

AMERICAN Small Farm

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C O N T E N T S

Features

Focusing Your Dreams: Create a Mission Statement 6

Mission statements are popular in today's business world. In many companies, they are the driving force behind high productivity, quality products, customer satisfaction and substantial profits.

Cartooning on the Wild Side 8

Leigh Rubin takes his readers for a walk on the wild side this holiday season.

Think Through Your Farm Plan 10

A well-documented business plan enables you to avoid the dangerous trap of confusing activity with progress.

Edamame (green vegetable soybean) gains popularity 12

Edamame (pronounced ed-ah-mah-may) consumption in the United States is growing due to an increasing Asian-American population as well as a rise in popularity of Asian restaurant cuisines.

Plans For Affordable Homemade Feather Plucker 14

Herrick Kimball wrote the book "Anyone Can Build A Tub-Style Mechanical Chicken Plucker" after not being able to find any decent homemade picker plans and having to figure it all out for himself.

There is a world of opportunities for small farmers 16

Editor Andy Stevens reports on his trip to the EIMA farm machinery show in Italy. European countries have many small farms and manufacturers make machines and equipment for those farms.

Composite sheep breeds 18

The term "composite" has been a buzzword in the cattle business for some time now. Many sheep producers don't realize there are composite breeds in the sheep world, too.

Organic Farmer Section

Microfarm Can Show Small Is Beautiful 22

What's a microfarm? Writer Steve Edwards says, "For our purposes, it's any endeavor undertaken to produce any or all of one's food."

Looking for new opportunities 24

Pasture-raised poultry can work on small farms.

Columns & Departments

Small Farm Talk 3

Season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year. This year we are going beyond offering best wishes – we are going to provide you with information to help you make a great year.

Homestead Treasures 20

Quilt patterns with a wildlife flavor

Over the fence 22

A place to learn what is happening on family farms.

On the bookshelf 28

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

Recipes 30

This month's recipes share Tennessee-style home cooking.

Calendar 34

New Products 35

Last Word 38

For a few weeks during the holidays, we see the world in a slightly different perspective.



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About the cover

Few realize that the use of decorated trees as the centerpiece during the holidays is a relatively recent tradition in America. Most historians agree that the first decorated Christmas trees appeared in the U.S. in the mid 1800s. Although frequently taken for granted, trees share our lives in a most intimate way. They give us oxygen to breathe. Their wood insulates us from the cold and protects us from the heat. They have helped us to build abacuses and accordions, barns and bridges, couches and carousels, cisterns and sanctuaries. They have given us ships to sail the oceans and aircraft to fly the skies. Their paper helps us to teach and learn, to conjugate and congratulate, to dream and draw. And trees are a source of perfumes and medicines, solvents and polymers. Since we humans share so much else with trees, is it not fitting that we share Christmas, too? - Clarke J. Gernon, Sr., Shady Pond Tree Farm. Information from Web site: www.realchristmastrees.org/treecare.html. Photo of trees on Alum Polaris Tree Farm, owned by Irena Scott, Lewis Center, Ohio. Photo by Andy Stevens.