

Editor's Notebook



Mark Newhall
Editor & Publisher

Up & Coming Inventor

"My 12-year-old son, Eli, loves to make and invent things and spends a lot of time in the shop. He loves your magazine so I thought you might be interested in talking to him."

That was an email I received the other day from Ela Ladwig in Waynesburg, Ky., about her son. She suggested I check out Eli's YouTube channel, which features a bunch of his ideas, and so I spent an enjoyable hour watching this enthusiastic young inventor show off his ideas (go to YouTube.com and search up "Milo n Eli").



Eli Ladwig, a 12-year-old inventor with an entertaining YouTube channel, powers his bike with an old chainsaw.

In the videos, which always start out "Good morning everybody. Hope you're having a good day!", Eli shows a bunch of projects, including making a cannon out of lawn mower parts, using epoxy to make jewelry, repairing tractors and trucks, milling a bowl out of Osage orange, and much more. What makes the videos so fun to watch is Eli's enthusiasm. He films and edits all the videos himself. One that caught my eye was powering a bicycle with a chainsaw. To do this one, Eli mounted a saw - minus the bar and chain - on a flat metal plate above the rear wheel and then friction-drives it with a roller mounted on the side of the chain pulley. He adjusts tightness of the drive with a turnbuckle and says the motor-powered bike travels at speeds up to 34 mph on flat ground.



This giant weighed in at 2,261 lbs. Back in 1984, the world's biggest pumpkin weighed just 493 lbs.

Pumpkins Getting REALLY Big

The first time I wrote about the "World's Biggest Pumpkin" for FARM SHOW was back in 1984, when a fellow named Howard Dill grew a 493-lb. pumpkin in Canada. Three years later, Norman Gallagher in Chelan, Wash., won a \$10,000 prize for his 612-lb. pumpkin. Our last "biggest pumpkin" story was in 1991, when we wrote about a 12-ft. dia., 755-lb. monster grown by Gordon Thomson in Quebec. After that, there seemed to be a new world record pumpkin every year, which made the story kind of boring so I stopped paying attention.

Recently, though, I heard about a new record-breaking pumpkin, grown in Rhode Island, that weighed in at a whopping 2,261 lbs. - nearly 1,800 lbs. heavier than that first record pumpkin we wrote about in 1984. I asked contributing editor Dee Goerge to check it out. Here's what she found.

Richard Wallace, Green, R.I., who grew the new monster, gives credit to his son, Ron Wallace, who is a 3-time world pumpkin growing champion and who was the first to break

the 1-ton barrier with a 2,009-lb. pumpkin in 2012. Ron runs a business called Wallace Wow selling organic fertilizers and Atlantic Giant pumpkin seeds to gardeners and giant pumpkin competitors (www.wallacewow.com; ph 401 392-1015).

To grow his giant pumpkin, Richard uses leaf compost, dehydrated chicken manure, and Mycorrhizal inoculants. Moisture meters in the soil helped add the right amount of water for maximum growth without causing disease. Plants are grown in protective enclosures for the first 3 weeks and then the vines are positioned, secured, and pruned with just one pumpkin per plant allowed to grow. Vines for a single big pumpkin require up to 1,000 sq. ft.



This photo of a tri-colored Belted Galloway has gotten a lot of attention from cattlemen around the world.

Tri-Colored Cow Not What It Seems

An amazing tri-colored Belted Galloway cow has been showing up in emails and online in various places, nicknamed the "Neapolitan" cow after the popular ice cream flavor. Writer Janis Schole tells us it caught her eye, too, so she decided to chase it down.

The multiple color scheme seemed possible because Belted Galloways come in both red and black, with the characteristic white stripe around the middle. But after a little detective work, Janis found out the photo was a fake.

Tom McCracken of Elizabeth, Colo., has the photo on his website (www.rtcamelotranch.com) but he says he got it from another breeder's website, who gave him the photo when he went out of business. McCracken just thought it was funny. However, he and his wife do raise Belted Galloways and they have red and black animals as well as dun-colored cows. They told Janis they often interbreed the colors so they hope that someday they might actually be able to produce a real Neapolitan offspring.



Because Belted Galloways come in both red and black colors, McCracken hopes to actually breed a tri-colored cow some day.

Liberty Quotes

"Never trust governments absolutely and always do what you can to prevent them from doing too much harm."

