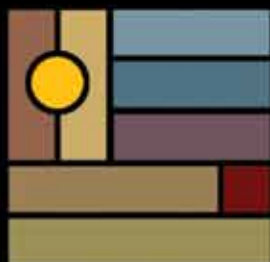
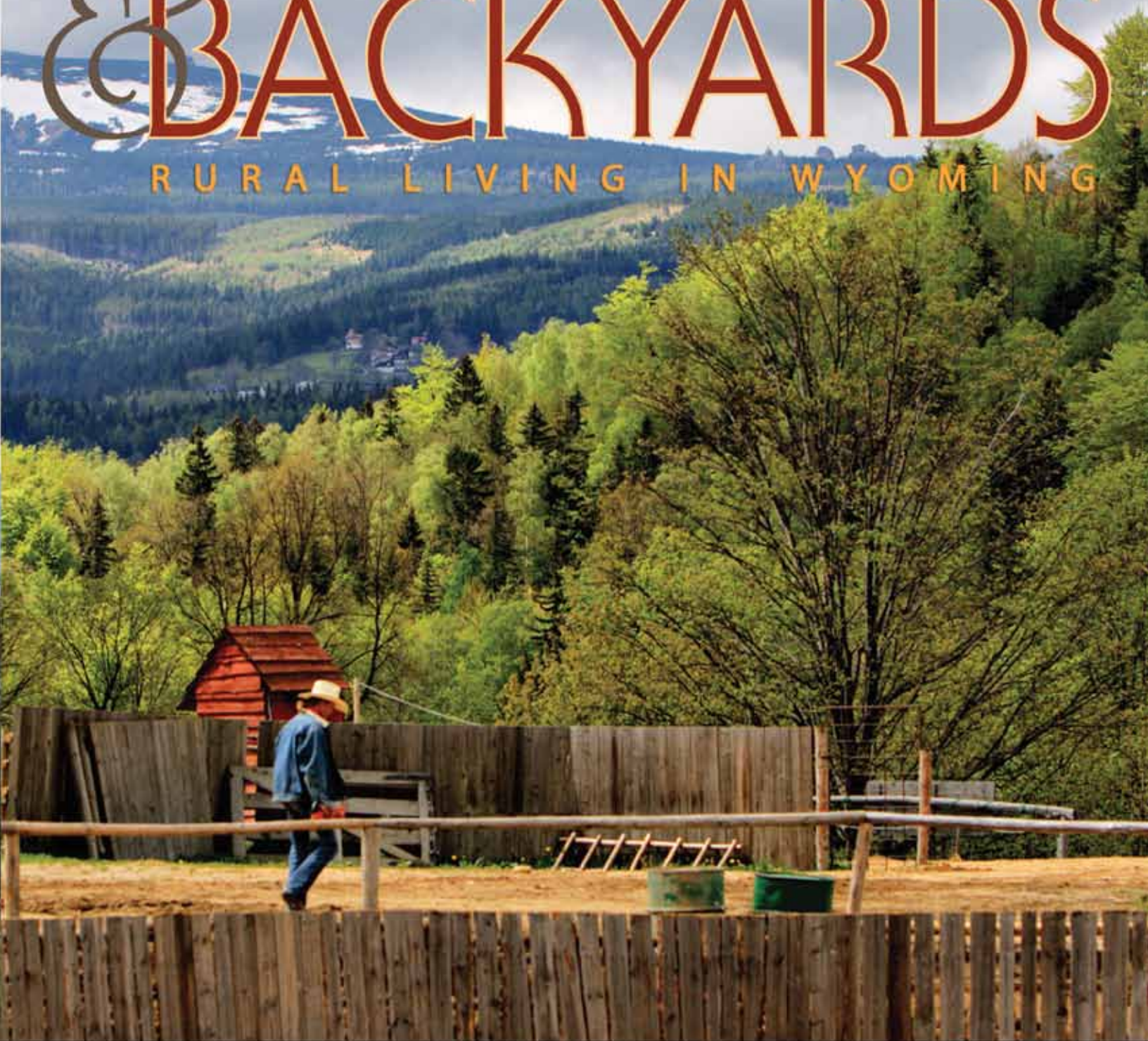


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RURAL LIVING IN WYOMING



Living & Working on the Land

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BARNYARDS
& BACKYARDS
RURAL LIVING IN WYOMING

Special Conference Edition
Summer 2010

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This special bonus conference edition of *Barnyards & Backyards* is supported by:

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Wyoming Small Acreage Issue Team



United States
Department of Agriculture
Risk Management Agency



Celebrating Rural Life with the

Living and Working on the Land conference

July 24–26, 2010



Keynote speaker Joel Salatin of Polyface Inc.

