

A PRESS RELEASE from:  
AERO (Montana's Alternative Energy Resources Organization)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Energy Tour at Thirteen Mile Lamb & Wool Company, Belgrade May 13**

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The Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO) will conduct an Energy Tour, open to the public, at Thirteen Mile Lamb & Wool Company north of Belgrade, MT, on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 2 PM.

The Thirteen Mile Lamb and Wool Energy Tour features a *solar hot water wool washing and cleaning* system. In addition to raising their own certified organic and predator friendly sheep Thirteen Mile Lamb & Wool process wool their own wool and offers custom wool processing for others.

In December 2003, Dave Tyler and Becky Weed, the owners of Thirteen Mile Lamb and Wool, received a grant from NorthWestern Energy that covered half of the cost of a solar hot water heating system. Radiant Engineering of Bozeman, working closely with Becky and Dave, designed and built the unique air powered wool washing system that involves bubbling air through wool immersed in baskets in very hot, 180° wash water. The wash water is contained in a custom 275 gallon, stainless steel wash tank. A blower, located in the attic, provides the air to bubble through the water.

Four years later, Tyler and Weed report that the hot water system has more than paid for their portion of the investment. "We were very concerned when we committed to purchasing the solar hot water system about the payback. But after Hurricane Katrina and the resulting rapid escalation in the cost of propane, we know we made a good decision", Weed reports.

According to Tyler, "Solar hot water heating systems are a better value for most commercial, institutional and residential users than relying on gas or electric water heating systems. Everyone should compare the cost of heating water with solar vs. electricity or gas. We hope to see people from schools, hospitals, hotels, restaurants, apartment owners, homeowners and other agriculturist on the tour."

AERO, Northwestern Energy, and Radiant Engineering invite you to come and see this scenic farm and custom *solar hot water wool washing and cleaning and processing* facility at the flank of the Bridger Mountains.

Directions from Bozeman: take 7<sup>th</sup> street toward the airport. Turn right on Spring Hill Rd and go north 11.5 miles. Look for large barn on right at 13000 Spring Hill Rd.

A nominal charge of \$5 per person is requested to attend. Tour participants are asked to RSVP AERO at 443-7272 or call if you have questions.

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