

Editor's Notebook



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Heavy Crop Buckles Bins, Augers

Contributing editor Janis Schole reports a conversation she recently had with Roger Gutschmidt, who farms near Fredonia, N.Dak. Apparently there have been numerous problems in his area this year with heavier-than-normal wheat. Hard Red Spring Wheat has been reported at weights of 64 to 67 lbs. per bushel, compared to historical averages of anywhere from 55 to 60 lbs. per bushel. The heavier crop, due both to better varieties and this year's crop conditions, is damaging augers, trucks and bins. Gutschmidt says the unloading auger on his Deere combine got a "kink" in it from the heavy wheat. He's in the process of repairing it with a reinforcing auger sleeve he made to fit over it, and he's also installing an extra transport cradle (look for a story on that in the next issue). Roger also sent us a picture of an 80,000 bu. bin in Fredonia that recently buckled due to the heavy wheat. He says the sidewalls of the bin were just not strong enough for the current crop. He has also heard of truck hoists not being able to lift loads of wheat, with frames twisting, axles snapping, and tires blowing out. According to Gutschmidt, one of the top-producing wheat varieties that especially tipped the scales this year is called "Glenn". "An elevator manager told me that it's the best and nicest looking wheat they've ever had come in," he says.



This bin in Fredonia, N. Dak., buckled due to the weight of this year's wheat crop.

Free Do-It-Yourself Info

Even if you're the handiest guy or gal in town, no one can know everything. Here's a roundup from Consumer Reports of a few of the many do-it-yourself websites on line for everything from plumbing and construction to computer troubleshooting and appliance repair:

- www.doityourself.com - Articles and videos on personal finance, legal issues, home and garden, car and truck repair, pets, and electronics.
- www.diynetwork.com - How-to articles on home repair, gardening, landscaping, and wood working.
- www.monkeysee.com - Expert and user videos covering a wide variety of topics.
- www.expertvillage.com - Short videos on how to do just about everything.
- www.thisoldhouse.com - Articles on home-improvement projects, planning, tools and products, along with newsletters, videos and discussion boards.
- www.autozone.com - Auto-repair guides for specific vehicles, troubleshooting, and parts-locating guides.

Great Yogi Berra Quotes

- "You can observe a lot just by watching."
- "You got to be very careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there."
- "I knew I was going to take the wrong train, so I left early."
- "If you don't know where you are going, you will wind up somewhere else."

- "Baseball is 90 percent mental — the other half is physical."
- "If you come to a fork in the road, take it."
- "I made a wrong mistake."
- "If the fans don't come out to the ball park, you can't stop 'em."
- "You should always go to other people's funerals; otherwise, they won't come to yours."
- "I didn't really say everything I said."

Carolyn Barrett says her birds are the result of crosses between chickens and pheasants. She thinks the young birds, like this one, look a bit like starlings.



More On The Phicken/Cheasant

Our story in the last issue on the "Mystery Of The Funny Looking Chicken" sparked a bit of a ruckus. The story involved a reader who claimed to have photographed a bird that was a cross between a pheasant and a chicken — a highly unlikely event, especially given that the birds have different incubation periods. Here's a sampling of reader responses we received, mostly by email:

Jamison: "The bird in the photo you published, as any chicken fancier worth their salt could tell you, is a Golden Sebright. I am very skeptical about the possibility of a chicken/pheasant hybrid." (Editor's note: At least 15 readers agreed with Jamison that the bird shown was a Golden Sebright.)

Sandy Beaty, Kansas: "I have been breeding and raising domesticated birds for 10 years. I think the bird you showed was a Golden Laced Wyandotte. However, I think chicken-pheasant hybrids are possible but they would almost always be sterile."

Dan Sabo: "Your bird is a cross between a Rhode Island Red rooster and a Golden Polish hen."

Greg Schiebout: "It's a Hamburg chicken. It flies like a pheasant, so maybe that's where the confusion started."

Carolyn Barrett (casthlo@gmail.com): "I saw your article about the 'cheasant' and wanted to let you know that I have some birds that are the result of a cross between a chicken and a pheasant. My birds are various colors. Some are black and look like starlings when they are little. I bought the hatching eggs from an Arkansas breeder."

