

# *Livestock at Home*

*We traditionally think of barns for horses, cattle, hogs, and sheep, but in recent years the list includes alpacas, goats, llamas, chickens, turkeys, and pheasants.*

## *Jackson County*

*23477 Bellevue-Cascade Road  
LaMotte*

**Twenty-five years.** Mike and Julie Delaney celebrated their 25th year of ownership of Irish Meadows Alpaca Farm in 2017.

This farm had been in the Leo and Florence Sprank family for almost 150 years. After their deaths, the Delaneys purchased one parcel, which included the home site and the existing buildings in 1992.

The first Spranks, Nicholas and Theresa, immigrated from Germany, homesteaded in Jackson County in the 1850s, and eventually owned 640 acres. Over the years the Sprank families built barns for cattle, horses, milk cows, hogs, and chickens, and at one time there were 24 buildings on this farm. Only 18 remain today, and all have been carefully preserved.

The Delaney's first raised Peruvian and Accoyo alpacas, and had 80 Huacaya alpacas when these photos were taken in 2012. In 2016 they had 140.

The 1870 barn, the oldest one, has been renovated as a guest house for potential buyers of their alpacas. It was built as a bank barn with the entrance now a patio.

An interesting note is that when it was renovated, the smell of manure that resulted from being used for livestock and as a dairy barn, was eliminated by power sanding the lumber using baking soda (no water).



*Alpacas grazing*

2012



*1870 barn, now a guest house*