



A TV photographer films Albert Johnson of Smiley, Sask., in front of his 9-ft. wide rock wall that winds for a half-mile through fields on his wheat farm.

1/2-MILE WALL TOOK 27 YEARS TO ERECT

He's Building The "Great Wall Of Canada"

Visitors come from around the world to get a look at the hobby of a Canadian farmer who's put 27 years of work into building what's being called Canada's answer to the famous Great Wall of China.

Albert Johnson of Smiley, Sask., is an 80-year-old farmer who spends his days gathering rocks on his 1,800 acre farm and transporting them to the 9-ft. wide rock wall that winds for a half-mile through fields on his wheat farm. The wall, which he started building in 1962, averages about 6 ft. high and narrows up from its 9-ft. wide base to a couple feet wide at the top. Johnson hauls the granite-type rocks from up to 3 miles away and then lays them carefully so that the outside surfaces of the wall remain relatively smooth. The biggest rock in the wall weighs a few tons and was moved with a big 4-WD tractor.

"Kids love it. They climb on top and walk the length of it. The adults with them can't believe I did all this work myself," Johnson told FARM SHOW, explaining

that the wall really serves no purpose other than to amaze. He works on the wall an average of about 8 hrs. a day, 7 days a week, pulling rocks from the ground by hand, loading them onto his 4-wheel ATV, and lugging them to the wall. "No rocks have been laid on the wall by anyone but me," he says.

Johnson's wife, Shirley, says she still doesn't understand the obsession with the wall. She married him the year he started on it. "I think he started this just to get out of the house," she says.

More than 8,000 people have stopped by to see the wall and it's been featured on national Canadian television. "Making it on TV meant more to me than a million dollars. It paid for all the work I've done," he says.

The wall keeps growing about 10 ft. a month.

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THERE'S NOTHING ELSE LIKE THEM IN NORTH AMERICA

Russian Wild Boars

A Canadian wild game farmer says he's got the "first and only" purebred Russian wild boars in North America.

"The difference between Russian wild boars and American wild boars is like the difference between night and day," says Peter Kalden of Gypsumville, Manitoba, who now runs 8 of the purebred wild boars along with his 100 American wild boars. The Russian boars have a narrower frame with higher shoulders and a much longer snout. The meat is much darker.

Kalden says there's a strong market for wild boar meat because it's so low in fat. He sells directly to large retailers in Canadian cities as well to Europe where consumers are more familiar with such products.

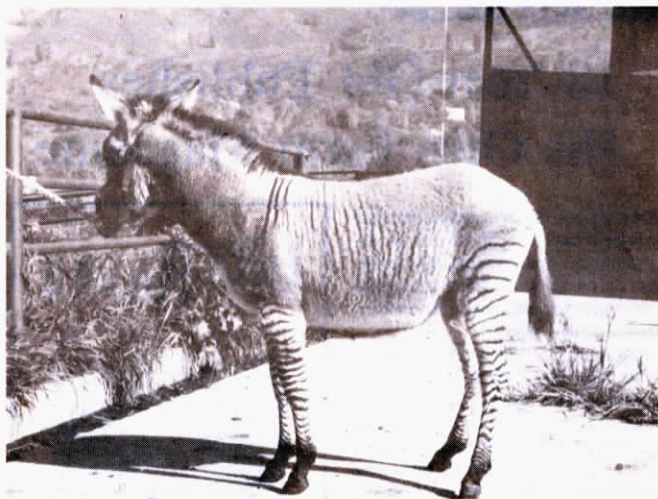
Although wild Russian boars can be ferocious if cornered, Kalden says they're generally easy to raise. When left on their own to forage their own feed they produce just

one litter a year but when fed grain, they'll usually produce two litters with only about 4 piglets per litter. They take up to a full year to reach 200 lbs. and dress out at only about 60%. The animals sport big tusks but it takes about 5 years to grow a set. A full-grown boar reaches 500 to 600 lbs.

Kalden plans to crossbreed the Russian animals with his American wild boars to produce an even leaner meat with better texture and taste. He'll also cross the boars with conventional domestic breeds, saying the low fat and hardness of the animals should carry over to domestic animals. He bought his Russian boars in Sweden.

Purebred Russian pigs sell for \$1,000 apiece (Canadian). Crossbred Russian-American wild boars sell for \$500.

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"Pretzel", a "zonkey" foal, is the offspring of a male zebra and a female donkey.

"SMARTER THAN A HORSE, QUICKER THAN A DONKEY"

Exotic "Zonkey" Mule Is Half Zebra, Half Donkey

What do you get when you cross a zebra with a donkey? A "zonkey", of course, says Red Peterson, of Morgan Hill, Calif., a horse and mule trainer who recently crossed a male zebra with a female donkey, or jenny, to create the exotic mule.

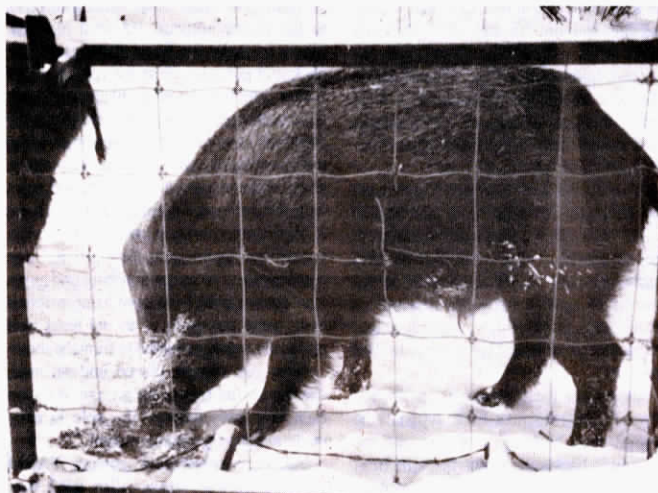
Peterson, who owns three male zebras and one female, is trying to breed more "zonkeys" by breeding one of the males to a herd of jennies, as well as to a mare. The "zonkey" foal, called "Pretzel", is donkey-grey colored with black stripes all the way up the front and back legs. It also carries the characteristic dorsal stripe and cross of the donkey on its back. Peterson says he'll train "Pretzel" to ride and to drive a wagon along with his zebras.

"Usually the first question people ask is, 'What did you paint that mule with?' This isn't the first zonkey but there aren't many in the U.S.," says Peterson, who began breeding zebras two years ago. "Zonkeys

are very gentle. They have more stamina and quickness than donkeys and are smarter than most horses. Whether you get a zebra-looking foal or a donkey-looking foal is a matter of genes."

According to Peterson, zebras are reluctant to breed with other species. "Male zebras will breed donkeys, but often they are reluctant to breed ponies and mares which get scared and start kicking. The height difference with mares is also a problem. I'd rather breed a male zebra to a mare than a stallion to a female zebra because a female zebra costs more, at \$10,000 to \$15,000, while a male costs only \$3,000 to \$7,000. If I can't successfully breed my male zebra to a mare, I hope to collect zebra semen and breed mares artificially."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Red Peterson, Shining Star Ranch, 1195 Cochrane Road, Morgan Hill, Calif. 95037 (ph 408 779-9240)



Russian boars have a narrower frame with higher shoulders and a much longer snout than American wild boars, says Peter Kalden, a Canadian wild game farmer.