*by Cole Ehmke,
UW Cooperative Extension Service*



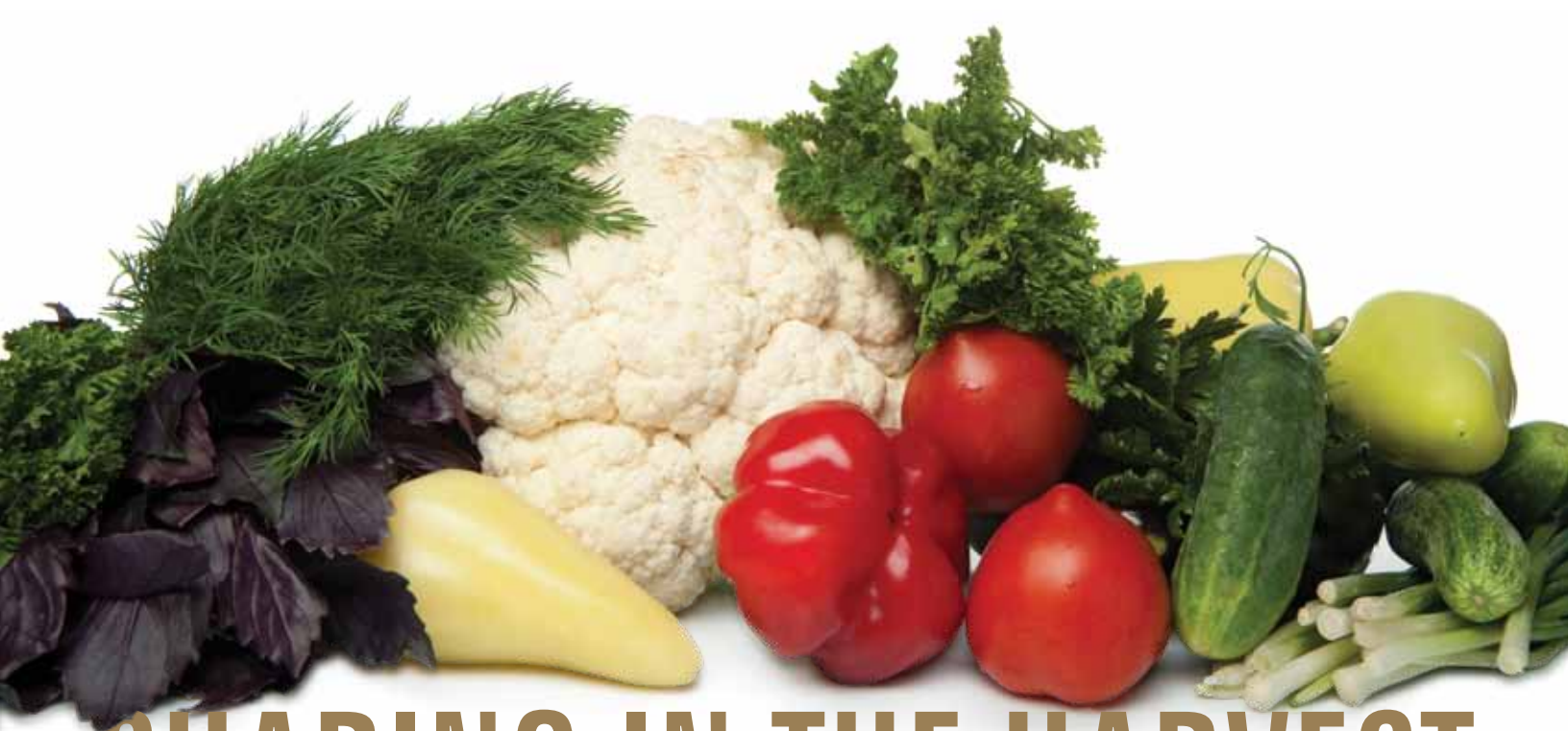
This special issue of *Barnyards & Backyards* features information from the 2010 Living and Working on the Land Conference, recently held in Torrington, Wyoming. The conference brought together people from our rural lands who are interested in making the most of their real estate and innovative food marketing. The conference helped attendees learn and network, while celebrating what innovative people are doing with their land. Attendees' days were enhanced by excellent speakers, keynotes, tours, local wines, and locally produced foods.

The highlights included keynote speaker, Joel Salatin, sustainable farmer and author, known for his unique approach to farming which he practices at his Polyface Farm, a successful, small-scale, pasture-based farm. Salatin's development of natural, self-sufficient methods of multi-species pasture management and relationship-based food marketing have been of particular interest in past conferences. Other speakers from around the region also offered their hands-on perspective on rural living.

