

AMERICAN Small Farm

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C O N T E N T S

Features

Alpacas Are Angels 6

Sands Bellizzi says, "Our first impression of the alpaca industry was that income would come solely from the sale of our own alpacas, plus income from the sale of fiber."

Are robots coming to your farm? 8

Picture this: A farmer sets his coffee mug on the dashboard of his pickup, boots up a laptop computer and releases his team of robots.

How Mulch Color Can Affect Food Plants 10

Colored-mulch technology relies greatly on "fooling" plants into behaving as if they face stiffer competition for sunlight than they actually do.

Food safety begins on the farm 13

There steps you can take on your farm to reduce the risk that pathogens will contaminate the food you produce.

Get paid to raise quail populations 14

Have you ever thought about bird hunting leases? They can be quite lucrative, especially near large population centers. This article tells about the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative.

Strong Nonagricultural Demand Boosts Farmland Values 15

Low interest rates and ever-growing population also have buoyed the strong demand for farmland.

Trap crops to keep stink bugs out of pecan orchards 17

Cowpeas and soybeans are being researched as 'trap crops' to keep stink bugs from entering pecan orchards.

Helping a Foal Nurse and Milking the Mare 30

Sometimes a newborn foal has trouble getting its first nursing.

Aquatic Farmer Special Section

Winter Fish Kills in Ponds 22

This article has information to help you better understand why fish kills happen in some ponds and small lakes. It has ideas to help prevent these kills.

What Constitutes A "True" Water Aerator? 24

Although there are several types of aerator designs, this article is written in an effort to explain the difference between three specific types of aerators commonly used in lakes or ponds and their ability to aerate.

Columns & Departments

Small Farm Talk 3

Sure the temperatures have dropped, but that's not why COOL is in farmers' discussion.

Quilt patterns with a farm flavor 20

On the bookshelf 28

Books can help you do a better job on the farm and enjoy your place in the country.

Over the fence 32

Here is a place to share your experiences and ideas.

Product Review 35

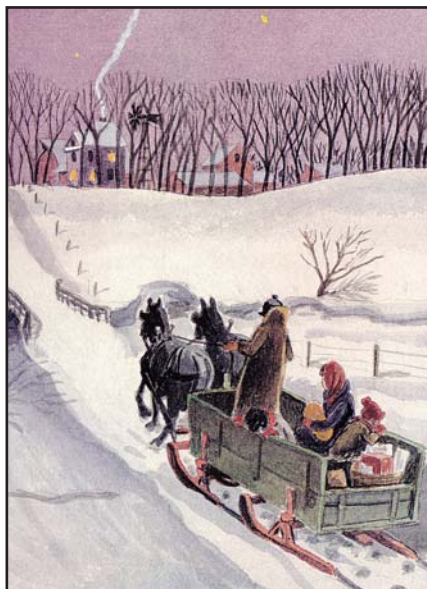
See some new products for small farms.

Calendar 34

Here is a listing of farm-related activities.

Recipes 18

Great turkey dishes.



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About the cover

This month's cover comes from Bob Artley's book titled "Christmas on the Farm." Artley was born in Hampton, Iowa, on the family farm that his grandfather established in 1877. Artley's career as an editorial cartoonist began with the Des Moines Tribute and continued at the Worthington (Minnesota) Daily Globe, where he launched his syndicated cartoon series, "Memories of a Former Kid." He is the author of 10 books. Artley's younger days on the farm were without indoor plumbing and the house was heated by a wood- and coal-burning stove. The prevailing atmosphere was love and security, especially during the holiday season. It created a magical childhood that Artley wished every child could have had the opportunity to experience. This sharing of his experiences is an endeavor to make that wish come true. "Christmas on the Farm," 96 pages, 11 x 8 1/2, 65 color illus., 60 b/w illus., ISBN: 1-58980-10803, \$20. This book can be ordered from Pelican Publishing at 800-843-1774.