



Rafter MB Arena and Events Center provides large venue in Platte County

BY MARK DELAP

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WHEATLAND – The Rafter MB Arena and Events Center, which has provided so many memories for so many people, has come up for sale on the Wyoming Real Estate market.

Myrle Ingle and his wife, Birgit, made the move from Colorado for the same reason many before them have. They fell in love with Wyoming.

“We were actually going to build a horse barn in Colorado,” he said. “And we found this place three years ago, so we came up to look at it, fell in love with it and decided not to build and to go ahead fix this place up.”

The ranch, which has 59 acres of land, had good bones, but just needed a little updated and sprucing up, according to the couple. As they purchased the property, the name they came up with was as long as a sunset and explained who they were.

The Rafter MB with, of course, Myrle and Birgit’s initials, which is also in

their iconic logo, which combines those initials fashioned under the rafters of their huge show arena and built into a cowboy spur. The full name explains not only who they are, but some of the things they offer branding themselves The Rafter MB Quarter Horses Arena and Event Center.

With hard economic times and Myrle Ingle having to work in the oil fields of Oklahoma to make ends meet.

“It may be the time,” he said. “Don’t get me wrong, we love this place, and we’d probably never leave, but it’s a lot of ranch, especially when I have to be out of town a lot. A Realtor approached me and asked if I wanted to sell. The wife and I thought it over and we decided, ‘why not?’ My wife wants a swimming pool that she can use seven months out of the year and that ain’t happenin’ here in Wyoming.”

One of the things you notice right away, driving up to 210 Sybille Creek Road in Wheatland is the massive arena on the property which has provided a venue for many events during the past

The cost of a horse

An average cost of purchasing and keeping a horse

Purchase: Between \$6,500 and \$10,000 depending on the breeding and pedigree

Tack: Between \$300 and \$10,000 depending on the quality and craftsmanship

Boarding: \$450 at The Rafter MB

Training: Between \$30 and \$200 an hour depending on the teacher and the curriculum

three years.

“We’ve had some horse shows here,” he said. “We would be having clinics right about now, but the COVID has kind of slowed that down a little bit. We’ve had to cancel our spring clinic and we try to do three clinics a year.”

During the winter the arena is available for roping, ranch roping, team roping, training and riding.

“And in the summertime, we have the weddings,” she said, adding to her husband’s comments.

The Ingle’s marriage is a team. Whether they are building stalls together, remodeling their home or in this case, finishing each other’s sentences and explaining their story together.

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Rafter MB: Functioning ranch and events center

FROM PAGE 1

Weddings are a big thing at The Rafter MB. With a large venue, kitchen facilities and even viewing bleachers, a mass wedding with a western theme is a marriage made in heaven. Although inclement weather could change wedding plans and move the ceremony inside the arena, the magical spot on the property is the marriage pond which is an idyllic setting among grazing horses, an orchard of trees, finely cut lawn and the Laramie Mountain Range as a backdrop. It is a photographer's dream for surreal wedding photos.

"They have the ceremony down by the pond," he said, "and then they have the reception right there in the arena. We have had inclement weather where they had to have the wedding in the barn, but you know, that's weather."

The couple note they provide the wedding venue, but they leave the wedding planning and setup to the wedding coordinators. They have the ad-

ditional advantage of having engagement photography and wedding day photography done at The Rafter MB.

"They love having pictures taken out here," he said. "During the springtime and summertime everything's leafed out and pretty. You got the mountains behind them."

The ranch is currently home to 13 horses which include geldings for sale, mares for sale, their brood mares and horses they are boarding. Aside from the normal things an arena and events center may provide for people, they also have a focus on the equines.

"We have a horse motel," she said. "If people are traveling on the interstate and the weather gets bad, we provide a place where the horses can board through the storm. Or if people are on vacation and traveling with their horses. We have 40 stalls for horses."

Birgit mentioned that a caravan of show horses came through last year

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MARK DELAP/PC RECORD-TIMES

The Rafter MB Quarter Horses Arena and Event Center is a ranch owned and operated by Myrle and Birgit Ingle. Like a picture, the mountains are framed by the iron gateway that leads to the marriage pond where many weddings have taken place.

A large red combine harvester is shown in a field during sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange glow. The harvester is moving from left to right across the frame.

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Rafter MB: A horse motel and then some

FROM PAGE 2

and needed a place to board 15 horses for a few nights. The Rafter MB could accommodate.

Myrle, who was a professional trainer, now enjoying amateur status is also proficient in breeding and selling horses. From their four brood mares, they have the offspring for sale.

The coronavirus has been tough not only on the economy of the ranch, but he has also been working up until just recently in the struggling gas and oil business as a well site manager in South Texas.

He has seen it struggle and says it's a combination of two things. An overabundance of oil supplies and due to the quarantine, many people are not out driving around. He also mentioned most manufacturing is shut down and that the price war between Russia and Saudi Arabia has also been a problem.

As to the arena activities, all things rodeo and competition with horses has also been shut down for a year.

