pound; cfu is a measure of viability) for daily stresses, and concentrated (1 x 10⁸ cfu/cc or ml) for major stresses.

Probiotic effectiveness depends on concentration and viability. Proper handling and storage will insure maximum response. 🐾

A Short But Immaginative History Of Bonnie Shields, The Tennessee Mule Artist

My art career started with a black and a green crayon on my grandma's kitchen wall. Fortunately for me, a four year old can't reach up too high and the thing being basically out of the adult's eye, I survived execution. Besides, my grandma LOVED me. I took the whole thing to mean I must be a real R-TEEST. There are those that will argue it was the high point of my career, but I refuse to believe that.

Anyway, my heart wasn't so much into art as it was horses and cowboys so my artistic adventures tended to follow suit. Unfortunately, my parents had the audacity to NOT live in the West, creating instant hardship in my young life. You see, in truth I grew up in Southern Indiana (Corydon) instead of Cody, Wyoming, so my perception of the west and cowboys was influenced by my weekly infusions of B Westerns at the Dream Theatre. (Cost-25 for entry and popcorn). In retrospect, it wound up serving me well as it set my imagination free at an early age. Reality and Fantasy. Never could tell the difference.

Some of my earliest successes in the art world came from pen and ink assignments of family and friends. And, once again, the opportunity to simply kill me over such things passed and I forged on.

In the 60's, I had a regular cartoon feature in a national Charolais magazine, along with many, many forgettable commercial assignments. Nothing to take seriously. I held down a few legitimate jobs and started a family with my first husband. Then in the late 60's fate stepped in. I met the MULE!

Finally, a MATCH! The mules fascinated me both as a horseman and as an artist. They were NOT long-eared horses. Little did we both know that a career was born in the hills of middle Tennessee.

I began drawing mules and learning all I could about them and the wonderful people that loved them. Showing my wares at local art shows and country fairs, it became obvious that everyone had an opinion of the mule, whether they knew anything about them or not. There is an empathy between us humans and this creature that goes deep. My sympathetic and realistic renderings of the mule and the life they implore began to garner attention all over the South as I traveled the mall shows and art fairs. When the Tennessee state legislature could stand it no more, they drew up a bill naming me the "Official" Tennessee Mule Artist in April of 1977.

Now, you'd think I'd be so grateful, I'd never leave home, wouldn't you? Wrong. I immediately married a guy from California and moved lock, stock (a mule, horse, cat, two dogs and a kid) to Bishop, CA. Then, in 1980 we moved again. This time to the wilds of Northern Idaho where I still thrive to this day.

Life up here is most interesting and sometimes challenging and it has been the perfect impetus for my funnybone to stretch to it's limits. Add some mules and some fellow cartoonists and you have lots of grins and adventures to pull from. One of my better opportunities has come by being a Leanin Tree artist since 1982. Bet you've seen my work for years and just never knew it.

I'm also on the Board of the American Donkey and Mule Society and am a founding member of the Cowboy Cartoonists International.

My association with the mule and the people who love them

has been so rewarding. Then, to fall into a pack of like-minded and totally goofy cartoonists was like icing on my cake. Both associations have been so rewarding, I will never be able to repay any of them, but I try everyday.

Currently, I am involved in the production of the "Jasper" series of children's books written by the famous mule trainer, Meredith Hodges. She lets me illustrate them. Meredith has a regular program on RFD-TV and it sometimes shows me, too, talking about the mules. We both agree that mules require a healthy sense of humor and the ability to be humbled sometimes. We think it all keeps us real and we know it keeps us happy.

Well, I guess this is all what you'd call history now. The "serious art career" remains elusive, but I know I've fallen into something far better. Oh, I can paint and draw with the big boys if I choose, but Lordy, they are boring! I know I've found my place in the "art world". Yes, you are being addressed by the world's leading half-ass artist, and proud of it.

Hope you enjoy my work, wherever you find it. Just remember, watch where you step. You might get some on you, but don't worry. It's all good stuff and it'll make you grow.

I can be found on that infernal new machine at: www.bonnieshields.com www.cowboycartoonists.com and on www.LuckyThreeRanch.com Meantime, like my hero mule, Leroy, always said: "Keep your traces tight." ☿

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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!

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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. 🐾

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 🐾

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." ♣

THE NMDA MINIATURE DONKEY Gelding Incentive Program

The NMDA Board of Directors are happy to report that the Gelding Incentive Program is a success – no longer a trial Program, but a permanent part of NMDA's offerings to the Miniature Donkey community. Your tax-deductible donations, along with NMDA's original \$5,000 backing is allowing us all to make a very real difference in the genetic heritage of Miniature Donkeys.