This special issue of *Barnyards and Backyards* features articles reflecting the type of information presented at the Living and Working on the Land conference. Building a healthy and successful rural property requires a wealth of information on many different topics. That diversity is compiled in this issue's articles, covering everything from poultry to enterprise development and risk management.

More information from the Living and Working on the Land Conference can be found at the conference website, blocksofsuccess.org. Presentation videos and networking opportunities with the excellent project-partners who were formative in creating the event may be found there.

To find future events of interest, visit: barnyardsandbackyards.com.



SHARING IN THE HARVEST

Community Supported Agriculture is Taking Root



by Cole Ehmke



When Mike and Cindy Ridenour started Meadow Maid Foods in Goshen County, Wyoming, there weren't many farmers like them.

They set up their Goshen county community supported agriculture (CSA) enterprise which sells memberships to people interested in receiving weekly fresh produce.

As with farmer's markets, community supported agriculture cuts out the middleman and returns a greater portion of every consumer dollar to the farmer. Details vary, but as a rule, customers pay farmers an agreed-upon and up-front sum. In the summer and fall the customer picks up a weekly share of crops.

Getting Started

For the Ridenours, starting a new CSA on their ranch wasn't very daunting. "We had already been doing two farmers markets a week for several years, and we had a long history of growing vegetables for ourselves," Mike says. "Deciding to start a CSA was really more of a decision to start creating a community through developing a stronger sense of local foods."

From the farmer's perspective, Mike observes, "The CSA concept is ideal for the farmer. Selling the shares early in the season provides income in the Spring, when



it is needed most. It also provides us with a guaranteed quantity of food already sold each week before going to market. Our members pick up their shares at the farmers market, so we also get a chance to get real feedback about the foods we provide.”

Naturally, the Ridenours worried about the potential of crop failure or getting hailed-out. Their large diversity of crops minimized the risk of loss. They also started small. Mike added, “That gave us a chance to fully develop the production, packaging, and individual share size (quantity of vegetables) before expanding.”

The venture went well from the start. “We have always had far more demand than we have memberships available,” Mike says. “Many of our members have been with us since we started in 2005.”

Selling Points

Some selling points of the system are quantifiable, including easy access to fresh and local vegetables, the associated nutrients, and preservation of open land.

Many selling points are unquantifiable: the positive

social and mental lift that members experience when they connect with their food source and community. Many of the Ridenour's members emphasize the value of knowing where their food comes from. Because the Ridenour's make intentional efforts to emphasize earth-friendly management practices, their members know their food was produced a bit differently than that available at the grocery store.

There are other selling points. CSA member Lynda Jones added, "Before I met Cindy, I would not have readily purchased beets, leeks, or kale at the grocery store. Now, I love looking up recipes for new items that will arrive in my share."

"I was drawn to the idea of membership because I like the freshness of the produce," another CSA member said. "I also thought it would challenge my culinary skills to have a variety of ingredients each week that I might not buy at the store. This would inspire me to expand my culinary perspective."

"I also really like the idea of providing economic stimulus to a local family that is working hard to live on their land," another member added. "It's a win-win situation."

Continuing Challenges

No farming is easy, and community supported agriculture brings its own challenges. CSAs need a large variety of crops, which means more labor-intensive husbandry, some investment in facilities (like high tunnels and greenhouses) and equipment, and careful crop planning. "The continuing challenges are to extend the season and to continue to improve the succession of crops," Mike says.

To the growing number of CSA farms around our state and region, Mike says, "Our advice to growers considering the CSA option, is to spend a couple years growing for farmers markets before taking the next step to CSA. In this way, you learn what will be available, and when and how much you can expect to produce in a given space. You will also develop a consumer following at the market, which makes marketing the CSA memberships much easier."

Small Agriculture's Future

Mike and Cindy have a strong belief that small agriculture has a future in our state, and that it can be profitable. "At one time there were about 15,000 farms in Wyoming. That number shrank drastically over the last half of the 20th century, but it has been climbing over the last 10 years," Mike says. "Farms like ours show that small agriculture is viable."

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

CSA is a venture that enables consumers to buy locally. The seasonal food is purchased directly from a farmer. Members pre-pay a share of the costs of running a farm in return for a portion of the farm's harvest—usually a weekly vegetable basket. Other farm products may be included, such as meat. These are delivered or picked up weekly through the marketing season. Some members work off all or part of the cost of their share by helping on the farm.

Community supported agriculture evolved in part from the teachings of Rudolf Steiner, a turn-of-the-last century Austrian philosopher who believed that humans had three components – body, spirit and soul – and that each needed to be nourished.

Europeans who embraced Mr. Steiner's ideas created schools and collective farms to put them into practice.





