

Low-Fat Yaks Catching On Fast

Yak producers say there is no better burger than a Yak burger, but don't expect to see a "MacYak" at your local MacDonalds any time soon.

Purebred Yaks, which are native to the Himalayas, have only 3% fat and even Yak/beef crosses have just 1/3 the fat of regular beef animals. Yet unlike other low-fat meats, Yak fans claim the Yak meat stays moist and tender.

"Yaks developed at high altitudes where they needed more blood vessels to survive," says Tad Puckett, Crested Butte, Colorado. "As a result, the meat stays more moist than bison, which is also a low fat animal."

Puckett is one of a small number of Yak breeders in North America. He estimates that there are only 1,500 full blood Yaks on the continent. He has around 150 head. McRoberts Game Farm, Gurley, Nebraska, claims more than 600 head.

Some Yak owners keep one or two as novelty pets. Others have found them to be outstanding pack animals in mountain terrain. Still other Yak owners keep them for the fine wool which is exceeded in warmth only by the musk ox. While Puckett sells them for all of those things, it is yak burger that gets him excited.

"I go into restaurants and give the chefs

free sample patties and ask them to try it," says Puckett. "I have never yet had anyone say they prefer ground beef to ground Yak. I have four restaurants that buy all I can produce at \$3.50/lb."

With 150 head, Puckett could produce more ground Yak if he wanted; however, the live market is pretty good, too. Cows and bulls generally start at \$2,000 and go up from there, depending on their breeding line, color, size and disposition.

While Yaks don't get big, generally topping out at under 1,500 lbs., they are easy keepers, growing well on grass and hay. Native wild Yaks developed an ability to survive under barren mountainous conditions, virtually without feed through the winter.

"They have a very slow digestive system that allows them to survive under almost any conditions," says Puckett. "You can feed three Yaks for every beef cow."

Puckett advises customers to breed a good Yak bull to beef cows to gain hybrid vigor in size and growth, yet retain efficiency and end value. He butchers his 1,200 lb crossbreds at two years, though he has produced a Charolaise/Yak that reached 1,500 lbs. at 19 months. Full blooded Yaks are butchered out at three years of age.

"Yaks are one of the few other species that



Yaks are native to the Himalayas. Their meat contains just 3 percent fat.

can cross with cattle," explains Puckett. "Although first generation cross males are not fertile, female cross breeds can be bred back to beef or Yak bulls."

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81224 (ph 970 641-4425; E-mail: gpanddog@crestedbutte.net; Website: www.whiteelkranch.com or www.yakpage.com for the North American Yak Breeders Association).

Mechanic's "Step" Fitted With Handy Tool Tray

Working on tractors, pickups and trucks is a lot easier with this heavy-built "Sturdy Step" that can also be fitted with a tool tray.

The 2-step platform is 15 1/2 in. high. The top step is hinged, allowing it to be rotated out of the way by simply lifting it with your foot. Both steps have perforated tread for good traction. The unit's legs have rubber non-slip feet.

An optional 41-in. high "Side-Kick" tool tray can be attached to the Sturdy-Step. It has a 15-in. sq. tool tray.

The Sturdy-Step sells for \$99.99 plus S&H. The Side-Kick tool tray sells for \$79.99. An add-on wheel and handle kit sells for \$19.99.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Goodson Shop Supplies, Box 847, Winona, Minn. 55987 (ph 888 783-5515 or 507 452-1141; fax 5079; E-mail: orderdesk@goodson.com; Website: www.sturdy-step.com).



Heavy-built "Sturdy Step" is a 2-step platform that's 15 1/2 in. high. Both steps have perforated tread for good traction. Unit can also be fitted with a tool tray.



Step makes it easy to work on tractors, pickups and trucks, etc.

Simple T-Post Anchor Holds Tight In Ditches, Ravines

Keeping a fence in place at the bottom of a ravine or ditch isn't easy because of the upward pull from the fence on either side. Oklahoma farmer Quinton Webb came up with a simple "post anchor" that attaches to steel posts, solving the problem.

The 1 1/8-in. wide, 4 1/8-in. long "anchor" consists of a thin metal plate that has a long slot in the middle. It's designed to be used on "Sheffield" posts that have a hole in them near the bottom. (If you have a different kind of post you can drill your own holes.)

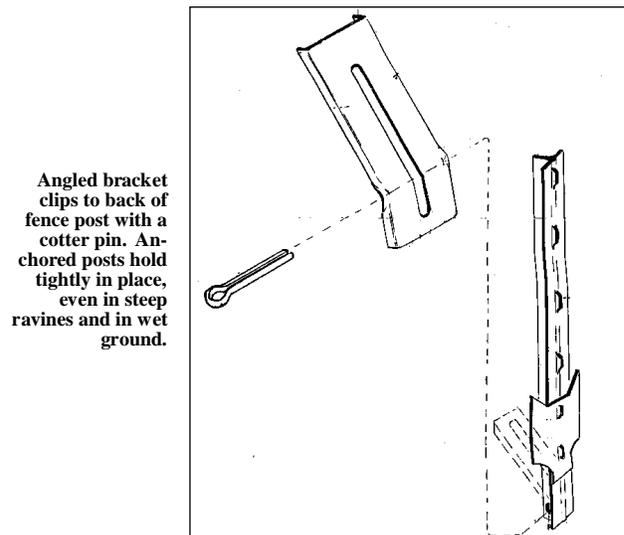
To attach the anchor you slip the slot over the back of the post and insert a cotter pin over the plate and through the hole in the post. Drive the post 1 1/2 in. farther than you want the post to stay in the ground permanently. After the post is driven into the

ground, the natural upward pull of the fence begins to uproot the post. After the post moves up 1 1/2 in., the plate locks in position.

"I've field tested them on my farm for four years and they work great," says Webb. "I have yet to see a post pull up. One man put them on his fence which borders a blacktop road. A truck ran off the road and went into the fence. It broke the wire and the truck went part way through the fence, but the fence posts didn't pull up and are still there."

Webb patented the idea and is looking for a manufacturer.

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Angled bracket clips to back of fence post with a cotter pin. Anchored posts hold tightly in place, even in steep ravines and in wet ground.