The start of the NMDA Miniature Donkey Gelding Incentive Program was announced as a trial Program in the Spring 2002 ASSET. A unique aspect of the trial Program was the partnering of NMDA and the membership in the goals of promoting geldings as true "Ambassadors of the Breed" by demonstrating their endearing, gentle qualities and at the same time having a positive effect on the overabundance of jacks in the population. One hundred percent of your tax-deductible donations to this Program are used exclusively for gelding Miniature Donkeys. Rebates of \$50 are offered to owners who agree to fulfill a few simple requirements.

As the strengthening of the Gelding Incentive Program has become apparent, so has the opportunity of expanding the Program to facilitate the goal of gelding Miniature Donkeys not only for owners,

but U.S. registered charities that have Miniature Donkeys under their care.

While the Gelding Incentive Program is primarily intended for those who need assistance with veterinary expenses, the fundamental goal is to actively promote the gelding of as many Miniature Donkeys as possible – everyone is invited to participate.

NMDA Gelding Incentive Program Requirements:

- Applicant must be a current NMDA member.
- Each farm will be limited to one rebate each year, however a second rebate will be granted as long as funds are available.
- Owners will be required to provide a

Veterinary Statement of Castration (provided by NMDA) along with a copy of the veterinarian's original billing statement.

- The gelded jack must be registered and a copy of the Registration Certificate indicating he is a gelding is required.

Inquiries, donations and applications for rebates may be directed to the NMDA Central Office: 315-336-0154; 315-339-4414 (FAX); nmdaasset@aol.com; 6450 Dewey Rd., Rome, New York 13440. www.nmdaasset.com

BE ASSURED THT 100% OF YOUR DONATIONS TO THIS PROGRAM ARE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR GELDING MINIATURE DONKEYS!

NMDA Board of Directors ♣



NMDA is a non-profit organization dedicated to protect and promote the Miniature Donkey Breed; and to provide an educational forum for owners and breeders on donkey care and management. Publishers of ASSET, a magazine devoted solely to Miniature Donkeys. This publication is loaded with information for new owners and experienced breeders alike.

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beef – dairy

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Carl Dethlefs & Sons Awarded Historic Herd Award

Carl Dethlefs & Sons, Rockville, Neb., has received the Historic Herd Award from the American Angus AssociationSM. Carl purchased his first Angus in 1949 and became a lifetime member of the American Angus Association in 1955.

Carl and his wife Laura grew their herd of registered Angus while raising sons Jerry and Kenneth "Dutch." Both boys showed Angus in 4-H and started their own herds. The Angus business has been passed down through the generations, and today Jerry and his son Gary maintain the herd of registered Angus cattle that was established more than half a century ago. Jerry's daughters, Carol and Tracy, also maintain an interest in the Angus business as do his grandchildren. Carl Dethlefs & Sons hosted their 39th production sale in early March, where this honor was presented to Laura and Jerry.

The American Angus Association presents the Historic Angus Herd Award to Angus herds that have been in the continuous production of registered Angus cattle by the same family for 50 years or more.

The American Angus Association is the world's largest beef breed organization, providing programs and services to thousands of commercial producers and more than 34,000 regular and junior members nationwide. For more information go to www.angus.org or call (816) 383-5100. 🐄

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When the "Calf Claim" is sprinkled on the back of the newborn livestock, it makes even the most reticent mothers receptive to their young. The mother smells the licorice-laced product and dries off the baby as she licks it. This contact stimulates the baby's respiration and heartbeat. The calf stands up and the cow lets it nurse.

"Calf Claim" has been used on foals and lambs, but is most successful with beef and dairy calves born under stress to first time mothers. When used routinely on calves that need pulled, it helps the cow or heifer to start licking. The product works best if the dam and baby are penned in a small area, about 10x15 feet, and sprinkle some "Calf Claim" then rub into its hair. It also helps to dampen the calf's back to make it stick. "Calf Claim" is bottled in five-ounce plastic containers and

distributed for sale by veterinarians and veterinary suppliers across the United States and Canada. It sells for around \$12 a bottle and is good for up to 10-12 calf situations. Demand is heaviest in the spring, although it has found favor with Western-fall calving herds.

This spring, there's even more of an incentive than usual to do everything possible to save newborns. Each fresh, young bovine face emerging on the scene represents a pretty valuable addition. The market for young calves is hot, and perhaps has never been hotter. It's a good time to take precaution and care. So having something that prevents calf abandonment is essential. "Calf Claim" is an answer to an old problem. Order "Calf Claim" today from your veterinary distributor. You may phone (641) 464-2202 or Fax: (641) 464-2254 for more information.