People who are wanting to get back into riding or even novices wanting to learn horsemanship, riding and caring for horses are also encouraged to consult with the Ingles. One thing to note is that they must have their own horse and then the option is available to board the horses for \$450 per month which includes pretty much everything but the veterinary care and costs.

"We have been looking into getting a trainer," she said, being as Myrle cannot receive any pay for his services as an amateur, or he will lose his amateur status. In the three years the Ingles have been running the arena and event cen-



MARK DELAP/PC RECORD-TIMES

Co-owner Myrle Ingle stands inside the 120' by 250' arena is more than ample for riding, roping, barrels and even wedding reception. The facility has a massive indoor speaker system, viewing bleachers, side stalls and roping pens to name just a few of the amenities.

ter, they say they try to breakeven, but in light of the recent events, they say that it's harder now.

The couple have been married over 25

years and have three grown boys.

The Rafter MB Quarter Horse Arena and Event Center can be found on Facebook and their website address is: [http://](http://www.raftermb.com/index.php)

www.raftermb.com/index.php

For more information, call 307 322-8151.

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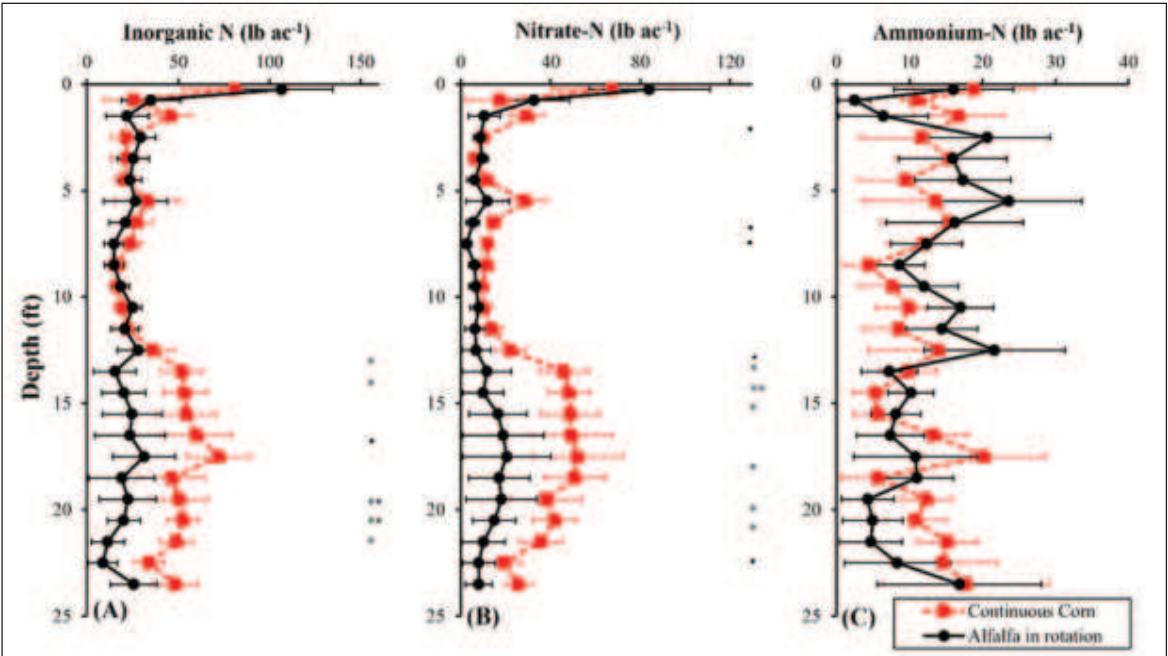
Alfalfa in rotation with annual crops reduces nitrate leaching potential and increases soil organic carbon sequestration

BY ARSHDEEP SINGH, AGRONOMY GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT, JAVED IQBAL, EXTENSION NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT AND WATER QUALITY SPECIALIST, TAHSEEN AFZAL, GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT, BRYAN WOODBURY, USDA ARS AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER, CHARLES WORTMANN, EMERITUS EXTENSION SOIL AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

For Wyoming Newspapers, Inc.

NEBRASKA – Increasing

nitrate-nitrogen (NO₃-N) contamination of groundwater has raised significant environmental and health concerns in Nebraska. One way to reduce the nitrate contamination of groundwater is to follow best nutrient management practices (BMPs). Including a perennial crop in the annual corn-based cropping system is one of the BMPs to potentially decrease NO₃-N load to the



COURTESY/UNL EXTENSION

Figure 1. Inorganic N (lb. N ac⁻¹) (a), nitrate-N (lb. N ac⁻¹) (b), and ammonium-N (lb. ac⁻¹) (c) are shown by soil depth for continuous corn (red) and alfalfa rotation (black) treatments.

