

Editor's Notebook

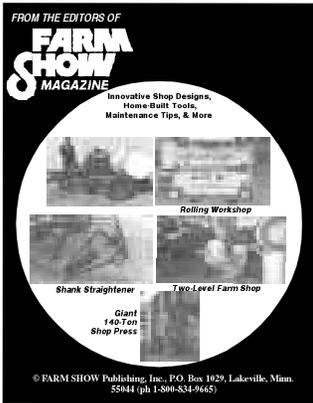


Mark Newhall
Editor &
Publisher

Great Gift Idea For Christmas!

We've discovered there's an unselfish trait among FARM SHOW readers. They like to share good things with others.

That's why we're inviting you and other subscribers to give FARM SHOW for Christmas. Many readers who gave FARM SHOW for Christmas last year wrote to tell us they've never given a gift which generated so much response from appreciative recipients.



You get a FREE copy of our new Farm Shop special with each new subscription, renewal, or gift.

Use the handy order form inserted elsewhere in this issue (or see page 39) to order your Christmas gift subscriptions, or call us toll-free at 1-800-834-9665. Here's a recap of our special Christmas gift offer (expires Jan. 15, 1997).

When you give more than one gift subscription, the price drops.

In addition to a full year of FARM SHOW, each gift recipient will receive a FREE copy of our new "Best Farm Shops & Shop Ideas" book - a 72-page collection of more than 350 best farm shop ideas gleaned from past issues of FARM SHOW.

United States: Your first gift sub is \$15.95. Each additional gift is only \$9.95. It figures out to \$25.90 for two gift subs, \$35.85 for three, \$45.80 for four, etc.

Canada: Your first gift is \$19.95. Each additional gift is only \$11.95. It figures out to \$31.90 for two gift subs, \$43.85 for three, \$55.80 for four, etc.

If you like, you can gift the "First Gift" to yourself as a one-year extension of your own FARM SHOW subscription, entitling you to give reduced rate gift subscriptions to friends, relatives or neighbors.

With each gift sub we'll send a card, notifying each recipient of your thoughtfulness. The card and issue will be processed to arrive shortly before Christmas - if you order now!

Iowa 4-H Accused Of Being "Socialist"

Iowa's 4-H clubs are in peril of becoming hotbeds of socialism, according to the state's Republican party. One of the planks in the official party platform adopted in June stated: "We oppose the encroachment of socialism in 4-H competition at fairs."

The GOP's 4-H plank was the work of religious conservatives who claimed that a change in the way the state 4-H hands out ribbons at county fairs was "creeping socialism". The problem they cited was a new policy of giving out "participation" ribbons at fairs instead of blue, red and white placing ribbons. (*Agri News*)

A "Bright" New Use For Corn

Midwestern corn and wheat growers recently unveiled "Harvest Bright," a new line of household cleansers made from corn-based ethanol and packaged in eye-catching containers that look like ears of corn. The line includes a glass cleaner, tub and tile cleaner, wood oil soap, all-purpose cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner and pine-scented cleaner/disinfectant. There's also a hand cleaner/lotion available.



The products were test-marketed last winter in at least eight Midwestern states among 250 families and commercial cleaning services. Consumer response was tremendous, according to Yvonne Simon of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association.

Look for "Harvest Bright" cleansers at rural Midwestern grocery, hardware, convenience and farm supply stores early in 1997. They'll be priced competitively with conventional household cleansers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Producers Renewable Products, 855 Village Center Drive, North Oaks, Minn. 55127 (ph 612 481-1289).

Fueling Up With Water

You could be filling up your tractors, combines, pickups and cars with water in as little as a year if development of a new water-based fuel continues on track.

"A-21" is a milky white blend of naphtha and 30% tap water. Water and oil are kept blended by a special catalyst that is the key to success of the new fuel, which will burn in diesel and gas-powered engines. Already approved by the EPA, it's being tested by truck and bus fleets all over the country. Caterpillar Inc. is testing it in some of its machinery.

The new fuel burns 60% cleaner than regular diesel or gasoline and it has additives to increase lubrication and to prevent corrosion and freezing.

"It's at the brink of commercialization and should be on the market nationwide in another year or two," says Dick Cooper, a spokesman for A-21's inventor, Rudolf Gunnerman, Reno, Nev.