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Through the years, we at the Mt. Ayr Veterinary Clinic have manufactured and distributed a flavored powdered product "Calf Claim"™. "Calf Claim" is a bonding agent that is sprinkled on and rubbed into the hair of a newborn calf. The aromatic scent from the product attracts and entices the cow to lick and clean the calf stimulating bonding. It is highly successful in cattle and horses and somewhat successful in sheep and swine.

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the product. However, nobody has ever asked about its history. "Calf Claim" is a formulation of a product worked up by Joe Graham, D.V.M. of Milo, Iowa. Dr. Graham has been practicing veterinary medicine since the 1940's and compounded his product one dose at a time, as there was a need for it.

After a tour of duty with the U.S. Army, I joined my classmate. Dr. Max Mekus in a general veterinary practice in Mt. Ayr, Iowa. Shortly after starting practice. Dr. Mekus introduced me to the mixture that his Uncle Dr. Graham had compounded and I was impressed with all the success that local cattlemen were having using the product. Many were repeat customers stopping by the clinic asking for one or more doses of our calf claimer, as they called it.

Out of necessity, we formulated a new process of compounding to batch produce the calf claimer to meet the demand. At this time, it became a permanent part of our O.B. grips. After a successful delivery of a newborn the question of "What are you doing Doc?" soon changed to "Did you put Calf Claimer on Doc?"

In 1978, we trademarked the name "Calf Claim" and started to market our product thru some of the smaller veterinary product distributors that called upon us. The rest is history, and we now have distribution in the United States and Canada. About the only advertising of the product has been its success. "Calf Claim" has actually sold itself. In, 2003, our formulation was changed a little. We have removed the animal by products as the carrier and changed to a vegetable carrier. This change was prompted because of the fear of mad cow disease. John L. Peters, D.V.M. ✪

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- Minimized possibility of infection: If the procedure is completed properly, the scrotum with the latex band will drop off within 20 to 40 days. The scrotum should be healed with minimal, if any, infection.
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- Fast and easy to use: A pre-made latex band fits all sizes from small calves to mature bulls. Each application can be performed easily in 10 to 20 seconds. It can even be done as a one-person operation, if needed. No hassles with trying to stretch the band while castrating because the band is already stretched while slipping the scrotum through. This frees up one hand and there is no extra equipment needed. Model T-1 has a built in knife to cut the band after it has been crimped. Both of these added features save time.

Some additional benefits include:

- Can also be used on sheep and goats.
- No crushing of internals.



- No interruption of daily gain.
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For more information, contact Out West Mfg. At 1-888-745-8807, or visit www.Castrator.com 🐾

Western Feed Yard

“Ooh! What is that smell?” neighbors might ask when they drive by Western Feed Yard, Inc. “That’s the smell of money,” replies Roger Canny, owner of Western Feed Yard. To many, the smell of a feed yard is repulsing, but not to Roger and his family. “It is actually comforting and reassuring to us, because we know as long as we smell cattle, we’re doing our job keeping the feed yard full.”

Roger Canny grew up where he still lives today in Johnson, Kansas. He was raised on the family farm and still operates it with his son Matt. The farm is celebrating its 120th birthday this year. Roger has been around cattle his whole life and continues to run cattle on the family farm yearly.

In 1987 Roger and a partner bought Western Feed Yard. It could only house 15,000 head. Today the capacity is at 42,000 and has room to expand. How did it grow so fast you may ask? The same qualities Roger has possessed to keep the family farm

running up to five generations are the same ones he has applied to grow a successful feed yard. “Western would not be successful without our dedicated employees. Employee retention is one of our strongest aspects,” replies Roger. “There are at least seven managers that have been with us for over ten years. We are a tight knit family that works hard day and night to fulfill our mission statement: To Exceed Customer Expectations.” Have we perfected this goal? No. We make mistakes like every normal human being, but we are willing to admit it, fix it, and make the customer’s feeding experience with us a complete joy.

Western Feed Yard is located in the heart of the cattle feeding industry in southwest Kansas. There are many feed yards around the area. So what makes Western Feed Yard stand out amongst the others? First of all, we specialize in feeding cattle that most feed yards would turn down. Built within our feed yard is a 5,000 head

starter yard headed up by Clem Nelson, operations manager. Long-haul, stressed cattle are always welcome here. Second, our processing team is ranked number one by our consulting veterinarian. Heidi Harmon, our head processing manager has been with us for over 10 years. She makes sure needles are changed at least every ten head and shots are given in the proper injection sites. Third, Western stays on top of the latest cutting-edge technologies with feed trucks, steam-flakers, and health care. We also thrive on building strong relationships with our customers. They are the most important aspect of our business.

