

# AMERICAN Small Farm

Volume 15, Number 12

December 2006

## CONTENTS

### Features

#### What Is Your State Doing For Small Farms? 6

This month we have picked the "The Ocean State" of Rhode Island. This is the 12th state in our continuing project to let you know where you can find small farm information and help.

#### Niche Pork Can Be A Profit Opportunity 10

There have been major changes in the structure of the U.S. swine industries during the past 15 years. These changes create a new paradigm with the potential for some producers with an entrepreneurial spirit to take advantage of markets for pork that is produced using "alternative" methods to larger scale confinement production.

#### The Man Behind The All-American Quarter Horse Congress 12

A man with vision and a great idea started the All-American Quarter Horse Congress. The Congress became the largest single breed exhibition/show in the horse industry, and made Ohio a center of Quarter Horse activity, thanks to Blair Folck.

#### Soda Can Art – It's "Cool and Refreshing" 14

When you walk down 102nd Street in Bloomington, Minn., you can't help but notice a very neatly kept home that has quite an interesting display in the driveway. Neighbors, walkers and commuters are drawn to the unique collection of miniature vehicles that are lined up in Ken Johnson's driveway.

### Aquatic Farmer Special Section

#### Testing Well Water 16

The EPA recommends that residents with private water wells have their water tested annually. While there are low-cost water testing kits available, and some water treatment companies offer free analysis, there are good reasons why you should consider having a certified independent lab test your private well water. Water quality is very important for aquaculture.

#### Koi – Ornamental Fish 19

The actual market for these fish is difficult to determine due to the number of hobbyists that locally sell their product to one another and

into the pet-shop market. Other sales are occur nationally via the Internet, trade magazines and specialty newsletters. These are very high-value fish and many "sales" are on a cash basis or involve barter for other species.

### Columns & Departments

#### Small Farm Talk 3

This month Editor Andy Stevens looks at agriculture's 'Bigger Is Better' myth.

#### Over The Fence 8

This column is a place for you to share and learn about what is happening on family farms.

#### Homeland Treasures 22

Yolanda & Friends Quilt Patterns are featured.

#### On the bookshelf 24

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

#### Recipes 26

This month's recipes feature fish, which are good sources of protein, are low in saturated fat and cholesterol and provide moderate amounts of omega-3 fatty acids.

#### Calendar 28

Here are some farm shows and events for your learning and enjoyment.

## AMERICAN Small Farm

Editor: Andrew Stevens  
Creative Director: Ryan Mumm  
Circulation: Marti Smith

Londa Anklam, Dan Burden, Herman Beck-Chenoweth, Allen Harper, Rudi Hempe, Nikki Scott, Irving David Shapiro, Sharon Storholm, Sharon Omahen and Heather Smith Thomas

Advertising: Marti Smith, Director;  
Eric Kincaid, Account Manager  
Leon Kincaid, Account Manager

Publisher: Farm & Ranch Publishing, LLC  
Andy Stevens: Vice-President, Editor  
Marti Smith: Vice-President, Advertising

Publishing Office: 560 Sunbury Road, Suite 6  
Delaware, OH 43015  
Phone: (740) 363-2395  
FAX: (740) 369-9526

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

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

  
American Small Farm  
Magazine is proud to  
support FFA

  
Member of the North  
American Farm Show  
Council

#### Product Review 30

New items for family farms.

#### Last Word 31

This month's "Last Word" has an example about how we should handle the people in America who are complaining, whining and griping about Our Flag, Our Pledge, Our Beliefs or Our Way of Life.



### About the cover

I am writing this during the last week of October on a sunny day with the temperature at 65 degrees. I can see green grass when I look out of the window. I decided that the photo I selected for this month's cover would be more timely than what I can see outside right now. Our cover photo shows a pond with some leftover fall colors and early snow on the Grand Mesa. Be sure to check this month's Aquatic Farmer Special Section beginning on page 16. Photo by Linda Armstrong, Grand Junction, Colo. Image from BigStockPhoto.com.