

**Editor's  
Notebook**



**Mark Newhall**  
Editor &  
Publisher



Rite Way's new combine replaced 75 percent of the belts and pulleys found on most combines with hydraulic motors.

**All-New Combine  
Debuts In Canada**

A manufacturer of rock pickers, bale wagons, and field harrows stunned showgoers at the Regina Farm Progress Show in June with its introduction of a revolutionary all-new combine called the "Python". The company designed and built the big new machine from the ground up at its Canadian manufacturing plant.

Rite Way Mfg. of Imperial, Sask., says it sees a strong market for a conventional combine that's much simpler to operate and maintain.

What makes the new machine unique is that 75 percent of all belts and pulleys have been replaced with hydraulic motors, all without sacrificing quality, power, operator comfort, or safety.

"Experience has shown that belts and pulleys bring inefficiency, breakdowns and complex maintenance to the farmer, so we decided to overcome those concerns," says Rite Way president Les Hulicsko, who feels other combine manufacturers just keep doing things the same way "because that's the way we've always done it".

With the Python, the operator can adjust the speed and direction of each hydraulic motor individually to regulate flow, as needed, to adapt to changing harvest conditions.

"For example, most functions of traditional combines run at a fixed rpm and cannot be reversed. The Python's operator, on the other hand, can change the rpm of each motor independent of the others. The operator can completely reverse direction of the entire cleaning system to unclog jams - or prevent them altogether - from the comfort of the combine's cab. That makes harvest time a lot faster, easier, and safer," Hulicsko says. "And with the largest threshing cylinder in the industry, plugging is a thing of the past. It shines in heavy and tough conditions."

The Python's straw walkers are longer, and its large sieves and high volume fan are designed to do a better job cleaning.



Python features the largest conventional threshing cylinder in the industry, according to Rite Way president Les Hulicsko.

Electronically-controlled sieves make them easier to adjust, resulting in higher quality output, according to the company.

"You'll end up with more grain in your hopper and that grain will be noticeably cleaner and higher quality," says Hulicsko.

The Python has a 280-bu. grain tank with a 180 bu. per min. unload auger. It's powered by a high-torque engine (280 h.p. @ 2000 rpm's).

The unit has all modern comfort features, including a fully adjustable command station and a grain tank window. Nearly 52 sq. ft. of window area and a high intensity lighting system ensures good visibility, both day and night. All daily service points are accessible right at the cab entrance and adjustments can also be made on the go, with logically arranged, clearly marked controls.

Hulicsko, who started Rite Way out of a machine shop in 1972, is well-known for his ability to simplify complex machinery. For example, he was the first to come out with a hydraulic-driven rock picker. And he applied similar principles to his successful line of commercial street sweepers, which he calls "dirt combines".

Hulicsko says there will be only 4 Python combines available for this fall but there will be 10 next year and the company will be in full production by 2006.

The retail price tag on the new combine is \$225,000 (Can.), which is around \$170,000 U.S. It can be used in any crop with the proper attachments. Standard small grain, corn and soybean headers will fit. You can download a free brochure on the new combine at the company's website.

Hulicsko is looking for dealers across the U.S. and Canada to market his new combine and other products.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rite Way Mfg. Co. Ltd., Box 328, Imperial, Sask., Canada S0G 2J0 (ph 800 352-8822, 306 963-2180; fax: 306 337-4441; email: les@ritewaymfg.com; website: www.ritewaymfg.com).

*Janis Schole, Contributing Editor*

**Department Of Weird Museums**

Here's a weird museum that you might want to check out if you're ever in Massachussets. The "Burnt Food Museum" is just what it sounds like: an emporium of food that's been cooked too long.

Deborah Henson-Conant in Arlington, Mass., founded the museum and is also the primary contributor. The museum was founded in the late 1980's one night when Deborah put a small pot of hot apple cider on the stove to heat but then forgot about it. When she finally got back to the kitchen, the cider had become a "cinder" that she now exhibits as "Free-Standing Hot Apple Cider".

Other exhibits today include Thrice Baked Potato, Microwaved Quiche, Forever Kebab, and King Tut's Tomato.

The museum is temporarily closed due to fire damage, of all things, but you can check it out on the internet at [www.burntfoodmuseum.com](http://www.burntfoodmuseum.com).