To find out more about us and to view pictures of Western Feed Yard go to www.westernfeedyard.com. Anytime you are in southwest Kansas please stop by and say hi. We’d love to show you around and take you out for a steak dinner. Western Feed Yard: “Managing Your Investment in the World’s Appetite for Beef.” 🐾

Western □

BLACK: The Color of Money

Why sacrifice profit? Whether you are a beef breeder or a longhorn breeder, BL Night Chex can provide you what you need.

The beef breeder can profit by breeding their first year heifers to BL Night Chex. He provides the black or black/white color without giving up muscle. These calves can compete with the beef calves at weaning. Most beef breeders use a longhorn bull on first year heifers, not knowing what color will show up. Brindle, red/white, lineback, etc., We can guarantee the black, black/white color.

As for the longhorns breeder, BL Night Chex provides you with the same positive aspects above, as well as horn. The calves are flashy, or solid black and have lots of horn. BL Night Chex produced 1 of the 2 longest horned black females in the longhorn industry.

Here at Khaos Cattle Co. we were tired of having longhorns calves with lack of color. Longhorn breeders can relate when we talk about all those white calves with red ears. The first one is cute, but more than one is not so cute! These end up in the roping pin. Well, after this dilemma we got smart. We purchased BL Night Chex, and it has been love at first sight. There is nothing like seeing that white cow with a beautiful black calf at her side. Wow, up until this point she has had six white calves in a row. Now, the calf standing there is pure profit. Now, you can keep those cute white calves with red ears, and purchase BL Night Chex semen. Those white cows will make you money with the help of BL Night Chex. No matter if it is a bull or heifer, there is a place for that calf on your farm, and appeal for the longhorn buyer that visits. I would cringe if it was not a heifer, and now, never has a bull calf looked so good.

We are offering semen on BL Night Chex for the beef and longhorn breeder. This will be the best investment both will ever make. Those first year heifers will sail through calving, and make you money in 6 months. The longhorn breeder will have other breeders knocking on their door.

Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail for a quote on semen. We look forward to hearing from you. Let us make you money. We can be reached at (704) 361-6035-Ken Morris, or (704) 622-0877-Jessica Morris, or (704) 291-9559-Home. ☛

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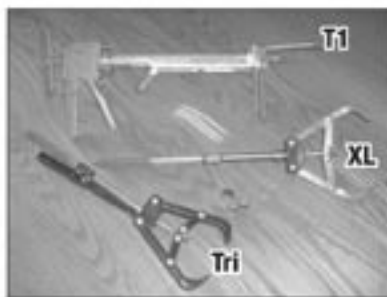
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alpaca-llama

How to Begin Your Alpaca Business Successfully

Raising alpacas is a growing industry. It's easy to see why. The animals are gentle in nature, require minimal land, and can provide an exciting business opportunity. Educate yourself and take advantage of the many alpaca resources available.

Alpacas are beautiful, intelligent, and docile animals. Cousin to the llama, adult alpacas are smaller and stand about 36 inches at the withers; they weigh between 150 and 200 pounds.

Originally from South America, the United States first commercially imported alpacas in 1984, and today there are more than 100,000 registered in the United States and Canada. Once an Incan civilization treasure, alpacas provided clothing and transportation.

Although almost physically identi-



cal, the two types of alpacas are distinguished by their fiber. The Huacaya (wa-Ki'-ah), the more common, has a fluffy, extremely fine coat. The Suri (surrey), the rarer, has fiber that is very silky and resembles pencillocks.

Shorn every twelve to eighteen

months, they produce a luxurious fiber. Alpacas produce a luxurious, soft fiber that is as warm as wool at 1/3 the weight. It is a specialty fiber, being both rare and extremely fine. Pure alpaca fiber is hypo-allergenic. Additional alpaca performance characteristics include: stretch, strength, wicking properties and odor reduction. It comes in 22 natural colors.

Alpacas do not have horns, hooves, claws, incisors or upper teeth. Alert and curious, they are social animals that seek companionship. They communicate most commonly by humming. Neck posturing, ear and tail positioning, and head tilt are other communication methods.

The average lifespan of an alpaca is 20 years, with a gestation period of 11.5 months. Female alpacas normally give birth, without assistance, in the daylight hours. Single births are typical, but twins are possible. The most recent figure notes that 1 in 2000 is a twin.

Begin your successful alpaca farm operation by educating yourself. Gather as much information, from as many resources, as possible.

