

AMERICAN Small Farm

Volume 12, Number 1

January 2003

C O N T E N T S

Features

Fall planning begins now 6

Writer Steve Edwards says, "I remember being taught the five Ps – prior planning prevents poor performance. As I've often told chefs, '... I'd like to help you fill this last minute order, but I can't pull a rabbit out of my hat!'"

Alternative feeds for cattle 9

Supplemental feed is the major cost of producing beef and milk. Alternative feeds can provide nutrients needed by cattle often at a lower cost than traditional feeds.

How to protect your woods-grown ginseng 12

Growing ginseng can be an enjoyable experience. It may also be a profitable crop for you. This article gives you some ideas about protecting your ginseng plants.

Why is genetic diversity important? 14

The rapid consolidation of the swine industry is perhaps the greatest threat to genetic diversity. The compelling reason for conservation of diversity is to maintain genetic options for the future, since we do not know the challenges yet to be faced in providing food security for the nation and the world.

Electric fence design 32

The effectiveness of any electric fence depends on the ability of the fence to deliver a painful shock to animals that touch it. The effectiveness of any design depends on the type of animal that must be controlled, the materials used in construction and site characteristics.

Organic Farmer Section

Turning to the sun 28

Soil "solarization" is the process of heating soil under clear plastic for at least six weeks during the summer to kill off weed seeds and diseases that could otherwise destroy a winter crop. Consider it as an alternative to methyl bromide.

A head start for controlling fire ants 30

Tiny South American phorid flies are looked at as a way to control pesky fire ants, whose spread has been unaffected by

poisons and other measures. Phorid flies use the decapitated heads of imported fire ants to reproduce.

Columns & Departments

Small Farm Talk 3

This month we discuss the reason for class action lawsuit reform.

New Products 16

Calendar 17

Homestead Treasures 20

Quilt patterns with a farm flavor 22

Over the fence 22

A place to learn what is happening on family farms.

Recipes 24

This month's recipes are samples from the "Colorado Cook Book."

On the bookshelf 26

Books that can help you do a better job on your farm.

Last Word 38

Do you need a bulldozer to find your desk? Organize your office and you may save the equivalent of five weeks of your time this year.



AMERICAN Small Farm

Editor: Andrew Stevens
Associate Editor: Michelle Callahan
Creative Director: Ryan Mumm
Circulation: Amy Kingsborough

Londa Anklam, David Cooke, George V. Davis, Jr., Steve Edwards, Bobbi Lynn Fry, Larry Harper, Patrick Hughes, Cynthia L. Kirk, Judy McBride, David W. Pratt, Sam Rogers, and John A. Scott, Jr.

Advertising: Marti Smith, Director;
Leon Kincaid, Account Manager
Michael Krystofik, Account Manager
Norm Fisher, Account Manager
Amy Kingsborough, Sales Associate

Publisher: Farm & Ranch Publishing, LLC
Andy Stevens: Vice-President, Editor
Marti Smith: Vice-President, Advertising

Publishing Office: 267 Broad Street
Westerville, OH 43081
Phone: (614) 895-3755
FAX: (614) 895-3757

E-mail: info@smallfarm.com
Web site: <http://www.smallfarm.com>

Editorial Office:
P.O. Box 1059, Delaware, OH 43015
Phone: (614) 895-3755
FAX: (614) 895-3757



American Small Farm Magazine is proud to support FFA



Audit Bureau of Circulations Member

About the cover

At the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, people cheer and sing "Auld Lang Syne."

Sometimes Father Time and Baby New Year make their appearance. While the painting on our cover is not the traditional Father Time and Baby New Year, I believe you can easily imagine the pair on the cover reviewing the old year and planning for the new year.

It is quite possible they are making New Year's resolutions. The *American Small Farm* staff wishes you and your family a happy and fruitful new year. Our pledge to you is to do all within our ability to provide you with information to help you achieve your dreams.

Our cover is the creation of Jeanne Truman. We featured another of her paintings on our September 2002 cover. She and her husband, Doug, raise and sell registered Brown Swiss bulls and heifers. She has prints of this painting available. Contact her at 1425 State Highway 22, Hutchinson, MN 55350; e-mail jorig@hutchtel.net.