

# AMERICAN Small Farm

Volume 12, Number 11

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## C O N T E N T S

### Features

#### The Time Is Right To Consider Raising Pet Birds 6

This is the second part of our series about raising pet birds. The pet bird industry desires young birds, which means that you are able to sell the offspring as soon as they are weaned.

#### Growing plants in containers can be rewarding 10

By confining plants to a relatively small space, their maintenance can be less of a chore. The plantings can be moved to various sites for different purposes and then moved back.

#### Alpacas Are Angels 12

Sands Bellizzi says, "Love at first sight – that was my reaction to seeing my first alpaca, and an emotion commonly shared by many." After her first glimpse of an alpaca in 1984, it was more than 10 years later that Bellizzi got a chance to raise these "cuddly" creatures.

#### Finding your niche - Selecting the Most Profitable Crop 14

Many non-traditional crops offer high profit potentials on a per acre basis. However, the production, management and economics of the enterprises tend to be much different than the traditional field crops. This article also examines the labor requirement involved in producing specialty crops.

#### Fly Bites Plant, But Plants Can Bite Back 18

The Hessian fly changes wheat growth by injecting poisons into the plants, but a newly discovered resistance gene that can kill the insect may add a new defensive weapon for the grain crop.

#### Choosing Hay for Horses 26

Not all horses have the same nutrient needs, so naturally not all horses have the same hay needs. This article explains how to match hay type to horse type.

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High quality, premium raspberries for the off-season market can diversify your greenhouse and add dollars to your pockets.

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Take time to be thankful for the little things in life.



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### About the cover

I have noticed that many new housing developments have names such as Carson Farms, Sunnyview Acres and Lehner Woods. There is even a shopping area named Big Bear Farms. The only thing remaining from the farm is a silo. It seems strange that when we use farmland for housing and other uses, the developers use farm as part of the name. This also carries into landscaping and artwork. Remember the artsy cows in Chicago.

Take a good look at the cover and you will see that the horses are not alive. They are made of metal. About two miles away from this development there is a field of concrete ears of corn. These works of art are reminders of the farms that were on this land not very long ago.

This photo was taken in the city of Dublin, Ohio. Not many years ago, this city was a small village at the edge of Columbus. Photo by Andy Stevens.