First visit alpaca farms in your area. Local breeders will gladly answer all your questions and share helpful information about their start-up experience. To find an alpaca farm near you, visit www.alpacainfo.com and click on the "Farm and Ranch Locator" link. You can also order a Farm and Ranch Guide by clicking the "Request Information" link.

The Farm and Ranch Guide is a must for potential new breeders. This handy reference book includes the fascinating history of alpacas and alpaca fiber and the financial aspects of the alpaca business. You will begin to understand what the alpaca community is all about; alpaca breeders are a unique, dedicated group. They have made alpacas a major part of their lives. Some owners raise alpacas for companionship. Others use alpacas as



a 4-H animal that teaches their children compassion and responsibility. Fiber artists and enthusiasts often raise alpaca for the multiple end-products - intricate sweaters, scarves, hats, mittens, to name a few. Whatever the personal reason, alpacas undeniably are pleasurable and can bring the potential for a rewarding lifestyle and

business opportunity.

Another great way to learn about alpacas and the alpaca industry is to attend AOBA certified shows and events. These shows are national, re-



gional, and local.

The biggest alpaca event of the year is the AOBA National Conference, showcasing over 1,000 alpacas. It will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on May 18, 19 and 20, 2007 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. Admission is FREE and open to the public. The National Conference is the largest AOBA certified halter and fleece show. Breeders and guests witness the inner-workings of a billion-dollar industry and learning never ends. Education seminars range from alpaca care to marketing techniques. Artisans compete with hand-crafted items. And, there is no better place to buy, sell, and learn about alpacas, apparel, and a variety of alpaca-related materials.

There are also several regional and local shows and events. To find a complete list of events, visit www.alpacainfo.com and click on "Calendar of Events".

Once you have visited a local farm, read the Farm and Ranch Guide, attended a few alpaca shows, it's time to fully immerse yourself among the thousands of others who love and raise alpacas. Join the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA). Be

amongst the warmest and welcoming community of more than 4,000 with members in all 50 states, including Alaska and Hawaii.



AOBA membership has many benefits. You can join as either an Associate Member or a Farm Member. Every member receives a subscription to *Alpacas Magazine*. Established in 1990, this quarterly magazine is now 16 years old. Standard, in-depth articles often include topics of alpaca health, tax-related information, innovative ways to market your animals and end-products, and more. Besides the four standard issues, one issue is exclusively devoted to fashion, highlighting the latest alpaca trends and standard favorites. *Alpacas Magazine* also has several advertising opportunities, which is a wonderful way to market your farm or ranch, while

staying in-touch with financial trends. *Alpacas Magazine* has a strong reputation within the alpaca industry and beyond. It's no surprise then to hear that this magazine has earned the coveted Crystal Communicator's Award – five times in a row. The Crystal Communicator's Award is given to the best of the best in print media.

Another publication, *OneVoice*, is a quarterly newsletter, providing industry information. Topics cover how to sell your first alpaca, advice the latest in alpaca health and nutrition, affiliate committee news, a calendar of events and more.

Also included in the AOBA membership is the invaluable membership directory. This recourse includes contact information for member alpaca breeders in North America.

The AOBA lending library is one of the largest alpaca-related libraries in the world. AOBA's Marketing Committee has produces several resources to purchase or to borrow. Topics include everything from care, feed, and nutrition to how to raise your alpaca in general.

Once again, the best way to learn more about alpacas is to visit a farm or ranch. Visit www.alpacainfo.com to locate one near you. ✦



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Old Oaks Ranch

Fiber Arts Center

The Old Oaks Ranch Fiber Arts Center is now open, offering a wealth of materials and knowledge for central Texas fiber enthusiasts. Located on a working alpaca ranch north of Wimberley, the Center offers classes such as weaving, knitting, wearable art design, hat felting, nuno felting, art quilting, spinning, dyeing, rug hooking and gentle yoga. Courses in crochet and other fiber arts will be added soon. Children's beginning weaving workshops are offered, and a variety of other kids' classes will be available in the coming months, including spring break. The Center's location in the hills provides a beautiful and friendly learning environment, indoors and out.

Along with educational opportunities, the Center's shop sells yarn and fiber

on cones, skeins and balls; wool and silk roving for spinning; fabric by the yard and fat quarter; supplies and kits for knitting, weaving, quilting, crocheting and more. A selection of instructive books and magazines covering topics from knitting through weaving are also in stock, or feel free to browse the reference library. Looms and spinning wheels are available for use during classes, or for purchase.

The Fiber Arts Center began when Sue Ellen Stavrand and Sandra Doak met at a meeting of the Weavers and Spinners Society of Austin. The two became friends while Sandra, a weaving instructor, gave Sue Ellen weaving lessons. Discussions led to their partnership in opening the Center, housed in a renovated pole barn on Sue Ellen's ranch.