MANAGING GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES in the Workplace

“How does a “fifty-something” manage a “twenty-something”? For that matter, how does a “thirty-something” manage a “sixty-something”? And what on earth do we do with those teenagers sporting the orange hair and body piercings? People in other generations don’t think right. They don’t act right. They don’t have the right values. Why don’t they all act like normal people? It can’t possibly be us. It’s got to be them.”¹

by Randy Weigel



There is a new phenomenon in the workplace and that has nothing to do with downsizing, global competition, consumer demand or greed. It is the new phenomenon of four distinct generations working together and often colliding as their paths cross. Workers with different values, different ideas, different ways of getting things done, and different ways of communicating, now work side-by-side in the workplace, from large corporations to small, rural family farms. Gone is the paradigm of older workers being the bosses and younger workers did what was asked of them—no questions asked. There were definite rules as to how the boss was treated and how younger workers respectfully treated older workers. No longer—roles today are all over the place and the rules are constantly being rewritten.

In the workplace, generational differences can affect everything from recruiting and team building, to motivating, supervising, and productivity. Workplace tensions arise when workers of different generations don’t understand each other. Work harmony can be created by learning about the differences among colleagues, appreciating those differences, and making the effort to interact with members of each generation in a way that suits their work ethic and communication style.

The Generations in Today's Workplace: Who They Are

People of today's workplace generations possess characteristics that developed, to a great extent, from the political, social and economic climate, and the events of their youth. Let's look at an overview of all of them.

Veterans—born 1922-1943*

Also referred to as traditionalists or matures, adversity best describes what this generation faced as it was growing up. Many of them were born during the Great Depression and, as young adults, fought and lived through World War II. For this generation, survival was a serious way of life. Real shortages of gasoline, sugar, tires and a host of other items that younger generations take for granted, were items they often did without. In domestic America, responding to the needs of the war, Americans' motto was "Use it up, Wear it out, Make it do, or Do Without." Veterans are loyal, hardworking, financially conservative and faithful to institutions. Many are retired and now working part-time.

Baby Boomers—born 1943-1960

Baby boomers entered a thriving new economy after World War II. The nation had established itself as the preeminent international economic, military, and political power. Factories were manufacturing new and innovative time-saving products. Housing construction grew at a record pace. The introduction of the television forever changed the way that those growing up viewed the world.⁵ When the baby boomers entered the work force, they felt compelled to challenge the status quo. They all but invented the 60-hour workweek, figuring that demonstrated hard work and loyalty to employers was one way to get ahead. Their sense of who they are is deeply connected to their career achievements.

Generation X—born 1960-1980

While baby boomers entered a world filled with optimism and economic prosperity, Generation X experienced a significantly different world. The nation faced social turmoil—civil rights, anti-war protests, Watergate, the Challenger tragedy, and a host of other troubling events. Generation Xers are technologically savvy, having grown

* The titles given to the generations and the generational time frames vary by researcher and/or author. Defining moments in each generation influence the values, attitude and expectations of the generation.

Workers with different values, different ideas, different ways of getting things done, and different ways of communicating, now work side-by-side in the workplace, from large corporations to small, rural family farms.

up in the era of personal computers. They witnessed skyrocketing divorce rates, parents being laid off after years of dedicated service, hostile corporate take-overs. This generation developed a sense of skepticism and distrust of institutions. They don't expect employer loyalty. In contrast to the baby boomer's overtime work ethic, Xers strive for balance in their lives. They can be resourceful and hardworking, but once 5 o'clock hits, they'd rather pursue other interests.

Millennials—born 1980-2000

Many in this generation are still in school, and some have graduated from college who are already in the work force. This generation has been born into a world of high technology. They routinely text on their cell phones, and pagers, enjoy voice recognition software and the Internet. They're confident and have high self-esteem. They're collaborators and favor teamwork, having functioned in groups in school, and organized sports and extracurricular activities from a very young age. They do not believe one must stay within the confines of a single job description. As opposed to Generation Xers who change jobs, millennials may be likely to repeatedly change entire career paths.

Bridging the Generation Gap: Steps to Success

How does one cope with the differences when leading and being on work teams with different generations?

- Learn all you can about other generations. The more you know



about the shared life experiences of other ages, the more you can understand their values, attitudes and expectations.

- Be wary of stereotyping. Although certain characteristics may be attributed to one generation or another, that doesn't mean that all people in a particular generation exhibit each of that generation's common characteristics.
- Manage according to values and attitudes. Each generation has a preferred behavior pattern in the work place. In communication, Veterans prefer formal memos while Boomers like one-on-one interaction. Gen-Xers and Millennials respond more favorably to email, voice mail or text messages.
- Appreciate the varied strengths. Instead of becoming frustrated over differences, focus on the positive attributes of co-workers.