John Arthur Passmore

"The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those who speak it." *George Orwell*

"No mighty king, no ambitious emperor, no pope or prophet ever dreamt of such an awesome pulpit, so potent a magic wand as television." *Fred W. Friendly*

"They have gun control in Cuba. They have universal health care in Cuba. So why do they want to come here?" *Paul Harvey*

"Journalism is popular, but it is popular mainly as fiction. Life is one world, and life seen in the newspapers is another." *Gilbert Keith Chesterton*

"Government will not fail to employ education to strengthen its hands and perpetuate its institutions." *William Godwin*

"Schools have not necessarily much to do with education . . . they are mainly institutions of control, where basic habits must be inculcated in the young. Education is quite different and has little place in school." *Winston Churchill*

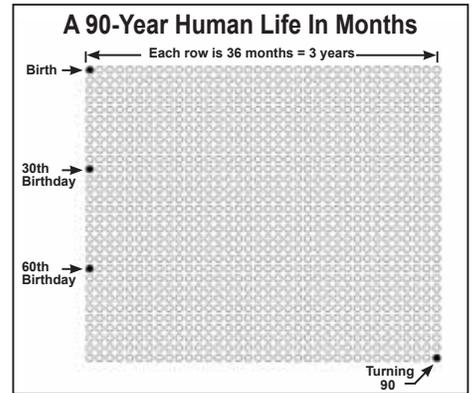
"A good teacher must know the rules; a good pupil, the exceptions." *Martin H. Fischer*

"The dominant purpose of the First Amendment was to prohibit the widespread practice of government suppression of embarrassing information." *Justice William O. Douglas*

"Concentrated power is not rendered harmless by the good intentions of those who create it." *Milton Friedman*

"If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear." *George Orwell*

"Governing a large country is like frying a small fish. You spoil it with too much poking." *Lao-Tzo*



Deere's prototype electric tractor will reportedly be on display for the first time at the upcoming SIMA farm equipment show in France.

All-Electric Deere Debuts

Deere has just introduced an all-electric tractor in France that has a single large lithium ion battery pack and 2 direct-drive 150 kW DC motors that power the transmission and pto. Total horsepower is right at 400. The tractor will run for about 4 hrs. of normal use and recharge in about 3 hrs. The lifespan of the battery is approximately 3,100 cycles.

The prototype will be on exhibit at the SIMA farm equipment show that runs from Feb. 26 to March 2, 2017 in Paris, France. Deere hasn't released any information about the availability of the machine but it has announced a new development group focused on the electrification of its machinery. You can watch a video of the electric tractor in operation - making almost no sound - at farmshow.com.

Words of Wisdom

To be continually happy, you've got to know when to be blind, when to be deaf, and when to be dumb.

It's better to walk alone than with a crowd going in the wrong direction.

Be who you needed when you were younger.

Middle age is when it takes longer to rest than it does to get tired.

Always remember that you are unique, just like everyone else.

One thing I've learned in life is that motel mattresses are better on the side away from the phone.

When you forgive, you heal. When you let go, you grow.

If you want to do something positive for your children, work to improve your marriage.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

"Progress might have been all right once, but it has gone on far too long." *Ogden Nash*

Ole and Lena were at home one evening discussing the need to make a living will. Ole told Lena that no matter what he never wanted to live in a vegetative state, dependent on a machine and with all his fluids coming out of bottles. "If dat ever happens Lena, yust pull da plug on me!" he told her emphatically.

Lena immediately jumped out of her chair, unplugged the TV, and threw out all the beer!

Ole was driving down the street when he crashed into a yard and nearly ended up driving into the house. As he got out of the car, the man who owned the place came running over and said, "Are you okay? You look pretty old to still be driving."

"Vell, yes I am," said Ole. "I'll be 98 next month and I'm old enuff now dat I don't even need a driver's license no more."

Surprised, the man said, "Really? How do you know?"

Ole said, "Da last time I went to da doctor, he asked me if I still had a license. I tolt him ya, and handed it to him. He cut it up into little pieces and trew it away and said, 'You won't need this anymore.'"

One day Sven and Ole were out fishing and Sven asked, "Ole, if you could talk ta anyone, living or dead, who would it be?"

Ole pondered the question for quite a while, and then said, "Vell, I guess I'd talk to someone living."