Old Oaks Ranch offers Huacaya Alpacas – known for their teddy bear fleeces, long legs and neck and sweet disposition. These gentle animals are great for family pets, fiber enthusiasts and investors. Tracy Annis, the Old Oaks Ranch Manger and Camelidynamics instructor can get you started with the handling and needs of these terrific animals.

The Old Oaks Fiber Arts Center is located at 601 Old Oaks Ranch Road, Wimberley. From the Wimberley square, drive 5 miles north on R.R. 12, turn right onto Old Oaks Ranch Road; the entrance is less than a mile on the left. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Check the web site for workshop details at www.theoldoaksranch.com or call 512-847-8784. ☛



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Alpacas along the Chisholm Trail

By: Robin Howser, Chisholm Trail Alpacas, Inc.

Are you worried about retirement income? Are you paying too much income tax? Owning your own alpaca business can be the answer to both questions.

We are the Howser family from Mustang and Yukon, Oklahoma: Dad Roger and Mom Robin, older son Josh and his wife Cassandra, and our younger son, Travis. All of us (except Travis, he is only 11!) currently work at other jobs as we get our new alpaca business off the ground. Our long term goal (5 year) is to be able to retire from these demanding jobs and work with alpacas full time.

We started our business in 2006. One day in July, Josh and his bride stopped by for a visit. "Hey Dad, I've found the perfect family business!" "What?" asked Roger. "Alpacas!" All we could say was "Huh? What's an alpaca?"

The above response seems to be fairly typical of how most people respond to the topic of alpacas, so we had some research to do. We began our investigation with the internet, using a search engine with one word, "alpaca". We got back 1.5 million hits. So obviously SOMETHING is going on with the alpaca industry to return so much information. We then visited a couple of alpaca farms in our area for first-hand and hands-on information. After our first visit, we were hooked!

I am most impressed with the fact that the alpaca industry is very well supported with national, regional, and local organiza-



tions to promote success in this industry. Training and support for new owners is easy to find, most of our support coming from the farms where we purchased our first alpacas.

If you are looking for a unique way to diversify your farm or ranch--something that does not need a lot of acreage, no additional equipment, and uses the skills you already possess, then you might want to take a look at alpacas.

You are welcome to visit our farm at any time. Please see our ad for our contact information. Happy Trails! 🍷

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goat – sheep

There is Life After Hogs

Illini-Acres Dairy and Boer Goats

Who would have thought an Alpine/Nubian doe purchased at a stockyard would be the beginning of a passion that would eventually replace a 250 sow hog operation?

That is how Illini-Acres Dairy and Boer Goats owned by Leland and Alice Marriott came to be the largest dairy goat herd in southeastern Illinois. Illini-Acres is located 10 mi. west of Mt. Carmel, Il on the Indiana border.

The Marriotts first dairy goat purchase was in 1986 when they brought Nanny and her twin doe kids home from the local stockyards. The Alpine/Nubian crossbred became the source of milk replacer that Alice used in the farrow to finish hog operation she and her husband, Leland were running. The Marriott's found the goat milk to be the the best milk replacer they had found for the extra pigs being produced. At that time, the commercial milk replacers were not the quality they are by today's standards, and the goat milk boosted their weaned pig average.

And while Nanny was earning her keep as a milker, her daughters became the Marriott's young sons, Tim and Matthew's 4-H projects. Those two kids (four-legged) were the hit of the fair that year. If anyone wanted to find their youngsters,

they need look no further than the goat pen. The interest was so high in goats as a project that Alice became the Goat Superintendent, and a new division was added to the fair the following year. She still holds that position today, long after her sons have been out of the 4-H program, conducting workshops and being a project leader. She had participated in many seminars and workshops in the surrounding counties.

"Goat projects are a wonderful beginning animal for young 4-Hers", Alice explains. They can be the next step up from rabbits and poultry. They are small enough and have the kind of personality that a young child can handle. The 4-Her learns responsibility in caring for the animal, teaching it to lead, and at the same time has an animal that will respond to them with constant affection. The goat project works well before going on to the larger animal projects.

Alice's first experience with what she calls "real" goats was at the Illinois State Fair. There was an ADGA goat show going on the day Tim competed with his 4-H entomology project, and they saw their first registered animals. "They were just beautiful and the people exhibiting were so willing to answer questions. I had no idea there was such a thing as a purebred goat", she explained. "I was raised in town and in a time that

Funds Available to Help Sheep & Goat Industries

Since 1999, the National Livestock Producers Association's Sheep & Goat Fund has helped a variety of innovative projects come to fruition. Currently the Fund has \$9.4 million in loan commitments with 45 loans to 33 entities in 21 states. The Fund Committee continuously reviews applications that serve the goals of this program.