groundwater. Including alfalfa in rotations to reduce NO₃-N leaching is a long-recognized concept. Several past studies have found that alfalfa aggressively scavenges nitrogen in the soil. However, the effect of alfalfa in the rotation on NO₃-N, soil organic carbon (SOC), and water content in the vadose zone remained uncertain. Therefore, we conducted a study to evaluate the impact of alfalfa in rotation with annual crops for rooting plus vadose zone to 24 feet depth (zero to 24 feet) on NO₃-N and NH₄-N concentration, and soil organic carbon

sequestration in Nebraska (Singh et al., 2023). The objectives of this study were to determine the impact of alfalfa rotation compared with continuous corn after 20 years on (i) NO₃-N leaching potential, (ii) NH₄-N, SOC, total soil nitrogen (TSN), and soil organic nitrogen (SON) in zero to 24 feet, and (iii) soil water for a subsequent annual crop. We hypothesized that for zero to 24 feet with alfalfa rotation compared with continuous corn (i) NO₃-N in zero to 24 feet would be reduced, (ii) SOC, TSN, and SON will be increased, and (iii) soil water

would be reduced in the root zone of a subsequent corn crop. **Experimental Measurements** The experiment was conducted at the Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) near Clay Center, Nebraska. The soil was well-drained and deep Crete silt loam formed in loess. The experiment was a randomized complete block design consisting of six pairs of fields with greater than 12 of the past 20 years (2001-2020) in alfalfa rotated with

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A very young calf runs through a pasture south of Torrington after recent snowfall hit the region.

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Prescription-only access to veterinary antimicrobials is coming: How to navigate the transition

BY MICAH MOST

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UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

WYOMING – The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is bringing the use of many common veterinary antimicrobial drugs under direct veterinary supervision effective June 11, 2023. This is the result of growing concerns that unchecked use of drugs that are also important in human medicine may lead to the development of resistant microbial strains. Under the Guidance for Industry (GFI) No. 263, antibiotics that are currently available over the counter will become available by prescription only. The full text of GFI No. 263 is available at bit.ly/GFI-263.

This FDA regulation builds on the 2017 Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD), which limits general use of antimicrobial-containing animal feeds. In the livestock industry, the impact of this regulation was primarily felt by the feedlot sector. However, the impending GFI No. 263 will impact all types and classes of livestock and domesticated animals.

A prescription from a licensed veterinarian will be required to purchase antimicrobial drugs that includes oxytetracyclines (e.g., Liqueamycin LA-200, Oxytet), penicillin, sulfa-based antimicrobials, tylosin (e.g., Tylan), and cephalosporins, among others. GFI No. 263 addresses antimicrobials only and does not affect antiparasitics, probiotics, supplements, or non-antibiotic topical treatments. A complete list of the drugs restricted to prescription use under GFI No. 263 can be viewed online at bit.ly/GFI-list.

It is important to note that purchasing prescription antimicrobials from the veterinarian who is prescribing

the drugs is not required. The prescription will be good for purchase at any farm and ranch supply store that carries the product.

A person with short brown hair wearing blue scrubs uses a red stethoscope on a black cow with yellow ear tags. A man with white hair and a quarter zip fleece holds the animal's head.

It might be tempting to stock up the animal medicine cabinet while antibiotics remain available over the counter, but keep in mind the expiration period of the products and their rates of use. Expired drugs should be disposed of and not used in livestock or other animals.

Perhaps the most important step animal owners should take in preparing for the implementation of GFI No. 263 is to ensure they have in place a veterinary client-patient relationship. Essentially, a VCPR is a shared understanding between veterinarian and client of the management of an animal such that the vet can ethically diagnose diseases and prescribe medications, the client is involved in the process, and the patient receives the highest quality care.

The American Veterinary Medical Association lists the Wyoming definition for a veterinary client-patient relationship, or VCPR, as follows:

A veterinarian-client-patient relationship shall be characterized by:

- The Licensee [veterinarian] assuming the responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animal and the need for medical treatment;
- The client has agreed to follow the instructions of the Licensee;
- The Licensee having sufficient knowledge of the animal to initiate at least a general or preliminary di-



agnosis of its medical condition. This means that the Licensee has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal as a result of an examination or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the location where the animal is kept;

- Readily available follow-up care in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of therapy.

Many farmers and ranchers operate under an informal, good faith VCPR. With the upcoming changes to the use and availability of antibiotics, having a formally documented VCPR is recommended. Preparing early will speed up the process of accessing treatments when an animal gets sick. Check with your veterinarian to see if they have a VCPR agreement form you can sign together or draft your own. Many templates and examples are available via a quick internet search.

If working with a new veterinarian, animal owners should expect an in-

person examination of the animal in question before a prescription for antibiotics will be made. In herd/flock health situations, this might involve a site visit by the vet to the ranch or animal housing area. In cases where a VCPR already exists, these steps may not be necessary.

The implementation of Guidance for Industry No. 263 on June 11, 2023 will impact the livestock industry across Wyoming. Producers who are prepared and have a defined working relationship with their local veterinarian will be well-positioned to access critical antimicrobial drugs and continue to provide excellent health care for their animals.

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