Workplace Strategies to Use with the Generations:

Veterans

- Honor the chain of command
- Value their experience
- Appreciate their dedication

Boomers

- Choose face-to-face conversations
- Learn the corporate history
- Give them your full attention

Generation X

- Don't micromanage
- Get over the notion of dues paying
- Get to the point

Millennials

- Challenge them
- Ask their opinion
- Provide frequent, worthwhile feedback⁹

There are more pronounced differences between our generations today than ever before. To work effectively and efficiently, to increase productivity and quality, one must understand generational characteristics and learn how to use them in dealing with each individual.

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Work harmony can be created by learning about the differences among colleagues, appreciating those differences, and making the effort to interact with members of each generation in a way that suits their work ethic and communication style.

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Increasing the Odds of Success for Rural Ventures

Today's business environment includes more risk factors, and many new tools are available to manage those risks.

by John Hewlett



Risk management is a key factor in all business ventures. Rural ventures depending on the unpredictable whims of Mother Nature and good consumer markets, increase venture risk significantly. Risks generally come from five different sources: production, marketing, financial, legal/institutional, and human resources.

Effectively managing the various resources that contribute to rural ventures as well as risks in business will enhance successful venture outcomes.

Developing a recipe for success of any business activity will generally follow a series of basic steps: de-

velop a plan, estimate costs, keep detailed and accurate records, evaluate performance, and take goal-oriented, corrective action where needed. The recipe should be followed for the business as a whole; but it is also important for individual areas of the business, especially the areas of production, marketing, and risk.

Managing risk in rural ventures is critical today, and more so than in the past. Today's business environment includes more risk factors, and many new tools are available to manage those risks.

Disaster Assistance

The recent farm bill (2008) contained a number of new disaster-assistance programs that are designed to protect rural ventures in the



event of natural disasters, including (among others) extreme weather, flooding, pests, and fire. Some payments are triggered by a formal disaster declaration, while others are available on a continuing basis to crop and livestock producers. Counties adjacent to those declared a disaster may also qualify.

Specific programs include the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), which provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms and ranches in counties declared a disaster, who have experienced production losses, crop quality losses, or both. The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) assists livestock producers who experience losses due to adverse weather at higher than normal rates. The Livestock Forage Assistance Program (LFP) assists producers experiencing losses of forage and pasture associated with extreme drought. The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish program (ELAP) helps manage the risk of natural disasters and is specifically intended to address losses not covered under other disaster programs established in the Farm Bill.

Federally-subsidized Insurance

Federally-subsidized insurance can also help a rural venture succeed, even in the face of significant losses. Actual Production History (APH) policies cover a variety of crop production losses and are based upon a yield history or APH. These are also known as multiple peril crop insurance (MPCI). APH policies can also insure against losses in crop revenue caused by a decline in either prices or yield. One of the most common

For a detailed explanation of various risk management tools available visit the Western Risk Management Library online at agecon.uwyo.edu/riskmgt. The library contains a wide assortment of information on these and other risk management topics.

of these is Crop Revenue Coverage (CRC). Group Risk Income Protection (GRIP) plans are also available that pay indemnities if the expected revenue for a countywide crop drops below a selected trigger yield.

Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) is designed to cover losses associated with declining market prices and are available for beef and dairy cattle (feeder and fed cattle), swine, and lambs. Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) Insurance protects the gross margins on feeder and fed cattle. These policies take the protection offered by LRP one step further by protecting against marginal or negative feeding margins as well as the value of the cattle.

Pasture, Range, and Forage Insurance (PRF) provides coverage for losses in forage production on rangelands and hay-lands due to natural causes.

Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite Insurance (AGR-Lite) is a whole-farm, revenue-based insurance policy that can protect the total farm revenue against changes in price and yields. AGR-Lite can be used as a stand-alone policy or an umbrella program in conjunction with other crop insurance.

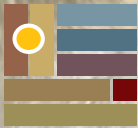
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CHANGES FOR CHICKENS

Chicken tractors prove innovative method for raising poultry

by Joel Salatin of Polyface Farm



When raising farm animals nutritional quality and vibrant health are determined by the available fresh air, clean water, exercise, sunshine, and green material. Every animal eats a certain percentage of its diet in green material; we call this the salad bar.

In their natural habitat, animals consistently move away from lounge areas to fresh ground. New ground not only provides new sources of nutrients but is key to good animal hygiene. When raising poultry, portable shelter systems are needed to take advantage of this natural habitat principle. Portable systems also allow the producer to take advantage of the fact that herbivores grazing ahead of the poultry creates just the right kind of salad bar for their needs.