"Most recently the Fund has been used to help establish a livestock merchandising center, expand several goat dairies, build a consolidated goat association, develop a sheep meat supplier, and create a weed control and fire protection program using sheep," Richard Drake, chairman of the NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund Committee said. "Our loan program is unique in its ability to evaluate each applicant's specific needs and create a flexible financing plan. We also offer a very competitive interest rate, currently 5.75 percent."

The Sheep & Goat Fund was established in 1999 when an agreement was signed between the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (Sheep Center) and the NLPA that enables Sheep Center funds to be used in the sheep and goat industries

through a revolving loan program. The NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund 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 agreement 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).

For more information or an application please contact the National Livestock Producers Association at 1-800-237-7193 or visit www.SheepandGoatFund.com. 🐏

Western □

goats were portrayed as being smelly animals that ate tin cans and clothes of the line.” Seeing those goats at the show was the beginning of her goat passion.

It was at this time she began to research the marketing of goats. Any animal on the farm had to produce enough to pay for it’s keep. Either by milk, meat or sales. It was during this research she discovered the option of exporting to foreign countries. It sounded like that could make the goats a lucrative enterprise. So she purchased some registered Nubians and began to raise goats with a purpose. She made the right connections and her animals were offered to buyers from around the world.

The family continued to raise hogs and added Toggenburgs to the dairy herd. The Marriott’s herd was up to 30 head or so in 1998 when the bottom fell out of hog prices. It was a tough decision to get out of hog production –Leland and Alice had worked at it together for 25 years, and Leland’s parents had established the herd long before that; but looking back the Marriotts’ say it was the right choice. Leland says the last year they raised hogs Alice goats made money – the hogs didn’t. Alice went to work full time off the farm in 1999; but continued to increase the herd by adding Boer Goats to the mix. The meat goats peaked Leland’s interest – he didn’t have to milk them; and they had a fast rate of gain. Something a hog farmer could relate to. But once again, before making the purchase, Alice did research to see where the market might be, and how far she would have to drive to deliver them. Little did she know at that time how the demand for goats was going to

change. Or what a huge part they would play in her life – with the addition of farm acreage, and one son remaining on the farm; it allowed Alice to return to the farm full time and care for and produce goats.

Today you can find 250-300 head of goats at Illini-Acres. One old farrowing house has been converted to the milk barn and loafing area for the does and dry animals. Another farrowing house is used for birthing pens and grower pens the young animals. The gestating Boer does are now occupying the open sow lots. And much of the hog pens and equipment have been utilized in the conversion.

The Marriotts’ have added Alpines, Saanens and Lamancha Dairy goats to the herd; as the Swiss breeds seem to be more in demand for the target market of replacement animals to commercial goat dairies. The Marriotts are hundreds of miles from goat milk processing plants; but Alice has found a niche in raising quality replacement animals. The meat goat market is much closer to home. When she first started with Boer goats 7 years ago she had two markets one at Easter and one in December. She currently can sell meat animals year round and not have to travel more than a half hour from home.

“The goat industry has grown by leaps and bounds in the last 7 years. And the past 3 years have been phenomenal; with the demand for goat meat and cheese. I am living a dream come true – back on the farm; raising goats; and making it profitable. I couldn’t ask for anything more,” Marriott stated. “Will I continue?” “You bet. If the demand dies down, I can downsize; but there will always be goats.” 🐐

Sheep jerky? Goatskin handbags?

Get a Loan to Develop Your Idea Through the NLPA

The National Livestock Producers Association (NLPA) has money available in its Sheep & Goat Fund to loan to industry participants to strengthen and enhance the sheep and goat industries. For more information, go to www.SheepandGoatFund.com or call 1-800-237-7193.

Get the money you need for your sheep and goat projects from the National Livestock Producers Association today.

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- Stud Service
- Show Wethers
- 4-H Projects
- Client Support & Consultation

