



Paul Tierney built this 5-ft. wide by 6 1/2-ft. tall “hideaway” tool storage cabinet that attaches to the wall on back of his garage.

## “Hideaway” Tool Storage Cabinet

“I was tired of having my wife’s rakes and gardening tools laying around, getting in the way. So one weekend while she was gone, I made a tool cabinet that’s easy on the eyes and mounts conveniently on back of the garage,” says Paul Tierney, Bloomington, Minn.

He built a 12-in. deep wood frame that attaches to the wall. It measures 5 ft. wide by 6 1/2 ft. tall. Tools hang from headless nails on crosspieces at the top of the frame, and across the middle. Tierney simply drills a hole in the handle of each tool to hang them.

He made a sliding door that rolls back and forth on a steel track he made from a piece

of angle iron with rollers made from window weight pulleys. The door is made from a wooden frame covered by lightweight canvas that’s painted white and reinforced with 1 by 2 crossbars.

“I wanted it to be light so it slides open and shut easily. When the door is closed the tools are out of sight and not standing around where I could stumble over them,” notes Tierney.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul Tierney, 10020 Pleasant Ave S., Bloomington, Minn. 55420 (ph 952 888-8526; tagratus@yahoo.com)



Light weight canvas sliding door rolls back and forth over tool storage area.



Cabinet’s wood frame measures 12 in. deep (left). Tools simply hang from headless nails inside.

## Milkbot Helps Farmers Sell Milk

Instead of selling milk to big corporations at low prices, Milkbot milk dispensers give dairy farmers the opportunity to sell directly to consumers.

“Milkbot is a reliable, robust machine that’s easy to maintain and service,” says Petr Cihak, CEO of the Czech Republic company that manufactures the machine.

The family-owned business has sold to dairies in European countries, New Zealand and Peru, and is open to hearing from distributors in North America, Cihak says. Milkbot owners fill the machine with unpasteurized or pasteurized milk (or both in some models). Units contain a germicidal lamp and cold-water flush cleaning system. The wheeled 228-quart milk tank is chilled to 39 degrees F and customers use their own containers or purchase a container from a nearby machine.

Milkbot models come in indoor and outdoor models with cash or credit card payment options.

“Milkbot is primarily designed for farmers with about 50 to 100 milking cows, but we have customers, such as bigger dairy farms in Russia who operate 10 to 15 Milkbots and rule the milk distributions in smaller towns,” Cihak says.

He suggests checking out the company’s website or Facebook page (Milkbotcowbot) for videos and updates.

“We are a small family company, so we can’t be active in searching for distributors. All our distributors came from the Internet or from a good reference. Of course, we would appreciate if someone contacts us to start importing to the U.S. or Canada,” Cihak says. He estimates that retail prices for the Milkbot would start around \$6,500 for the basic model.

Cihak adds that his company is also looking for North America distributors and franchise operators for the Robomilkbar (www.robomilkbar.com). The three-unit setup processes milk into fermented products (yogurt, drinkable yogurt and frozen yogurt), robotically fills containers, and has a vending machine.



On-farm Milkbot dispensers let dairy farmers sell directly to consumers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup Milk Automation, Hradska 496, Velka Polom, Czech Republic, 747 64 (ph 1: 00420792461546; www.milkbot.cz; info@milkbot.cz).

## Giant Cucumber Sets New World Record

After growing a 43-in. cucumber, Butch Taulton enjoyed his “15 minutes of fame” this past summer with an unofficial world record.

The Knoxville, Md., gardener purchased seed called “Exotic Cucumber” from Home Depot and planted it near his garage downhill from where he keeps his goats. He watered the cukes regularly, but never added any special fertilizer. He picked the giant cucumber in August.

“It’s exciting to have something I grow that big. The biggest record I found was a 42 1/2-in. cucumber in California so my 43-incher had it beat,” Taulton says.

He checked into sending it in to Guinness World Records, but decided against it when he learned of the long and expensive process involved.

At 73, Taulton says it was just fun to get local media attention, and he plans to grow big cucumbers again next year.

Besides their size, the variety has a real good flavor, he says. His wife enjoys them raw, but he likes them sliced and pickled the



Butch Taulton enjoyed his “15 minutes of fame” last summer with this 43-in. long cucumber – an unofficial world record.

old-fashioned way.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Butch Taulton, 19545 Garrett Mill Rd., Knoxville, Md. 21758 (ph 301 834-9735).

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