

Tri-County Feeds facility goes green

Tri-County Feeds, Etc.'s impressive new facility located at 7408 John Marshall Highway in Marshall is going green. The 24,000 square-foot retail and warehouse facility, opening in early September, has been developed in an environmentally responsible way.

"Making choices throughout the facility that protect our environment and limited natural resources wherever feasible was just the right thing to do," said Bill Jackson, President of Tri-County Feeds.

Insulation used throughout the facility is a cellulose of recycled newspaper. This insulation significantly reduces heating and cooling costs, resulting in reduced energy consumption and pollution. An added benefit of using recycled newspaper as insulation is the reduction of landfill waste. Throughout Tri-County's new facility, including the board and batten exterior, the stains and paint used are solvent-free, water-based products that are harmless to the environment and waterways and do not produce any indoor pollution. This ensures that no toxins are released into the air.

Ag. Department paid dead farmers

WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department sent \$1.1 billion in farm payments to more than 170,000 dead people over a seven-year period, congressional investigators say.

The findings by the Government Accountability Office were released Monday as the House prepared to debate and pass farm legislation this week that would govern subsidies and the department's programs for the next five years.

GAO auditors reviewed payments from 1999 through 2005 in the report, which was requested by Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley, senior Republican on the Senate Finance Committee.

"It's unconscionable that the Department of Agriculture would think that a dead person was actively engaged in the business of farming," said Grassley.

The auditors said they found that the department has not been conducting the necessary checks to ensure that subsidy payments are proper.

"USDA has made farm payments to estates more than two years after recipients died, without determining, as its regulations require, whether the estates were kept open to receive these payments," their report said.

Of the identified payments to deceased farmers' estates or businesses, 40 percent went to those who had been dead more than three years, and 19 percent went to those who had been dead for seven or more years.

John Johnson, a deputy administrator for the Farm Service Agency, said there is no indication that the payments were improper, since some rules allow estates to continue receiving money after a two-year grace period.

WIRE AND CONTRIBUTED REPORTS

The buzz about Seattle

Remember last week I told you we'd be in Seattle by now — well we are, and true to our experiences to date all over the Country, the weather has been most unusual for the time of year, in this instance, that means wet! Now many of you might say Seattle is known for being wet — all year round (a little harsh of you that), but we are assured by many a local resident here that this time of year is usually dry and sunny, and it has been 10 years or more since they saw as much rain as this in July. If we weren't so naturally thick-skinned, we'd be developing a serious complex here — but we know it has nothing to do with us whatsoever ..... has it?

Anyway, just before we got up to Seattle where we are visiting a friend in the center of town (no room for the horses in her apartment I'm afraid), we decided to stop off for a day or two in one of Oregon's lovely State Parks by the beach (in this instance it was Nehalem Beach), and see if we couldn't get Max and Roo to take a little paddle! Well at least that was the theory at any rate.

We had no idea how the horses would react (they're both only 5 years old), but the sound of the waves, the smell of the salty sea air, and the unnerving way in which the sand would disappear from beneath their feet did have quite an effect on them. We certainly had what we horsey people call "pricky ears" from them, there was a little huffing and snorting, lots of dancing around on their toes (Max kept wanting to bolt off into the blue), but overall we managed to retain control of the situation, and a lot of calming words and pats on the neck, gradually got the horses back to some sort of normality.

Try as we might though, we couldn't really get them into the water much — to be fair we did get their feet wet, and we rode as close to the shoreline as we could, but even with the trick of backing them into the water and allowing the waves to lap around their feet, we couldn't get a real good paddle out of them. But to be fair, it's a fine line between teaching your horse something and forcing them to do something



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Riders take their horses for a walk along Oregon's Nehalem Beach.



DAVID AND ANITA HASBURY-SNOGLES

against their nature (and horses have a very strong sense of self preservation!), so we didn't push them too hard and overall I think they really did us proud for a couple of young 'uns.

After our couple of days on the beach, it started raining quite heavily so it was actually quite advantageous that we had already prepared to pack up and continue our journey on to Washington State, and the coffee capital of the world — Seattle.

We had planned to visit our friend Linda (who actually hailed from New York/New Jersey, but now loved living in the "sleepless city") for a few days and "park" the horses at a livery facility nearby. Nearby actually turned out to be 23 miles and half-an-hour's drive away, but it gave us the chance to act as the ordinary tourist and wander around open-mouthed at the wonders of Seattle and the surrounding countryside.

And wonders they certainly are — like any city, Seattle is alive with activity and there is a definite buzz about the place (and not just from the coffee!). But seen from afar, it is really quite something, having the tower-

ing financial district of town overlooking the harbour, then looking out to Lakes Washington & Sammamish, and then west to Puget Sound and the islands beyond. On top of all that, surrounding the city as if to contain it in a natural bowl, are the mountains — the Olympic and Cascade ranges to the north and west, and the famous Mount Rainier and Mount St. Helens to the south. We were very lucky that Linda's boyfriend David, happens to be a boating enthusiast, and he very kindly took us on a private sightseeing cruise of the City from the water — with the wine and the little bit of sunshine we enjoyed, we had a really great time and captured some wonderful memories for our old age.

Seattle is undoubtedly a great place when the weather is okay and even better when it is good — something we hope to experience very shortly — but I would definitely recommend it as a place to see if you can, there is so much to do in City alone, never mind the surrounding areas, and be prepared to spend at least four or five days to go look at all there is to offer.

Of course that is only what the eye can see, never mind the rest of the senses, in particular taste — we're not just talking coffee here, there are restaurants galore of every cuisine you can think of, including many out of the way and waterside delights that you have to wander a little off of the beaten track to get to, and did you know that Washington State is one of the biggest wine producers in the entire country! Which



A boat floats along with the city of Seattle in the background.

brings me neatly back to coffee, and of course Starbucks — the original coffee house down by Pike's Place Market is where it all began back in 1971, and no they're not paying me anything to get a mention, but yes, we did go there, and yes it was of course my flavor of the month — a Frappuccino ..... ah bliss! Until next week ...

David and Anita Hasbury-Snogles are British residents riding across the United States on horseback to raise money for charity. Visit [HorseQuestUSA.org](http://HorseQuestUSA.org) for more information. David can be reached at [david\\_hasbury@yahoo.com](mailto:david_hasbury@yahoo.com).

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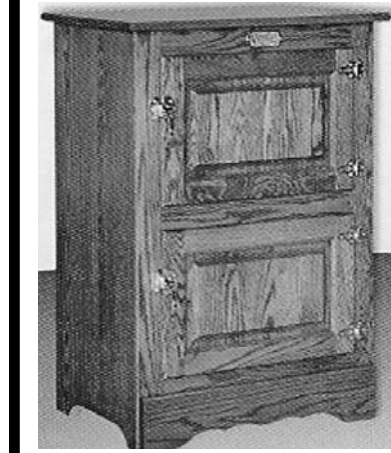


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