

AMERICAN Small Farm

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Year of the poppy 6

Poppies deserve a place in any garden – in wildflower and meadow plantings, perennial borders, cutting gardens or mixed-shrub borders.

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This labeling requirement is part of the farm bill passed last year. It requires that some retail meat products and other “covered commodities” be labeled as to their country of origin by September 30, 2004. It is required for peanuts and perishable agricultural commodities like fresh fruits and vegetables.

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Three trends have emerged in the beef industry since 1980. Technological advances – such as mass artificial insemination and mass embryo transfer programs – have become cost effective. Demand for beef has declined and there has been an increase in industry concentration. COOL and food security issues are also discussed.

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To succeed in this new era, agriculture producers must embrace innovation, exploit new technology and aggressively pursue opportunity. Investing in value-added products and expanding the use of renewable fuels does that.



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Next issue

Looking for an alternative crop

Grazing experiences

In praise of the German Shepard

Where have all the oxen gone?

Organic Farmer/Grower Special Section

About the cover

I chose our cover photo because our winter was cold and snowy and this photo has some colorful flowers in it. I know that should be normal for winters in northern states. However, in Ohio for a number of years we have escaped these “normal” winters. Farmers enjoy the arrival of spring. The vegetation is fresh and flowers are abundant. Spring is a busy time of the year. It is the time to plant seeds with the faith that they will grow and produce a bountiful crop. Enjoy the season. I took this photo at last year's Ohio Farm Science Review. – Andy Stevens