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They Specialize In Exotic Pheasants

If you're looking for quality, exotic pheasants, Stromberg's Chicks & Game Birds Unlimited has done the research for you.

"We find the best U.S. breeders and offer up to 13 ornamental pheasants," says Eric Stromberg, manager of the poultry side of the Minnesota-based business. Starting with chickens in the 1920's, the family business eventually added ringneck pheasants, cranes, swans and exotic pheasants to the variety of birds they sell.

The Red Golden pheasant is the most popular, Stromberg says, because of its beautiful, bright colors. Most customers are hobbyists or have small businesses that buy a pair (\$150/juvenile; \$210/adult) to breed. Other breeds include Lady Amherst (black and white with red accents), Silver and the Yellow Golden Pheasant. The rarest birds that take a long time to mature and only lay a few eggs a year are the most expensive, such as the Grey Peacock Pheasant (\$675/

adult pair).

The exotic breeds are smaller than ringneck pheasants and can live up to 15 years.

"They need space and do well in bigger pens," Stromberg says. Pheasants thrive in all climates, including cold regions if they're given draft-free shelter, water and high protein food.

The full-size birds are typically shipped in the fall directly from the breeders. Because they're shipped by express mail in large boxes to accommodate the long tail feathers, shipping is expensive. But they ship very well, Stromberg says. He adds that not all breeds are always available, but people can sign up for "bird alerts" when the breed of their choice becomes available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stromberg's Chicks & Game Birds Unlimited, 501 1st St. S., Hackensack, Minn. 56452 (ph 800-720-1134; www.strombergschickens.com).

New Ways To Make Money With Goats

Whitney Beissner, founder of Goat Shenanigans, offers short-term goat rentals for parties and events.

After growing tired of living in a small, shared NYC apartment, Beissner moved to Texas and bought a ranch. The property came with chickens, barn cats, and goats, and she quickly found herself falling for their quirky personalities.

Beissner brought her goats to the office one day while struggling to find a balance between work and ranch life. To her surprise, the reaction was overwhelmingly positive, and it inspired an idea to help others connect with farm animals in unique ways.

From that inspiration, Goat Shenanigans was born. Operating in Austin, Texas, the company lets you rent goats for a myriad of special occasions, including Valentine's Day visits, birthday parties, anniversaries, and anything else you can dream up.

Goat Shenanigans also hosts events, such as goat yoga, "Baby Goats and Beer," "Coffee and Cuddles" and more. In some cases, the goats can be rented to provide comfort to families who have suffered a loss.

All of the company's rental goats are comfortable being both indoors and out. At least one goat wrangler will be present at each event to ensure the goats are safe and help guests interact with them correctly. Outdoors, the goats will roam and jump on whatever they can access. If a safe, enclosed area is not available, the Goat Shenanigans team will set up a mobile pen.

While potty accidents are to be expected, the team will clean them immediately. In certain cases, the animals may even arrive



Goat Shenanigans lets you rent goats for a myriad of special occasions.

in diapers to mitigate the mess potential.

Those looking to put the goats to work can also request access to a small herd for light brush clearing. Goats are voracious eaters and will make quick work of any weeds and brambles in their path.

Prices vary based on the event or service but range from \$80 for a 25-min. visit with a goat to \$300 for goat yoga or an all-day visit. The company typically has four to six goats available for any event, meaning that additional goats can be added at booking for an extra fee.

Consultations are available for those interested in establishing their own goat event business.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Goat Shenanigans, Lockhart, Texas 78644 (GoatShenanigansATX@gmail.com; www.goatshenanigans.com).

"Mural Girls" Beautify Ag Buildings

Cousins Audrey Sayles and Staci Beauford operate a business named "Some Girls and a Mural". Their mission is to beautify the rural countryside by painting dramatic and colorful images on grain bins and other large "canvases".

"We want to depict and help preserve the culture and spirit of the plains that we grew up with and love," says Sayles.

The artists got their start when they took on a project for the town of Limon, Colo. They painted a colorful farm scene that Beauford designed titled "Heart of Harvest" on the side of a large metal grain bin. The painting depicts a modern farm scene inside a silhouette of a farmer swinging a child into the air. That project led to several other murals in Limon. The artists have since painted more than 20 large scenes on surfaces that include a wind turbine blade, the side of a barn, the exterior walls of museums, other city buildings, and a library book return.

Although Beauford has moved to Arkansas with her farmer husband, she's still able to schedule warm-season visits to Colorado so the cousins can work as a team on large projects. In between visits, each artist works on smaller projects in their local communities and nearby states.

Their murals start at \$300 for a 1 to 25 sq. ft. painting and generally average \$16 per sq. ft. up to 900 sq. ft. The cost may be higher if an agreed-upon design is complex.

Although most of their projects have been



Large hand-painted mural on a grain bin in eastern Colorado.

produced for arts councils and small-town business owners, they've also done projects for individuals to memorialize a family member who has passed or as a tribute to a person or group.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Some Girls and a Mural, P.O. Box 516, Limon, Colo. 80828 (www.somegirlsandamural.com).



Core Living Compost uses 4 or 32-gal. containers for weekly or bi-weekly pickup of compost in Ames, Iowa.

Company Makes Composting Simple

Core Living Compost is an organic waste pickup service in Ames, Iowa, that's dedicated to making it easier for customers to compost garbage. The company aims to turn that food waste into a commodity by converting it into a valuable soil additive.

The company's goal is to reduce some of the estimated 40 percent of food that ends up in landfills by transforming it into compost instead, says Andrew Frank, Core Living Compost co-founder.

All Core Living Compost customers are provided with compost containers, which the company collects and cleans regularly. "We offer this service on a weekly or biweekly schedule depending on the customers' needs," explains Frank. It's possible to choose between 4 and 32-gal. containers, depending on whether you create waste at a residential or commercial scale.

The organic waste goes to Ames' Resource Recovery Center and then travels to an

industrial composting facility in Eddyville, Iowa.

Explains Frank, "Since our food waste is delivered to an industrial composting facility, we can accept more materials than a standard backyard compost pile. This includes meat, dairy, and industrially compostable plastics and packaging."

Getting involved is simple. Upon signing up and paying a \$10 bucket deposit, you can choose to commit to a weekly pickup for \$25 or bi-weekly pickup for \$15. The company will drop off a bucket on pickup days, along with instructions on what can go inside. Set the bucket out before 7:30 a.m. on pickup day, and the team will swap it for a clean one.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Core Living Compost, 2040 Hawthorn Court Dr. Apt. 7115, Ames, Iowa 50010 (ph 847-804-8172; www.corelivingcompost.com).