

Reader Recipes

Scalloped Dandelions

2 tbsp bacon drippings
2 tbsp flour
3/4 cup water
2 cups water
2 cups milk
1 tbsp vinegar
Salt to taste
2 tsp sugar
1 cup dandelions, chopped
1/4 cup minced onion
2 hard-boiled eggs, sliced

Heat bacon drippings in skillet. Blend in flour. Cook, stirring until flour is lightly browned. Add water, milk, vinegar, salt and sugar. Continue cooking, stirring until smooth and thick. Remove from heat. Fold in dandelions, onion and eggs. Serve at once.

Root Beer Float Pie

1 8-oz. carton frozen whipped topping
3/4 cup cold root beer
1/2 cup milk
1 oz. package instant vanilla pudding mix
1 9-in. graham cracker pie crust

In large bowl, whisk root beer, milk and pudding mix for 2 min. Fold in half of whipped topping. Spread into graham cracker crust. Spread remaining whipped topping over pie. Refrigerate for at least 8 hrs.

Laundry Detergent

1/2 cup washing soda
1/2 cup borax
1 bar high-quality soap
15 to 20 drops essential oil of your choice

Chop soap bar into small pieces and place in food processor, along with washing soda, borax and essential oil. Process mixture into fine powder. Store in airtight container and use 2 to 4 tbsp per load in hot or cold water. You can add 1/4 to 1/2 cup white vinegar to rinse cycle to increase softness and remove odors.

Beer Dip

2 8-oz. packages cream cheese, softened
1/3 cup beer or nonalcoholic beer
1 envelope Ranch salad dressing mix
2 cups (8 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese.

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese, beer and dressing mix until smooth. Stir in cheddar cheese. Serve with pretzels.



Hooked handle turns gearbox at one end to bring gutter up to catch rain and let it down to drop leaves.

Flexible "Let-Down" Gutter

Handyman Carl Perkins of Eden Prairie, Minn., doesn't like climbing ladders to clean out gutters. That led him to invent this patented flexible "let-down" gutter. He displayed a small scale model at the recent Minnesota Inventors Congress in Redwood Falls, Minn.

"I can bring the gutter up to catch rain and let it down to drop leaves using an electric drill from the ground," says Perkins.

The gutter consists of a 10-in. wide length of plastic that clamps onto a house's fascia board. A shaft that runs behind the trim board is connected to a right angle gearbox fastened to one end of the fascia board. Short lengths of cable coil up onto the shaft every 3 ft. and are attached to the gutter's outside edge.

To raise or lower the gutter, Perkins attaches a long metal rod with a hook at one end to an electric drill. Then he inserts the hook into a metal loop attached to the gearbox. Operating the drill in forward brings the gutter up and reversing it brings the gutter down.

"I have a handyman business in which I clean a lot of gutters. I came up with the idea because I don't like heights, and I got tired of having to climb up and down ladders all day long using a hose to remove leaves from the gutter," says Perkins. "When the gutter is brought down everything in it falls out so I never have to climb up and clean the gutter by hand. If anything is sticking to the gutter when it's hanging straight, I can use a hose to spray it down. The gutter could also be made out of metal, which might last longer."

He says people with metal roofs like the idea because formed gutters can easily be torn off by ice and snow sliding off the roof. "My let-down gutter is out of the way until you need it," he says.

Perkins says he plans to make a full-size gutter out of plastic and metal to test the system out. He's looking for a manufacturer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carl Perkins, 6600 West 175th Ave., Eden Prairie, Minn. 55346 (ph 952 456-2775; imhdick@gmail.com).



Vertical wooden "prop board" fits into groove cut into underside of table top.

Picnic Table Rolls On Wheels

By C. F. Marley, Contributing Editor

"My picnic table is made from 2 by 10 wooden boards so it's quite heavy. It used to take 2 people to move it around," says Dean Wallace, Oconee, Ill., who solved the problem by putting retractable caster wheels on it.

"The wheels allow me to move the table easily by myself," he says.

The 3-in. caster wheels are mounted on 2 by 6 boards that are attached to the table legs with hinges. A vertical wooden "prop board" is attached to the center of each board with hinges. The top of the prop board fits into a groove cut into the underside of the table top whenever the wheels are dropped down on the ground.

"The pressure of the prop board coming down holds the wheels in place. Once the table is where he wants it, I lift up one end of the table and use my knee to kick the prop board down out of the groove. The table then rests on its legs," says Wallace.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dean Wallace, P.O. Box 171, Oconee, Ill. 62553.



Once table is in place, prop board is kicked down out of groove. Table then rests on its legs.

FARM SHOW

New Products For The Farm, Ranch Home

Air-Powered Sausage Press

After making thousands of pounds of sausage with his hydraulic sausage press (featured in FARM SHOW in 1995), Tim Brodt upgraded to an air-powered system last year. The Zehner, Sask., sausage maker says, "It's actually surprising that at 60 to 70 psi it will push just about anything through it."

He likes not having to worry about maintaining a hydraulic pump, and unlike the old stationary press, the new one is portable. With the air compressor outside it's also quiet.

Brodt used plastic cutting board material to create the plunger and the housing for the air-powered pneumatic cylinder. He followed the basic design of the sausage press at the organic market where he works as meat manager.

At the rate of about 100 lbs. of meat in 45 min., he made about 500 lbs. of sausage last fall. "You don't need another person around to hand-crank the press. You can make sausage by yourself," he says.

Total cost to build the press was about \$250, and Brodt says it's comparable to commercial presses that cost \$3,000 and up.

"I am quite happy with it," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tim Brodt, General Delivery, Zehner, Sask., Canada S0G 5K0 (ph 306 781-4635; tbrodt@sasktel.net).



Air-powered sausage press is portable and quiet.



"Pretty In Pink" Work Gear

"People are just crazy for pink these days, so why not offer it?" asks Cheryl Mohn in reference to Udder Tech's new line of pink waterproof gear. She notes that customers have been asking that pink be added to the royal blue and black options of waterproof work wear for dairy farmers, veterinarians and people in other ag industries.

Made of machine-washable, lightweight, waterproof nylon, the pink line offers the same features as the other lines. The bibbed overalls (starting at \$50), have inner zippered pockets for cell phones and chest pockets for medicines and syringes. Jackets (\$45 and up) with detachable hoods (\$10) for adults, aprons (\$16), children's bibbed overalls (\$24 and up) and hooded jackets (\$21 and up), and calf blankets (\$35 and up) also come in pink.

Mohn notes that the fabric is a bit too warm in hot summer months. But for places like Minnesota, Udder Tech's product line works well nine months out of the year to keep people clean and dry while doing chores and handling livestock.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Udder Tech, Inc., 27605 Pillsbury Ave., Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 888 438-8683 or 952 461-2890; www.uddertechinc.com).



Udder Tech's new pink line of work wear is made of waterproof nylon.