Caterpillar's tests conclude later this year, after which it'll be available for fleets nationwide, Cooper says.

Cooper expects price to be one of A-21's benefits for big fleet operators. The price benefit for individuals will likely be somewhat less. Once production facilities and a delivery system are established, price should be about \$1 per gal., compared with No. 2 diesel that's currently 20 to 30 cents higher in some parts of the country.

Some of the savings will be offset by higher consumption, however. Fuel consumption with A-21 is about 15% more per mile than with standard diesel. Consumption in gas engines is about equivalent, he says.

Most diesel engines will require a simple two-hour retrofit to handle A-21. Gasoline engines will require a timing change and special spark plugs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, A-21LP, 210 Gentry Way, Reno, Nev. 89502 (ph 702 826-8300).

"Nightmare" Parasite Scares Fruit Growers

A "new" intestinal parasite is causing nightmares for fruit and vegetable producers all over the country. So far, an estimated 1,000 cases have been confirmed in the U.S. but the number is climbing fast as doctors become familiar with the disorder and medical laboratories develop tests to detect it. Hand-picked fruits and vegetables are suspected to carry the parasite, called "cyclospora".

Cyclospora is transmitted through human fecal matter. It can be prevented by making sure infected produce pickers

do not transmit it to the produce they're picking, and by washing purchased fruit and vegetables before eating. The parasite causes watery diarrhea, abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, muscle aches, fatigue and loss of appetite. The U.S. Center for Disease Control has been working hard to track down the origins of the parasite, which probably came from outside the country.

FARM SHOW reader Fred Starnes lives in Virginia, where several cases of cyclospora infection have already been confirmed. "It all boils down to sanitation. That is, the washing of hands after going to the bathroom. I think FARM SHOW's innovative readers could come up with a 'traveling john' for laborers who pick fruit and vegetables that would solve the problem and assure consumers that the problem is being controlled. Maybe old school buses could be fitted with sinks and running hot water so growers could guarantee the safety of the produce they sell. If this problem is not contained right away, it could be devastating for America's fruit and vegetable producers."

91-Year-Old Farmer Buys New Combine

Orval Trimble started farming in 1919. Last winter, the 91-year-old farmer bought a brand new Massey Ferguson 8570 rotary combine, trading off a three-year-old 8570 for it.



Trimble still does most of the work on his 440 acres himself along with the help of his wife of 25 years, Mae, the "other half of the team." Trimble farmed with horses until 1936 when he bought his first tractor - a new Farmall F20 with a plow - for \$920. "You can hardly buy a tractor tire for that anymore," he observes.

One big change he's seen in farming is increased use of agricultural chemicals. "It's probably not a good change, but they are necessary for farming more and more acres," he notes.

Trimble thinks about the future, not the past. Besides his new combine, he recently bought additional farmland.

If that sounds like plans for retirement are definitely not in the offing, that's because they aren't.

"I should probably think about it, but I don't know anything else," says Trimble.

"I'll believe it when I see it," agrees Mae, 84.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Orval Trimble, 864 North Co. Rd. 2360 East, Newman, Ill. 61942 (ph 217 837-2343).

He's Growing Cotton In South Dakota

When you think of cotton you usually think of the Deep South but a South Dakota researcher says it may have a future up north. Last year Dwayne Beck at South Dakota State's Dakota Lakes Research Farm planted a new early-maturing cotton variety in a half-acre test plot.

"The idea is to see whether cotton can be grown in colder climates where there are fewer insect problems, reducing the need for insecticides. Seed companies realize that some insecticides currently used on cotton may be outlawed eventually. Also, insects may develop resistance to insecticides.

"Last year the cotton we grew matured okay but we had problems with germination and weed control. The problem was that many of the herbicides labeled for cotton can't be used here. We hope the new cotton line will some day be labeled 'Roundup ready' because that would reduce the possibility of stressing the crop with other herbicides. This year we applied Bladex, but in our high pH soils it was tough on the crop and thinned it out a bit.

"It's not inconceivable that in 10 years there could be a cotton industry in South Dakota, especially west and south of Pierre where there's a desert environment and high summer temperatures."

"Now, Son, there is a wonderful example in the life of an ant," pointed out the father. "Every day the ant goes to work and works all day. Every day the ant is busy. And, in the end what happens?"

Unimpressed, the boy replied, "Someone steps on him."