Leg Support Keeps Farmer Moving

When Dennis Wise, Girard, Ill., fell off a scaffold and shattered his left leg, the doctor told him to stay off it for 6 months. Not being the kind of guy who could do nothing for that long, Wise approached local fix-it man Gene Boehler



Gene Boehler demonstrates the leg rest he made for Dennis Wise.

to see if he could set something up on his Gravely mower so he could at least take care of the family's large lawn. Boehler made a leg rest out of a piece of tubing from a grain auger, split in half. He fitted it with an adjustable mounting bracket that makes it easy to move the leg support up or down. Wise reports that he's been using the zero-turn mower all summer at speeds up to 14 mph with no problem.

Report From The Farm Progress Show

The Farm Progress Show, held this year near Boone, Iowa, is the biggest and best show of the summer-fall season.

Contributing editor Jim Ruen just got back at press time with information about a couple new machines at the New Holland exhibit that drew big crowds.



New Holland's new combine has a 523 hp engine.

The first was the company's gigantic new 523 hp. CR9080 Twin Rotor combine, which the company says is now the largest combine in North America. In addition to more horsepower, it also features the largest threshing capacity, cleaning area, and cab (110 cu. ft.).

Another exhibit celebrated the company's 35th anniversary of skid steer production. They've released a limited edition skid steer that looks like the company's first model built in 1972. It has roughly the same capacity but with updated hydraulics and electronics. What struck Jim was a small data sheet comparing the original machine to this modern-day replica. Although the machines have roughly the same lift capacity, the price has increased more than 6 times in the 35 years, from \$5,100 to \$32,100.

Liberty Quotes

- "Liberty, the greatest of all earthly blessings - give us that precious jewel, and you may take everything else! Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel." *Patrick Henry*
- "The highest patriotism is not a blind acceptance of official policy, but a love of one's country deep enough to call her to a higher standard." *George McGovern*
- "The problem isn't a shortage of fuel; it's a surplus of government." *Ronald Reagan*
- "A man should never be ashamed to own that he has been in the wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday." *Alexander Pope*
- "In all affairs it's a healthy thing now and then to hang a question mark on the things you have long taken for granted." *Bertrand Russell*
- "People who make a career out of helping others — sometimes at a great sacrifice, often not — usually don't like to hear that those others might get along fine, might even get along better, without their help." *John Holt*
- "A people armed and free forms a barrier against the enterprises of ambition and is a bulwark for the nation against foreign invasion and domestic oppression." *James Madison*
- "When World War II ended, the United States was the only undamaged industrial power in the world. Our military might was at its peak, and we alone had the ultimate weapon, the nuclear weapon, with the unquestioned ability to deliver it anywhere in the world. If we had sought world domination then, who could have opposed us? But the United States followed a different course, one unique in all the history of mankind. We used our power and wealth to rebuild the war-ravished economies of the world, including those of the nations who had been our enemies." *Ronald Reagan*

Ole hadn't been feeling well and hated to go to a doctor. Lena finally talked him into getting physical. After he had been checked over, the doctor called Lena aside and said, "I'm afraid Ole has a very serious illness. In fact, it might be fatal. There are two things that might save his life. First, you will have to fix him three home cooked meals a day for the rest of his life. And second, you must not upset him or argue with him at all."

Lena pondered a bit and announced, "I'll break da news to Ole."

So, she stepped across the doctor's waiting room where Ole was sitting, waiting for the diagnosis.

"Ole," said Lena, "Guess what? You're going to die."

A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

Little Susie jumped up and yelled, "Because people are sleeping!"

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shined his flashlight around looking for valuables. When he picked up a CD player to place in his sack, a strange disembodied voice echoed from the dark saying, "Jesus is watching you". He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off and froze. When he heard nothing more after a bit, he shook his head and continued. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, "Jesus is watching you".

Freaked out, he shined his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot.

"Did you say that?" he hissed at the parrot.

"Yep," the parrot confessed, and then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you."

The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?"

"Moses," replied the bird. "Moses?" the burglar laughed. "What kind of people would name a bird Moses?"

The bird said, "The kind of people that would name their Rottweiler 'Jesus'."