

California FARMER

Heat inspections on the rise see Page 9

Food safety costing leafy greens producers see Page 16

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Fast feed

SPROUTING CHAMBER: Sonny Rodgers, the California representative of Fodder Solutions (left) and Terry Colless, also of Fodder Solutions, show off green sprout mats of feed. Colless developed the sprout mat system. Over 90% of the feed is digestible; it's almost like feeding "predigested" grains.

By **LEN RICHARDSON**

FODDER Solutions is an Australian company that has perfected a patented system of growing sprouted grain. The grain sprouts provide high-quality, low-cost nutritious livestock feed in just six days using a sprout factory.

While the business started and grew in Australia, the livestock feed system has caught on in America, and especially in California, where the units are now built in Oxnard.

The company also has its own California representative, Sonny Rodgers, based in Browns Valley. His e-mail is roders0877@sbcglobal.net. In addition to California the company has dealers in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Montana.

Key Points

- Sprout factory grows grain to for low-cost livestock feed.
- Fodder Solutions of Australia now is building units in Oxnard.
- Twelve to 72 trays produce 90 to 520 pounds of sprouts daily.

How it caught on

The business first boomed in Australia after winning the Queensland Farm Invention of the Year in 2006.

It caught on in California following an overwhelming level of interest received at the World Ag Expo in Tulare last February, and again at the California State Fair in Sacramento this August.

"From the number of inquiries we received, there is no

doubt U.S. farmers will be extremely receptive to our system of growing low-cost green feed using very little water," says Terry Colless, president, Fodder Solutions USA Inc. Colless and business partner Flavio Raccanello developed the unique technology.

"We will be manufacturing units in a range of sizes, from

12 to 72 trays capable of producing 90 to 520 pounds of sprouts daily." More than 300 self-contained sprouting units have now been sold to farmers in Australia alone, but units are being sold worldwide.

A new mini-system to produce 44 pounds of sprouts a day has just been introduced to the Australian market, with

portable units ranging up to 529 pounds in capacity.

Custom-built units are available, too, from 1,102-pound capacity to the top-of-the-range automatic system, which can turn out more than 3½ tons of sprouts a day without manual labor.

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