



Since this photo was taken, Hiram has replaced the pedals with a foot board.

“Made It Myself” Motor Bike

Retired welder Hiram Wilson wanted a motorized bike but he didn't want to spend a lot of money on one. So he just built his own.

Wilson bought a bike, took the back wheel off and put a 3 1/2 hp rope-start motor with a chain drive on top of the hand-crafted platform that holds a new 8-in. tire with sprocket. The motorbike has a throttle, choke, and centrifugal clutch along with front and rear

brakes.

He suspects it could run at speeds up to 40 mph. “I got it up to 25 mph one time but it still wanted to go,” he says, laughing.

Wilson made his motorized bike for about \$165.

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Mark Meitner and Jim Stenseth built a picnic table on top of a Deere riding mower's chassis.

Motorized Picnic Table

When Mark Meitner and friend Jim Stenseth saw a motorized picnic table at the Star Spangled Celebration in Richland Center, Wis., a few years ago, they decided they would have one of their own.

They started with a Deere model 68 riding mower's chassis and then built a table on top of it. Meitner admits the drive unit is small, but they haven't broken anything even when hauling more than 500 lbs. uphill over rough terrain.

The 8 hp Tecumseh engine has a 1-gal. regular gas tank with a pull start at the rear of the table.

Although they left the mower's shift controls, clutch and brakes intact, they extended a linkage from the clutch to a lever hidden off to one side that steers it. “You almost can't tell who's driving it,” Meitner says.

To make the machine run quietly, they routed the exhaust through an old snowmobile muffler and added foot rests and guards around the exhaust.

Because they wanted it to fit into a pickup bed, Meitner and Stenseth designed it to fit



Kids love “riding” on Meitner's picnic table during parades.

between the truck's wheel wells. Top speed is about 6 mph and turning dia. is 24 ft. It has three forward gears and reverse.

The picnic table has four cup-handler holes for drinks and can be fitted with an umbrella at the center.

The men plan on building a bigger one with more features, including lights for late nights at the campgrounds.

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George Lemon put 5 cows in an area full of brush one spring. He says they thrived on it. “It was almost like turning out a bunch of goats - they know how to get along when the getting's not so good,” he says.

Herens Cattle Breed Thrives On Low Quality Forage

“They gain weight on poor quality forage, they're highly resistant to disease, and their meat tastes great,” says George Lemon about the rare Herens cattle breed that he raises on his Lewisburg, W. Va. farm.

Herens cattle are black with a dark brown tinge. They originated in the Herens Valley in Switzerland, which is located in the most rugged part of the country. They have a history dating back to Roman times.

Lemon first saw the Herens breed in the early 1970's when he traveled to Switzerland. He visited two agriculture schools where he learned that the Herens breed won most carcass contests, had very few health problems, were easy feeders, and were easy to handle.

He brought his first animal back to the U.S. in 1980 and has been breeding them ever since. He still has the only herd of full-blooded Herens cattle in North America. “In recent years I've sold a few bulls. But there are still only 75 Herens cattle in the entire U.S., and only about 12,000 in the world,” he says.

According to Lemon, Heren cattle are well muscled and attractive and don't seem to be affected by either extreme cold or heat. “My cattle have had no health problems. They have been wintered with several other breeds of cattle and have always entered the spring in better body condition and with more weight than other breeds.”

He says the meat has very little fat and is extremely tasty. The bone structure is small and strong, contributing to rich carcass weights. “These cattle have the highest dressing percentage of any cattle I could find in Europe. They dress out one or two percentage points higher than any other breed I could find over there,” he says.

Herens cattle can winter on low quality



There are just 75 Herens cattle in the U.S. and only about 12,000 in the world.

forage when most other cattle need grain and silage, says Lemon. “You can turn these cattle out anywhere. I had an 80-acre tract with nothing but brush on it. There was no good grass. I turned five cows out there one spring to see what would happen, and they thrived. It was almost like turning out a bunch of goats - they know how to get along where the getting's not so good.

“I used to also have a bunch of Herefords and Black Angus and shorthorn crossbreds. If I fed them all hay, the Herefords and Angus and shorthorns would look like they were starving to death. But the Herens cattle looked like they were feeding on grain.”

Another positive is that the breed is disease resistant. “I've never vaccinated my cattle for IBR or PR3 or other viruses because these cattle just don't seem to get sick.

“I'm 66 years old and have been fooling with these cattle for 26 years. I'm at the age where I ought to sell them and let someone else promote them,” he adds.

Bulls sell for \$2,500 to \$5,000. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, George Lemon, Great Valley Land & Cattle Co., P.O. Box 1250, Lewisburg, W. Va. 24901 (ph 304 645-3773).