

AMERICAN Small Farm

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C O N T E N T S

Features

Where Have All the Oxen Gone? 6

In 1623, the first oxen landed in Plymouth Colony and went on to play a major role in building America over the next three centuries. Yet, today some people don't even know what oxen are though their speech may be peppered with references to them.

So You Want To Farm 10

This Wisconsin family has been on 10 rented acres in the wetlands of cranberry country for 13 years. One year ago they started milking five cows in a two-stall parlor with a milk house that is the envy of the county, after having been the joke of the county before they signed a contract and started shipping the milk.

In Praise of German Shepherds 14

A good farm dog can scare away a lot of pests, both two legged and four legged. On many farms, the farm dog is an integral part of the operation. They work for no pay, are always available, don't care how you look and are eager to just go along and be your companion. For this writer, no dog can top a German Shepherd as a working farm dog.

Meadowfoam – New Oil Seed Crop Developed “From Scratch” 18

Once an obscure northern California wild flower, meadowfoam could become a multi-million dollar oil seed crop. Oregon State University crop scientists, working with growers, industry and government, have developed this new oil seed crop “from scratch” in about three decades.

Program Strengthens Northeast Sheep and Goat Industries 30

One of the primary accomplishments of the program is the establishment of a sheep and goat marketing Web site, a one-stop resource for marketing information for sheep and goat producers in the Northeast at www.sheepgoat-marketing.org/sgm/index.html.

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Agents of change are driving a new paradigm shift in agriculture. The new buzz word in agriculture is sustainable. In order to be sustainable, agriculture must be ecologically sound, economically viable and socially responsible.

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Next issue

Internet Links: A guide for small farmers

Small Farm Equipment And Accessories

A Horse For People With Horse Allergies

Farmland As An Investment

About the cover

All livestock operations require interaction with the animals. On the small farm that is possible, particularly with dairy cattle. Our cover photo, taken at the Kevin Larcom farm, Radnor, OH, shows Geni Larcom interacting with a dairy calf. For more on animal interaction see the related story on page 10.