Different species of poultry have varying shelter needs. Shelter design varies between species and among age classes. The over-riding principle of these shelters is to create access to new ground on highly palatable salad bars. Following this principle creates the needed ratios of omega 3:omega 6 fatty acid, needed high rates of polyunsaturated fats, and B vitamins, in addition to taste, and texture.

For broiler chickens, which go to pasture at two weeks

of age, the shelter needs to be predator- and weather-proof. High, floorless boxes that measure 10 x 12 x 2 feet with three-quarters of the roof covered, are moved daily to new ground. This forces the sedentary, fast-growing, and highly-vulnerable chicks to a fresh salad bar.

For layers, high-tech electrified polyethylene "feather-netting" from Premier is used. Stainless steel threads woven through the webbing carries an electrical charge from an energizer to keep the birds in and predators out. Extremely light weight and portable, these 150-foot sections of fencing can be hooked together to increase area. Roughly 450 feet is needed to construct a one-quarter-acre enclosure for about 1,000 hens per flock. A scissor-trussed A-frame skid structure pulled behind a feed buggy provides nesting, roosting, and shelter for the birds. At 20 x 32 feet, this design uses vertical space efficiently and shelters more birds on a small footprint.

A similar scissor-trussed roosting structure on an elongated hay wagon chassis for turkeys offers similar benefits with more portability, due to being built on rubber tires. Turkeys are brooded with the chicks for the first few weeks. They then are moved to broiler shelters with the chicks. At 7 weeks they are moved again to the



The scissor truss design of the millenium feathernet offers more protection, safety, and better use of vertical space than the old hoop house design for portable skid structures.



The millenium feathernet uses a catwalk for both human and chicken access to the nest boxes. The A-frame roof design on top of the scissor truss is not only strong, but keeps the birds high and dry.

turkey shelter, which is surrounded by the same netting that surrounds the layers. The “Roost-mobile” is covered with nursery shade-cloth, which provides ventilation so it doesn’t blow over in the wind.

These portable systems use lightweight materials and design that have been available only in the last few decades. Using high-tech innovation creates a more hygienic, sanitary, and poultry-friendly environment on a commercial scale. This marries the best of modern models with traditional ones. Using high tech materials and designs, enables the raising of large commercial flocks more efficiently than those who raised backyard flocks on an historic American homestead.



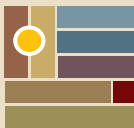
The Roostmobile for turkeys uses the scissor-truss design on a hay wagon chassis. The birds can roost on the perch boards and the whole structure is highly mobile. By running the X parallel to the chassis, the whole contraption can be elongated to create more shelter.



A lightweight hoop trailer using aluminum conduit and canvas can be pulled around by hand or with a simple 4-wheeler (All Terrain Vehicle). It can be moved daily within a two or three day netting setup to spread manure more evenly.

READY FOR

by John Hewlett and Rodney Sharp

 Are you considering an alternative rural enterprise? Or perhaps you are considering additional risks in taking on a new and additional enterprise in your business.

The ability to select, plan, and evaluate new and existing business enterprises is a critical skill in helping reduce business risk and increasing your opportunities for business success.

The *Feasibility of Alternative Rural Enterprises* course presents a step-by-step approach to agriculture enterprise definition, goal-setting, successful venture planning, and management and risk evaluation. The course is designed to help producers evaluate existing or new alternative enterprises.

The course begins by defining agricultural enterprises and determining differences between traditional and alternative enterprises. Enterprises combine limited resources—dollars or “inputs” – to produce profitable goods or services. Isolating revenues and expenses from each enterprise is an important start for evaluating an existing business or determining if a new enterprise will improve your business.

Alternative enterprises in Wyoming range from a xeric plant nursery business, to growing cold hearty varieties of grapes for locally produced wines, to organic beef. The Wyoming Business Council, Cooperative Extension Service, and Small Business Development Centers are reliable resources for assistance in better understanding regulations, financing, and assistance packages that may be available to individuals interested in creating an alternative enterprise.

Increasing profitability, debt reduction, and steady growth in net worth are all common goals for rural businesses. Your selected enterprise’s attributes will be determining factors if these goals are to be attainable.

Producers have a wide range of crop and livestock enterprises from which to select and proceed. Through planning and analysis, entre-

THE RIGHT RISK?

Studying the feasibility of alternative rural enterprises



preneurs can select those enterprises that will provide the means to reach their business goals. Consumers are increasingly segmenting into distinct market niches selecting more specific product characteristics. This course encourages producers to think beyond traditional products and markets to meet these changing consumer demands.

