

# AMERICAN Small Farm

Volume 14, Number 3

March 2005

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#### Sunflowers - Popular Touch Of Sunshine 6

The sunflower — a Native American — is the hottest garden flower going. Landscapers love them, kids crave them and flower arrangers seek them out in all their glory.

#### Is Grazing in Your Family Farm's Future? 8

Hold on a minute! You may think this article is not for you, but take a moment to read why increasing numbers of farmers are considering grazing for their dairy herds.

#### Elderberries Have Many Uses 12

The elderberry is one of the most common fruit-bearing shrubs of North America. To the Indians and American settlers, it was considered "the medicine chest of the common people."

#### Alternative Agriculture Can Be Profitable 14

The processes of producing, processing and direct-marketing farm products are powerful tools to provide much needed income on Steve Edwards' farm in Michigan.

#### Sudden Oak Death: ARS Scientists Fight Back! 16

Sudden oak death — a mostly mysterious disease — afflicts not only these majestic hardwoods but also many other trees and shrubs, including backyard favorites like azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons.

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All Americans are asked to enjoy and admire the wonders of American agriculture as National Agriculture Day is celebrated on March 20.

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If your lawn or property is larger than a half acre, you will appreciate the ease and speed of a riding mower or a lawn tractor.

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Lambs born this month and later likely will be developed on pasture throughout the spring and summer.

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The Rodenator Pro blasts targeted pests and destroys their tunnels, eliminating the need for traditional pest control methods.

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If we are to live happy, successful lives, then we need a solid foundation of faith and love. Now is a good time to decide what kind of life you will build from this day forward.

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### About the cover

The Walker Mower is known for its ability to tackle commercial mowing jobs with rolling contours, tight corners and open spaces, but it is also at home on the family farm. Visit [www.walkermowers.com](http://www.walkermowers.com) to find out more. Photo submitted by Walker Mowers.