

Horse-Powered Vehicle Turns Heads

By Janis Schole, Contributing Editor

Iranian engineer Abdolhadi Mirhejazi has literally put the cart before the horse with his motor-less, all-weather, "1 hp" invention, the "Naturmobil."

Mirhejazi runs a company specializing in agricultural machinery and was inspired to design the unique horse-powered vehicle because of his concern for the environment. But he says it could be a great business promotional tool.

The eye-catching machine always draws a large audience, making it an ideal advertising tool.

The 2-passenger, 6-wheeled unit has a transparent body made from polycarbonate, and separate "cabins" for the horse and driver. A fiberglass treadmill is located behind the driver. When empty, the unit weighs 660 lbs.

"You lead the horse onto the conveyor belt through a door at the back. When the driver is in his seat, a pneumatic system lifts the front of the treadmill slightly. It starts to move, and the horse instinctively begins walking," he says. "The power of his walking activates a 36-gear gearbox. Thanks to

lightweight construction and complex leverage, Naturmobil cruises at about 12 mph, with a top speed of about 50 mph."

To ensure the horse's comfort, Mirhejazi included food and water holders and an advanced suspension system, with shock absorbers under the conveyor belt to reduce impact on the horse's leg joints. A ventilation system keeps the horse cool.

Mirhejazi says the system produces enough excess energy to charge a small battery. This electrical system powers the vehicle's lights as well as a digital display where the driver can monitor the horse's condition.

Sensors record the animal's body temperature and heart rate, and if it gets too warm or tired, an electronic switch automatically shuts off the treadmill and transfers the unit's power over to a small DC motor that will run the vehicle long enough to stop at a convenient place for the horse to rest.

In addition, the system can power two LCD screens for displaying advertising on the sides of the unit.

The animal's waste is collected automati-



Horse walks on a conveyor belt, which activates a 36-gear transmission to move vehicle forward. A transparent plastic body lets spectators watch it work.

cally into a receptacle, so roads don't get dirtied.

"It took me 26 months to build the vehicle in my workshop in Tehran and I have patented it," Mirhejazi says. "I demonstrated the Naturmobil at the Invention Exhibition in Geneva, Switzerland where I won a gold and

silver medal."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fleethorse Naturmobil, Box 214849, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (ph 011 971 4 3448340 or 011 971 50 358 5343; info@fleethorse.net; www.fleethorse.com).



Measuring 6 1/2 ft. tall at the shoulder, Chilli is thought to be one of the tallest steers in the world.

Giant Friesian Steer Stands 6 1/2 Ft. Tall

No one had any idea how big Chilli, a Friesian calf, would grow when he was left at an animal sanctuary in the United Kingdom in 1999. Now, at nine years old and 2,500 lbs., the 6 1/2-ft. tall Chilli is thought to be one of the tallest bovines in the world.

"There's no real explanation for it. He doesn't eat any more than his companions," says Jo Fox, who handles publicity for the Ferne Animal Sanctuary in Somerset, United Kingdom. She adds that he's very gentle and lives on pasture with a herd of cattle.

Chilli has put the sanctuary in the spotlight with his television appearances and through the internet.

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Sandbag system lets a crew of 10 fill three times more bags than they could with shovels.

New Way To Fill Sandbags

Retired farmer Gene Biberstein built this sandbagger for his local emergency management office. It worked so well people have convinced him to start building them for sale.

"I've got jigs built to produce these on order. With all the flooding this year, people have discovered that filling sandbags with just a shovel is a hard way to go," says Biberstein. "This system costs a lot less than mechanical bag fillers. A team of 10 people should be able to fill three times as many bags with less lifting than they could do with shovels."

The bagger consists of a 3-hopper stand on a 4 by 4-ft. raised platform. There's a bucket bench on the opposite side from the hoppers. Here's how it works:

Workers fill pre-sized galvanized buckets from a sand pile and set the buckets on the bench. An individual standing on the platform dumps buckets into each hopper, while three individuals hold bags underneath. Each individual removes his bag, sets it on a tie bench, where another person ties it and places it on a pallet.

The bagger can be easily carried in a pickup for quick transport and setup. Comes with everything needed, including 10 3-gal. galvanized buckets. Sells wholesale for \$600 plus S&H.

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