SCHAFFER FARMS



It is not always easy to raise goats in West Texas. The pastures are often sparse, with an annual rainfall of 13 inches. Schafer Farms runs an average herd of 400 goats on their 160 acre farm, and about 900 acres of native pasture. This is accomplished through a rotational grazing system using drip irrigation, and conservative use of pasture. The drip irrigation conserves water because it is installed 15-18 inches beneath the ground and feeds the root system of the plants. Schafer Farms plants a mixture of beardless wheat and oats in the fall of the year which provides excellent grazing for recip does and their new offspring. This small grain crop lasts until the Texas weather heats up usually in May. At that time, the does go back to native pasture. The farm also has a permanent grass on some of the sections of drip irrigation, which can be grazed year-round, but goes somewhat dormant in the win-

ter. However, goats like dry grass, and seem to do quite well on it. The rest of the rotational sections are utilized with hybrid sorghum, which is usually baled in the summer, and then grazed after the last cutting until well into the first frost of the winter. It provides dry matter for the goats, but has to be supplemented with molasses tubs in the winter. However, it is not uncommon to harvest 90 round bales of hay from 12 acres of drip irrigation, with fertilizer being put right through the irrigation system. These bales are put back for feed for the winter months. With any help from Mother Nature in the form of rainfall, there can be up to 3 cuttings for hay.

Schafer Farms, Hugh and Ann Schafer, are pioneers in the development of the boer goat. They were members of a syndicate that imported some of the first boer goats to the United States. They are dedicated to promoting the breed for showing, breeding, and commercial use. Each year is a challenge to produce better livestock than the previous year. Their goal is to produce the best stock for their use and for their customers, and to stand behind what they sell. They have sold to 25 states and 6 foreign countries.

Schafer Farms will be bringing their top-line genetics to buyers from West Texas to California to the Midwest this year. In order to provide these animals, they use embryo transfer, and artificial insemination, as well as natural breeding.

Schafer Farms has produced a National Reserve Champion Buck in 1998, and a National Reserve Champion Doe in 2003. They have also sold many champions. In the last few years, the wether competition for 4-H and FFA has become phenomenal, and Schafer Farms is dedicated to producing some of the best wethers in Texas. This year, they produced the Grand Champion Wether at The Arizona National Livestock Show in Phoenix, Az. Schafer Farms' schedule for 2006 includes the following:

California Gold Rush Sale-April 21, 2007, Oakdale, California

Platinum Alliance Sale-August 25, 2007, Sydney, Ohio
Pueblo, Colorado April 7th, 2007

Remember, no one is a stranger at Schafer Farms where "A handshake is as good as a contract". 🐐

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Platinum Alliance Sale - August 25, 2007,
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Ruminations Magazine

Ruminations Magazine was started in the 1980's when the first Nigerian Dwarf goat herds were being developed. It has since grown into the only publication for Nigerian Dwarf and Mini Dairy goats (crosses between Nigerians and the larger dairy breeds). The magazine is family-oriented, with articles, how-to's, poetry, pictures and stories for the novice through the experienced goat breeder.

Whether you have large dairy goats, meat goats, or minis, Ruminations will help you keep up with what's going on in the goat world and provide the latest information on health and science, new publications, international happenings, and basic goat husbandry.

We are affiliated with the Miniature Dairy Goat Association (www.miniaturedairygoats.com) and also have an annual Kids & Kids issue, to showcase the artwork, writing and photography of children who love goats. 🐐

Cheryl Smith, Ruminations Magazine
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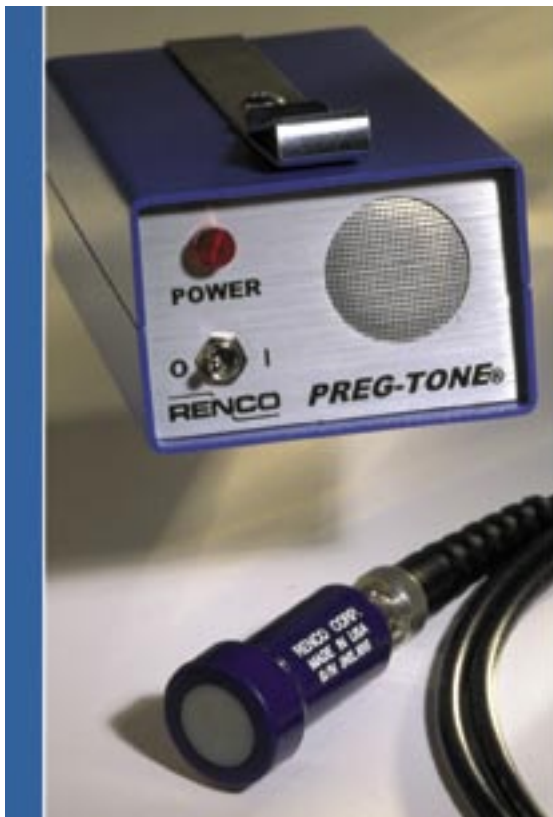
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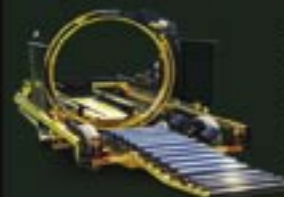
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