



Milk boosts the natural flavor of fruits and vegetables, says John Chen. He pours 5-gal. plastic buckets of milk on the roots of crops as they near maturity.

## He Uses Milk To “Sweeten” Crops

A Washington orchard grower is using milk to enhance the flavor of fruits and vegetables.

John Chen grows a mixture of Asian vegetables and fruit on 90 acres near Moses Lake, Wash. Milk, which he buys from a local dairy, is poured onto the roots of crops as they near maturity. Workers pour 5-gal. plastic buckets of milk several times a day – 50 to 100 gal. worth – on the roots of cherries, apples, melons, cantaloupe, and Chinese vegetables.

“The milk boosts the natural flavor of the harvested crop,” says Chen.

He applies milk to crops about three times a week, using about 100 gal. per day.

He started his milk “watering” method four years ago after participating in Washington state trade missions to Asia, looking for health-smart foods. He learned that some farmers in his native country of Taiwan use expired milk to water or fertilize their crops, such as guava and papaya, in later stages of plant development.

In Asia, outdated milk is used, but expired milk isn’t readily available for bulk sale in his area so he gets fresh milk from a local dairy.



Workers apply about 100 gal. of milk a day three times a week.

Food produced without chemicals is healthier, says Chen. “We don’t put chemicals on anything.”

He admits the concoction does have a distinct odor, but he doesn’t mind. “Some people say that fruit ‘watered’ with milk even tastes a bit like milk,” notes Chen.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sun Basin Orchard, P.O. Box 58206, Moses Lake, Wash. 98138 (cindy@sunbasinorchard.com; www.sunbasinorchard.com).

## Poly Hitch Guide Makes Hookups Easy

“It’s a cheap, easy way to hitch up to any kind of trailer,” says Rod Olmsted, Dakota Sales, Wyndmere, N. Dak., about his new hitch guide for pickups that can be used on any bumper or gooseneck hitch.

The “Hit The Ball” hitch guide is an upright poly pole that fits over the hitch ball. As you back up you line up the gooseneck until it just touches the hitch guide. Then you remove the hitch guide and lower the gooseneck onto the ball.

A second hitch guide is needed for bumper hitches. It pulls apart into three short pieces for storage.

Sells for \$12 plus S&H or two for \$20 plus S&H.

“The poly material is flexible so it won’t break if you bump into it,” notes Olmsted.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dakota Sales, 7560 153<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S.E., Wyndmere, N. Dak. 58081 (ph 800 260-9944; Dakota@dakotasales.com).



Upright poly pole fits over hitch ball. As you back up you line up the gooseneck until it just touches the hitch guide. Then you remove the hitch guide and lower the gooseneck onto the ball.

## Caster Wheel Kit Keeps Skid Steer Loads Steady

When you’re carrying a heavy load on pallet forks with your skid loader and turn on a hard surface such as pavement or concrete, the machine’s rear wheels can start bouncing, causing the load to drop off or leaving big skid marks. This new skid steer caster wheel kit adds stability that eliminates such bouncing.

The kit fits any skid loader brand. It consists of a pair of 4-in. wide, 10-in. high caster wheels that mount on a steel bracket that bolts onto the side of the skid loader, just behind the rear wheels. Each wheel is attached to a hydraulic cylinder that operates off the skid loader’s remote outlets. By flipping a switch inside the cab, you can lower the wheels to raise the rear skid steer wheels up to 1 1/2 in. off the floor. The wheels lift up out of the way when not needed.

“It totally eliminates bouncing when turning,” says Mark Weber, Sheyenne Tooling & Mfg., Cooperstown, N. Dak. “With the skid loader’s rear wheels off the ground, you can spin around and make a turn as smooth as if you were on a merry go round. The compact design means the skid steer can fit in tight places.

“The caster wheels are recommended for skid loader operators who use a pallet fork to carry heavy loads on hard surfaces such as concrete or pavement. We also offer a similar kit using a pneumatic tire that can be used on a rougher surface such as hard-packed gravel.”

The caster wheel kits sell for \$1,685. The company also offers a self-contained caster wheel kit that includes an electric/hydraulic pump, hydraulic fluid reservoir, and wiring harness. It sells for \$1,985.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sheyenne Tooling & Mfg., 701 Lenham Ave. S.W., P.O. Box 647, Cooperstown, N. Dak.



Kit consists of a pair of 4-in. wide, 10-in. high caster wheels that bolt onto side of skid loader, just behind the rear wheels.



Each wheel is attached to a hydraulic cylinder that operates off skid loader’s remote outlets. By flipping a switch inside the cab, you can lower the wheels to raise the rear skid steer wheels up to 1 1/2 in. off the floor. Wheels lift up out of the way when not needed.

58425 (ph 800 797-1883 or 701 797-2700; markw@sheyennemfg.com; www.sheyennemfg.com).

## Farm Garbage Burner

Burning your garbage in a 55-gal. barrel can be messy and unsafe and also leaves a lot of ash. This new farm garbage burner, designed by a farmer, has an enclosed design for safe burning. And it drafts from the bottom for a fast burn.

The burners are made from old fuel oil tanks and come unpainted. Capacity is 265 gal. The unit has a 20-in. wide, 30-in. high door on front and a grated bottom. Ashes fall through the grate into a compartment at the bottom. The ash compartment has a removable front panel for easy cleanup. Smoke exits through a chimney on top.

“The enclosed design keeps cats and dogs from getting in and dragging things out. It also keeps the wind from blowing material out the top. The only thing that can escape is smoke out the chimney,” says inventor-manufacturer Roger Gutschmidt. “Another advantage of the enclosed design is that the fire burns a lot hotter, so you don’t have to remove ashes as often. Most people will have to remove the ashes only about once a year. The front door has a one-handed latch so it can be opened and closed with one hand.”

Gutschmidt goes to junk yards or salvage yard to buy fuel oil tanks. “Sometimes the tanks will have dents in them but I can usually pound those out. I’ve also built a few units out of round gas or diesel tanks.”

An optional torch holder can be used to insert a butane torch for lighting the fire. “You can use matches but the inside part of the barrel gets sooty so when you lean inside you can get soot on your sleeve,” he notes.

Sells for \$250.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Garbage burner is made from an old fuel oil tank and has an enclosed design for safe burning. It drafts from the bottom for a fast burn.

Gutschmidt Mfg., 6651 Hwy. 56, Gackle, N. Dak. 58442 (ph 701 698-2310; shopdoc@drtel.net).