

Editor's Notebook



Mark Newhall
Editor & Publisher



Editor Mark Newhall grew up on this Northern Minnesota farm. Now he and his dad are attempting to sell it via the internet.

New Way To Sell The Family Farm

If you or someone you know is looking for a picturesque small farm nestled in the lake country of Northern Minnesota, you might want to call my dad. Or take a look on the internet, because that's where we've been trying to sell his place.

Here's the situation: My family moved to Pelican Rapids, Minn., in 1958, when my father found a management job at a large poultry processing plant there. His first love was farming but, unfortunately, his own father's farm was sold in the mid-1950's after an interstate highway ran lengthwise through the property.

He bought a small farm outside of town, put up two pole barns, and raised a couple large flocks of turkeys each year in addition to his job in town.

It was a great place to grow up. Lots of hard work for my brother and I but we still found plenty of time to hunt, fish, and enjoy the lake country around that area (there are approximately 1,000 lakes within a hundred miles of Pelican Rapids).

Now my dad is 75 years old. Although he and my mother are in good health, they've decided to give up the farm and move to their cabin on a nearby lake. Winters are spent in Texas.

The problem is that it's difficult to find a local buyer who's willing to pay what we think the farm is worth. So before listing it with a local real estate agent, we decided to set up a simple website to see if we could reel in a buyer from off the internet. It didn't cost much to set up the web page and we were able to tell much more about the property than we could in a classified ad. Once we got the web site together, we've been able to run classified ads both online and in metropolitan newspapers, directing people to the site for more information.

If you're interested in taking a look at how we went about it, go to www.bestfarmbuys.com/farmforsale/.

Praise For The Gas Engine

When Henry Ford began tinkering with gas engines around 1900, there were more than 20 million horses on America's farms. The streets of New York City were covered with tons of manure every day. An average of 4 acres of land were needed to grow grass, hay and oats for each horse. America used the equivalent of four Iowas or 25 Yellowstone National Parks to grow fodder for its draft horses.

Millions of tractors today save land for nature that would otherwise be used to feed horses or draft oxen. Every acre of cropland that can produce food instead of being used to produce animal fodder means at least an acre or more of wildlands is saved. *Dennis Avery, Hudson Institute*

Words Of Wisdom

"It is dangerous to be right in matters on which the established authorities are wrong." *Voltaire*

"What luck for the rulers that men do not think." *Adolph Hitler*

"The first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his own weight." *Theodore Roosevelt*

"The secret of life is honesty and fair dealing. If you can fake that, you've got it made." *Groucho Marx*

FARM SHOW On Video

We're proud to announce completion of our fifth "Best of FARM SHOW" video. Like our first four videos, it's an entertaining collection of unusual farmer-built inventions and ideas taken from the pages of the magazine.

Anyone who likes reading FARM SHOW will enjoy the videos because of the way they bring our stories to life. For instance, in our latest new video you get to meet the "Friendly Trapper", famous for home-brewed solutions for getting rid of just about any pest animal, bird or insect. You'll visit a Yak farm and get an up-close look at these low-fat animals which can be crossed with beef cows. You'll also get a look at a bandsaw mill that cost less than \$100 to build, and see how an Illinois farmer built a tractor out of a combine (see page 9 of this issue for more details).



In all, there are 24 stories on this professionally edited video. It comes with our 100 percent money-back guarantee. If you're not satisfied for any reason, we'll return your money in full and you don't even have to return the tape.

Send \$16.95 (\$26.95 Canadian) plus \$2.95 S&H to: FARM SHOW Videos, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 1-800-834-9665.

Count Your Blessings

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of 100 people, with all existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look like the following:

- 57 Asians
- 21 Europeans
- 14 Western hemisphere dwellers from North and South America (only 6 from the U.S.)
- 8 Africans
- 52 females, 48 males
- 70 non-white, 30 white
- 6 people in possession of 59 percent of the entire world's wealth (all 6 would be from the U.S.)
- 80 people living in sub-standard housing
- 70 people unable to read
- 50 people suffering from malnutrition
- 1 person with a college education
- 1 owner of a computer

Swayback Horse Photo

This photo of a "swayback" horse appeared in Life Magazine on Oct. 31, 1938. The eye-catching horse was owned by the Harrison family living near Wheaton, Minnesota.



Except for the huge curve in her spine, Flory the swayback horse was healthy and gave birth to four offspring. She lived to 19.

According to one of the daughters in the family, Mable C. Combs, of Benicia, Calif., her mother noticed people were frequently stopping by the pasture to take photos of the unusual horse. She decided the family had to have its own photo, which she then sent to the local paper. It was later

submitted to Life Magazine, where it won a contest and a prize of \$500 for the family.

Despite its deformity, the horse was apparently quite healthy, Combs recalls. Its name was Flory. She lived to 19 years old and gave birth to at least four handsome colts. *The Wheaton Gazette, Wheaton, Minn.*

And The Winner Is . . .

Myron Fouse, an 83-year-old farmer from Belpre, Kan., was the winner of the 30 by 72-ft. hoop-type building from Stream Shelters, Gretna, Manitoba, that we gave away in February. Myron, who still farms a section of land, says he plans to use the building for machinery storage. Thanks to everyone who entered the contest.

Keep This In Mind

Here are some things to keep in mind when contacting companies or individuals featured in FARM SHOW:

- Many area codes have changed across the U.S. in recent years so if you're looking at a story from a year or two ago and the phone number doesn't work, check the area code.
- Some toll-free "800" numbers do not work from Canada.
- If you're writing to an individual farmer-inventor with no product to sell, remember that it costs money to respond to requests for information. You're much more likely to get a response if you send along a self-addressed stamped envelope, or if you telephone.
- If you are a Canadian ordering a product from the U.S., keep in mind that in many areas of the U.S. it's difficult to cash a check drawn on a Canadian bank. Your best bet is to send a check drawn on a U.S. account or a U.S. money order.

Tidbits

- Living on earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun.
- How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.
- Ever notice that people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?
- You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- Once over the hill, you pick up speed.
- I know God won't give me more than I can handle. I just wish he didn't trust me so much.
- There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

Church Laughs

- A 4-year-old was overheard in church praying, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."
- A Sunday school teacher asked her little children as they were on the way to church, "Why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."
- A little boy was overheard praying, "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

"What do you love most about me?" a husband asked his wife. "My great athletic ability or my quick intellect?"

"What I love most about you," responded the wife, "is your enormous sense of humor."

A couple was driving down a country road when they came to a muddy patch in the road and got stuck. A young farmer on a tractor came by and offered to pull them out for \$50. The husband accepted and minutes later the car was free. The farmer turned to the husband and said, "You know, you're the tenth car I've helped out of the mud today."

The husband looked around the nearby fields incredulously and asked the farmer, "When do you have time to work your land? At night?"

"No, no," the young farmer replied seriously. "Night is when I put water in the hole."