

# AMERICAN Small Farm

Volume 12, Number 8

August 2003

## C O N T E N T S

### Features

#### Introduction to meat rabbits 6

Rabbit meat has long been a European delicacy. It is popular today in many western ski-resorts and upscale East Coast restaurants. The Midwest is next.

#### Farmland as an investment 8

The Farmland Investment Fair in Chicago is the only investment fair in the U.S. devoted to farmland as an investment. The Chicago Farmers group holds monthly meetings to educate members and the public on farming topics.

#### Tough dairy business drives farmer to watermelons 12

Low milk prices over the past several years have some dairy farmers looking for new ways to make a living. A farmer in Louisiana is looking at vegetables as a way to live off the land and continue to enjoy what he loves.

#### Finding "right-sized" equipment and machines 14

EMIA is Italy's international farm machinery fair. Europe still has many small farms, so many smaller versions of machines and implements are numerous at farm shows.

#### Brassicas for Forage 16

Forage brassicas are high quality, high yielding, fast growing crops that are particularly suitable for grazing by livestock. Both tops (stems plus leaves) and roots (bulbs) can be grazed and are very nutritious.

#### Center for small farms 22

Here is where you can learn about the seminars and activities at this year's Small Farm Center at the Ohio Farm Science Review.

#### Farming Feng Shui 32

A sturdy structure, good airflow and plenty of light are all important characteristics of a safe, comfortable barn. So, too, is a well-organized layout, both inside the buildings and out in the field. To achieve this, some farms are turning to feng shui.

### Aquatic Farmer Section

#### Managing Your Pond for Better Fishing 24

This article presents some of the basic principles of managing recreational ponds and the requirements for producing and maintaining high-quality fishing in a pond.

### Columns & Departments

#### Small Farm Talk 3

Willie Nelson, Neil Young and John Mellencamp organized the first Farm Aid concert in 1985 to raise awareness about the loss of family farms and to raise funds to keep farm families on their land. It has raised more than \$24 million.

#### Over the fence 10

Here is a place to share and learn what is happening on family farms.

#### Quilt patterns with a farm flavor 18

#### On the bookshelf 26

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

#### Recipes 30

It is only reasonable that salsa is one of the world's favorite foods. What else is as versatile as this wonderful creation?

#### Rural Reflections 38

Summer is the time for simple things.



# AMERICAN Small Farm

Editor: Andrew Stevens

Associate Editor: Michelle Callahan

Creative Director: Ryan Mum

Circulation: Amy Kingsborough

K. W. Ashley, Henry M. Bartholomew, Susan K. Bollin, David J. Cline, R. L. Curry, Eldora DeRaad, Steve Edwards, Denise Faris, Carolyn Heinze, S. H. Kay, F. T. McBride, Johnny Morgan, K. L. Nelson, R. L. Noble, Joseph Parker, J. A. Rice, Bill Schaefer, Rich Schell and John F. Underwood.

Advertising: Marti Smith, Director;

Leon Kincaid, Account Manager

Michael Krystofik, Account Manager

Norm Fisher, Account Manager

Amy Kingsborough, Sales Associate

Publisher: Farm & Ranch Publishing, LLC

Andy Stevens: Vice-President, Editor

Marti Smith: Vice-President, Advertising

Publishing Office: 267 Broad Street

Westerville, OH 43081

Phone: (614) 895-3755

FAX: (614) 895-3757

E-mail: [info@smallfarm.com](mailto:info@smallfarm.com)

Web site: <http://www.smallfarm.com>

Editorial Office:

P.O. Box 1059, Delaware, OH 43015

Phone: (614) 895-3755

FAX: (614) 895-3757



American Small Farm Magazine is proud to support FFA

### Next issue

Dairy farm only sells its organic products locally

Growing plants with roots of gold

FFA's 75th anniversary celebration

Elk production

### About the cover

Our cover photo comes from Country Living Field Day. This event is the largest educational program in the U.S. geared specifically to small farms and the families who operate them. It features seminars, workshops, farm tours, displays and commercial exhibits on dozens of topics. Also featured at the Field Day is an extensive children's program. The youngsters in the photo are taking a break from these programs. Please note that they have collected some information to take home. This year's Country Living Field Day is September 27, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is held on four adjoining farms near Augusta, Ohio, which is in the northern portion of Carroll County. For more information contact: Mike Hogan, Ohio State University Extension, at 330-627-4310 or e-mail: [hogan.1@osu.edu](mailto:hogan.1@osu.edu).  
— Photo by Editor Andy Stevens.