

AMERICAN Small Farm

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CONTENTS

Features

Where Everything Old is New Again 6

All progress requires change, but not all change is progress. This aptly applies to Horse Progress Days, the Amish-organized affair that will be held in Middlebury, Indiana, on July 1 and 2.

Things to Know Before Buying a Farm or Ranch 16

Owning a farm or ranch can be a rewarding experience. Fresh air and rural living are extremely appealing. However, there are pitfalls awaiting the unsuspecting buyer.

Grass-Fed Natural Beef 12

Glen and Carol Elzinga of Tendoy, Idaho, are marketing grass-fed, natural beef, raised without grain, antibiotics or hormones. "People feel it is worth more because the quality is better and that is the bottom line on why it is priced higher," Glen says.

Center for Organic Agriculture Takes Root 10

In response to the boom in organically grown foods, the University of Florida is one of the first universities in the nation to start a research and education center for organic agriculture.

Edible Flowers Could Help Diversify Your Farm 18

Edible flowers are only part of a diversification strategy. Most growers cannot make a living on growing only edible flowers. Instead, these are grown in conjunction with cut flowers, herbs and specialty lettuces in order to complement these items and create opportunities for value-added products.

Green Chimneys: Making the World a Better Place 22

Green Chimneys is world renowned for its nature-based therapeutic environment. It is just an hour from New York City but a world away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Organic Farmer/Grower Section

The Age of the "Agripreneur" Has Arrived 28

All is not bleak in American agriculture. Change is on the wind. Slowly but surely the Age of the Agripreneur is being born.

Sustainable Farming Provides Abundant Life for Large Family 26

What is a college-educated, professional couple doing with a large family 25 miles from the nearest town and performing hard physical labor for the fun of it?

Columns & Departments

Small Farm Talk 3

Since this is the month that some children are graduating, I thought you might be interested in a couple of useful items I have gleaned for the children's good while I was scouring the planet for some information to share with you.

Homeland Treasures 20

Quilt patterns with a wildlife flavor

Recipes 24

This month's recipes prove that beef is what's for dinner. Check out the National Beef Cook-Off winners.

On the bookshelf 30

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

Calendar 34

Over the fence 35

A place to share what is happening on family farms.

New Products 38

Rural Reflections 39



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About the cover

This month's cover photo was taken in an almond grove near Woodland California. The soil is being worked with Unverferth's Perfecta II field cultivator. Woodland is located in Yolo County in northern California, about 20 miles northwest of Sacramento. The Yolo County is primarily rural and sparsely populated. The largest urban center in the county is Davis. According to the State Department of Finance (2000), Yolo County had a population in 2000 of 162,900. Agriculture production in the county is in transition from the production of field crops such as sugar beets and tomatoes to more economically stable production of tree and vine crops. However, tree and vine crops take time to become established before they become productive. Photo courtesy of Unverferth Mfg., P. O. Box 357, Kalida, OH 45853.