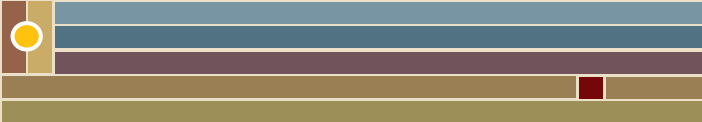
Course participants will practice planning and analyzing existing or planned enterprises. A Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis must be performed for each enterprise. Most new businesses fail due to lack of proper long-term planning and realistic goal-setting. Entrepreneurs can greatly enhance their chances of success by carefully assessing the feasibility of their ideas. Before beginning, the entrepreneur must conduct personal, production, market, and economic assessments for each potential alternative enterprise.

Risk analysis and management is the final lesson in this course. Rural business managers must manage and operate in various high-risk environments. Varying yields, unpredictable market prices, fluctuating production costs, and various other indeterminate outcomes impact the opportunity for success in business ventures.

Risk management is the practice of predicting, evaluating, and managing the resources of a business venture to maintain an acceptable level of risk, and to confront various risks through effective risk-management strate-

gies. The course discusses the five areas of risk: production, marketing, financial, legal, and human resources. Planning for and designing a management strategy for each risk area helps ensure a better chance of success for the enterprise.

Developed by members of the *RightRisk Team*, the course reflects the expertise from a successful group of risk-management educators. The developers are from eight western universities specializing in interactive risk-management education products for agricultural producers. Content includes individual assessments at the end of each lesson and interactive activities to help understand the concepts.



RightRisk course information is available at RightRisk.org. Additional information may be requested from Information@RightRisk.org. For course presentation schedules, visit <http://rightrisk.org/> and select the "products" link

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GREAT GOATS!



The oldest domesticated animals on the planet do more than eat tin cans

by John Hewlett



Goats are domestically raised for wool, milk, meat, and for outdoor packing animals. They have also recently gained in popularity as companion animals.

Closely related to cattle and sheep, goats' eating habits and behavior are markedly different. Goats tend to be gregarious with other goats, people, livestock, and other pets. They are highly intelligent and sensitive.

Goats love to play and provide entertainment as they run, jump, climb, mock-fight, and explore. They can also be difficult to keep penned. They look constantly for new ways to interact with their surroundings, they will quickly discover a latch they can undo, a panel to can crawl under or thorough, or a fence they can climb over.

Healthful and Varied

More than 210 recognized goat breeds are raised throughout the world, in varied colors, shapes, and sizes. Different types of goats are employed for many different purposes.

Cashmere goats are raised for their beautiful downy undercoat of wool. Angora goats are clipped for their extraordinary mohair. Angora are most commonly raised in the U.S. and are primarily found in Texas. They are



often shorn twice each year and yield ~5-11 pounds of hair per adult, per year.

Dairy goats are bred for their milk production. Saanens, Toggenburg, Alpines, and Nubians are raised domestically for milk production. Goat's milk is naturally homogenized and is more easily digested by people than cow's milk. Saanens are the undisputed milking champions, producing as much as a gallon of milk per day.

Goat milk is delicious to drink, and is also used to make soap and cheeses that are distinctly different from cow's milk products.

Meat goats are more heavily muscled than hair or dairy breeds. Popular breeds include Boers, Kikos, and Tennessee Fainting goats. Boers grow large, some weighing up to 200 pounds, and are double-muscled. Heavier goats are sometimes trained to pull carts.

Weathers (castrated males) of the larger dairy breeds work well as pack goats. They can carry as much as 25 percent of their body weight and for ~10-15 miles daily. They also are excellent hiking companions.

Merry Mowers

An increasing use of goats for controlling weedy and brushy areas is occurring. Services have been created across the nation to provide weed control using goats or sheep.

Goats prefer to eat brush and weeds rather than grass because they are browsers, whereas cattle are grazers. Browsing makes up approximately 60 percent of a goat's diet, but only about ~10-15 percent of a cow's. When used appropriately they can help control brush and weed growth. The number of goats that will do the job depends on the acreage involved. Efficacy is determined by quantity of animals and amount of weeds and brush the goats can control.

Raising goats can be a rewarding experience. These companion animals can also be profitable with the proper research, care, and personal as well as fiscal investment.

- Read more about goats for wool, milk, meat or work at:
goatworld.com
- For Angora goat information, visit:
angoragoat.com
- The American Dairy Goat Association website is:
adga.org
- For meat goat information, visit:
boergoats.com
- And working goat information is found at:
goattracksmagazine.com



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TRAILING OF THE SHEEP

by Diane Josephy Peavey



Sheep families around the West move their animals twice a year: in the Spring to high mountain meadows and in the Fall to desert winter pastures. In the Wood River Valley of south-central Idaho sheep families have been a part of this twice-yearly migration for more than 100 years.

