

Ansley Elk Farm

Farm Service Agency Lends Helping Hand to Local Non-Traditional Ranchers



the back of the tractor as Gail does the chores.

On any early morning, rain or shine, Gail Ansley and 4-year-old Miah are out and about on their Hazelton ranch feeding 320 elk and 90 pheasants. Gail's husband, Calvin works out of state for a couple months at a time, is home for a week, then gone again. Gail is very self-sufficient and feeds & waters the elk and pheasants herself. She also repairs fence, doctors sick or injured animals, cleans pens, and keeps the ranching operation's books. Miah takes great pride in gathering pheasant eggs for the incubators to grow pheasant chicks. Gail raises over 600 chicks a year, so egg gathering is a big job for Miah who can always be found at Gail's side or riding on



After early morning chores done, you will find Gail at the Farmers' Market in Boise almost every Saturday. She also attends the Farmers Markets in Ketchum & Hailey

each week. At the markets, "locavores" seek Gail's elk and pheasant meat as an all-natural, leaner, and healthier alternative to beef.



Gail believes in being environmental friendly, so every part of the elk is used. She produces velvet from the antlers which is used as a dietary supplement for building the immune system and strengthening joints.

Calvin is an artist who uses elk hide for furniture and makes artwork from



the antlers such as belt buckles, jewelry, lamps, salt/pepper shakers, and other beautiful and unique items.

This year, Farm Service Agency (FSA) helped Gail with her ranching dreams by providing her the ranch's operating needs with very low interest rates hovering around 2.5%. FSA specializes in non-traditional farming/ranching operations, and base loans on a cash-flow basis which made them a good fit for Gail's financing needs. FSA's "cash-flow" lending practices means that they base their loan



decisions on whether the operation simply has more income than expenses, rather than credit scores or loan/value ratios. In addition to operating loans, FSA also provide long term loans (as long as 40 years) for the purchase of farm real estate.



In addition to their meat, Gail raises the pheasants for hunting. Gail raises 300 birds for hunting and an additional 300 birds for their meat. She provides youth hunts, dog training exercises, family hunts, full-day or half-day hunts, etc. For more information on Gail's operation, see www.cabullekranch.com.