**Math Mystery**

Here is a brain teaser for the math whizzes among you. Take the first three digits of your telephone number and multiply by 80. Add 1 and multiply by 250. Add the last four digits of your telephone number and then add them again. Subtract 250 and divide by 2. Do you recognize the number?

**Premium Gas A Better Deal?**

Few people realize that as gas gets more expensive, premium becomes a better deal. Premium increases compression so fuel burns more thoroughly and efficiently, giving more horsepower and acceleration, a cleaner engine with less sludge and varnish formation, and better mileage. I have noticed there's usually about 20 cents difference in price between regular (about 87 octane) and premium (93 octane), regardless of price. As gas has gotten more expensive, this 20 cent difference is now a much smaller percentage of the cost. I get about 15 percent better mileage in my car with premium so gas would have to go back down to \$1.33 for it no longer to be worth it. *Anonymous internet comment*

**Auction Scam**

At a recent auction in Montgomery County, Ill., a white male showed up at an auction and was showing card tricks. As he performed, he started belittling the rural people around him as hillbillies. "Hillbillies don't have any money," was one of his comments. At one point, he pulled \$1,000 in cash from his pocket and said he would give his \$1,000 to "any hill-billy" who had even \$500 with him. One local man (who we will not identify) was a bit irritated by the annoying fellow. He had around \$500 with him so he pulled it out. The

sharpster reached out and grabbed the money, then ran into the crowd. When people realized what had happened, they took off after the crook but he got away.

*Montgomery County News, 4/11/04*

**Another Use For Duct Tape**

There's a relatively new remedy for unsightly warts on hands and feet that might work and costs almost nothing: duct tape. Recent medical journal studies found that duct tape works even better than freezing warts off. You just cut a piece of tape the size of the wart and apply it to the wart for 6 days. Then remove it, soak the wart in water and sand with an emery board. The next day, reapply the tape for 6 more days. This process can be repeated for up to 2 months.

**Liberty Quotes**

"Under the privilege of the First Amendment many many ridiculous things are said." *John Kenneth Galbraith*

"Humanity's most valuable assets have been the non-conformists. Were it not for the non-conformists, he who refuses to be satisfied to go along with the continuance of things as they are, and insists upon attempting to find new ways of bettering things, the world would have known little progress, indeed." *Josiah William Gitt*

"Individuality is to be preserved and respected everywhere as the root of everything good." *Jean Paul Richter*

"The essence of Government is power; and power, lodged as it must be in human hands, will ever be liable to abuse." *James Madison*

**Elk Horns Going To The Dogs**

Powdered elk antler is an ancient Asian medicine. Researchers have recently discovered it works well on older, arthritic dogs, allowing them to run and play more easily after taking 4 to 8 capsules a day for a couple months.

Maxim Moreau, researcher at the University of Montreal, said he was very surprised not only at the improvement but also at the magnitude of the improvement. At about 50 cents a capsule, the treatment is not cheap but it's right in line with the cost of other arthritis medicines for dogs.

Elk farmers have been hurting recently due to the discovery of brain-wasting disease in elk and in cattle. Export markets to Asia have been restricted. So industry experts are hoping the new medicinal use creates a lucrative market.

*(Reuters)*

**In an ancient Greek city** there was a practice whereby if a legislator proposed a new law upon the citizens, he did so standing on a platform with a rope around his neck. If the citizens approved the law, they removed the rope. If they rejected the law, they removed the platform. It is a practice worth reconsideration.

**After applying their lipstick in the school bathroom,** a number of girls would press their lips to the mirror, leaving dozens of little lip prints.

The principal decided that something had to be done so she called all the girls to the bathroom and explained that the lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian. To demonstrate how difficult it was, she asked the maintenance man to clean one of the mirrors. He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet and swabbed the glass. Since then, there have been no lip prints.

**A man owned a small farm in central Texas.** The State of Texas claimed he was not paying minimum wage to his help and sent an agent to interview him. "I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them," demanded the agent. "Well, there's my hired hand who's been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$600 a week plus free room and board. Then there's the half-wit that works about 18 hours a day. I pay him \$10 a week and buy him chewing tobacco," replied the farmer. "That's the guy I want to talk to; the half-wit," said the indignant agent. The farmer replied, "Well, that would be me."

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