After WWI, this area was second only to Sydney, Australia as a sheep center and as recently as 1960 there were over 1.1 million sheep in Idaho. Today, there are fewer than 260,000 sheep. This huge decline is the result of decades of depressed meat prices, competition from imported meat and wool, and the growth of synthetic fabrics for clothing.

Today the county is the home of people more than it is of sheep. Only five sheep-herding families remain to make this annual migration with the sheep. The Peavey family

and others have created a Trailing of the Sheep Festival to celebrate the rich history of sheep in this area.

Newcomers to this Idaho community, which includes the resorts of Sun Valley and Ketchum, own second homes and are avid recreationists. They usually know little of the area's agricultural traditions. They are startled to see huge flocks of sheep moving along the local back roads and around new housing developments every spring and fall. They respond warily to the sound of tinkling bells and hooves clicking on the pavement. This wasn't in the real estate agreement.

While some hoist their small children onto their shoulders to watch the parade of sheep, herders and working dogs, others impatiently force their cars through the procession unaware of the danger this poses to them and the animals. Others tell the herders that the migrating sheep herald the beginning of summer and winter for them.

Most don't realize that the history of this valley is the history of the United States sheep industry. They don't know that, at one time, the railroads—now long gone—hailed hundreds of thousands of lambs from the stockyards in Idaho to markets in Ogden, Utah each summer. These newcomers don't know that most of the country now covered with their houses and condominiums was formerly miles of open sheep and cattle pasture, and that the new bike path that cuts through the valley is also a sheep driveway, the historic trail reserved for the annual north-south migration.

Only after the sheep families donated part of the land to the county to carve out the recreational path, was it available for biking, walking, and rollerblading. The asphalt had only just dried and the first band of sheep trailed through the Valley when the angry telephone calls began. The new locals hissed over the phone, "get YOUR sheep off OUR bike path. Their droppings are sticking to our rollerblades and bike tires."

The Peaveys worried over the growing conflict from the changes until they came up with a plan to foster community understanding and involvement in this tradition. They decided to hold a "trailing of the sheep" and asked the community to join them and the other shepherding families as they herded the animals through the Valley.

On a chilly fall morning they met at 6 a.m. at a local café. Over steaming cups of coffee, Peaveys shared the history of the sheep industry in Idaho, their operation, how they care for the animals, and move them seasonally, feeding them on the local grasses. Just before first daylight, a group of thirty community members headed out of town to join the waiting herder and sheep to move the hundreds of white woolly animals south along Highway 75. With everyone there, they easily kept the sheep off the bike path, off the road and running freely through the tall grasses.

Over the years increasing numbers of people joined the event, including classes of school children. The Chamber of Commerce director then telephoned, asking to turn the event into a community festival. "A Trailing of the Sheep Festival," the Peaveys suggested. A now broad segment of local businesses and organizations were interested in the idea, and making it easy to launch the three day celebration.

At its heart, the event honors sheep ranching traditions in the West, and the men and women among them (Scots, Basques, and today, Peruvians) who have herded sheep through this country throughout the last century.

A Folk-life Fair now fills the park on festival Saturday



with sheep camps, demonstrations of trained herding dogs, shearing, music and dance, spinning and weaving and the stories from these traditions. Over the three days stock dog trials, a Basque lamb dinner, music, walks through forests of aspen trees with shepherd carvings, and evenings of recorded storytelling, these historic memories are preserved and celebrated.

An abundance of succulent lamb is served. A workshop on cooking lamb is presented. The community's finest restaurants offer American lamb specialties throughout the weekend and gourmet lamb samples are served at art gallery openings.

Sunday is the weekend highlight as Main Street Ketchum is cleared of all vehicles for the BIG PARADE of 1,500 sheep who are herded—lightly and a bit confused—the length of town to new pastures just south of the boutique shops and the rows of applauding and cheering spectators.

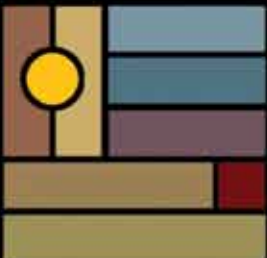
The Trailing of the Sheep Festival celebrates this living history; it is no re-enactment. This event, now in its 14th year, has grown from a small community festival to a nationally-renowned gathering of over 10,000 visitors from many states and foreign countries. It was recently included in MSN Travel's top ten Worldwide Fall Festivals among other notable commendations it has received.

As the festival grows it continues to honor a quieter, simpler time in Idaho, and the history and the traditions of sheep ranching families in the West. The "Trailing" helps everyone understand and celebrate the area's history and landscape as participants listen to stories of those who came before them. The festival helps everyone understand how the old ways can co-exist and contribute to the new.

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