

Editor's Notebook



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Editor & Publisher



A GPS-controlled planter created this design by planting two different maturing varieties of corn. Jamison says the idea could be used to make money by "planting" advertising.

Turn Farm Fields Into Giant Billboards

We recently got a phone call from John Jamison of Poolesville, Maryland, who believes the idea of "crop advertising" has big potential.

He has applied for a patent on the idea of instructing a planter to plant seeds at designated GPS coordinates on a map to create a design visible from overhead as plants grow.

"I think it could be a great way for farmers to get additional income and might create a whole new industry," says Jamison. "All you'd need is a commercially available software package and a planter that has the capability to plant in variable patterns."

Jamison's idea is to plant "Pepsi" or "Coke", for example, on the side of a hill next to a highway or airport, creating a giant billboard. You could plant 2 different wheat varieties to provide the contrast, or even plant different color crops.

"On CRP ground, you could use a GPS-guided sicklebar mower to mow the field at 2 different times to get different stages of growth. On desert ground, you could use a chisel plow to etch a picture," says Jamison.

"You could make a mosaic in the field, and even put multiple fields together. That might be necessary in areas where airplanes are so high up that you can't see individual fields, but you could see a conglomeration of fields.

"The Atlanta airport gets about 65 million passengers per year and Chicago 45 million. If just 30 percent of airline passengers saw your ad, you'd have millions of views. If you were able to charge advertisers 10 cents per view, it could be very lucrative."

Turns out, Precision Agri Services in Minster, Ohio has already been experimenting with the idea of making pictures in a corn field. You can see one design - the company's logo of a tractor pulling a planter - in the photo above. Richard Schlipf, company president, planted 2 different corn hybrids to create the giant emblem.

"We did this just to see if it could be done and had no idea if it would work," says Schlipf. "We planted 107 and 110-day hybrids. We used a drone to take photos just as the 107-day hybrid tasseled but before the 110-day hybrid tasseled, to see how it looked from the air.

"We used photos of the emblem at winter farmer meetings to teach customers about the multi-hybrid planting system we've developed. It helps to illustrate that if you have different soil types in a field you can plant those soil types to different hybrids. We've been experimenting with a special 'multi-hybrid' seed meter that can switch between 2 different hybrids at the same time."

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Great Christmas Gift Idea!

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 can give bargain rate gift subscriptions to friends, relatives, and business associates. Each recipient will receive a year of FARM SHOW plus a copy of our new 168-page "Money-Making Ideas To Boost Farm Income - Vol. III" book filled with hundreds of farm-based business ideas. What's more, all gift recipients - as well as all active subscribers - receive free access to all 38 years of FARM SHOW at our website. Check out the order form enclosed with this issue or call us at 800-834-9665.

If your friends and relatives are already subscribers, you might want to consider giving them a copy of Volume III of our "Encyclopedia of Made It Myself Ideas". Like Volume



I and Volume II, it's a 482-page collection of the best "made it myself" ideas from past issues of FARM SHOW. These are the most popular books we've ever published and I've never had anyone tell me they didn't think they were worth the money. For a limited time, you can buy copies of Volume III for just \$12.95 apiece (\$16.95 in Canada) plus \$4.95 shipping and handling (just one charge no matter how many copies you order). Copies of both Volume I and Volume II are still available for just \$14.95 apiece (\$18.95 in Canada). Many FARM SHOW subscribers have collected a set of all three books. See order form on page 43. Thanks.

Lamb-Sized Giant Rabbits

Spanish Giant rabbits are the size of a small lamb and can produce as much as 15 lbs. of meat. Originally introduced in the early 1900's by Spanish rabbit breeders, the Spanish Giant nearly became extinct.

The big breed was created by crossbreeding Flemish Giants with large Spanish rabbit breeds. The original breed had reproductive problems and digestive issues.

According to Vicente Garcia, Valencia Agricultural Research Institute, Valencia, Spain, the Spanish Giants have potential for the amount of meat they produce, but also for the speed at which they breed. Litters of 16 bunnies are common.

If reintroduction of the Spanish Giant is successful, it will join about 10 other large rabbit breeds around the world. Garcia says the breeding program for Spanish Giants is intended to test its productivity and profitability with the goal of introducing the breed in a widespread way for human consumption.

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Liberty Quotes

"The first sign of corruption in a society is that the end justifies the means." *Georges Bernanos*

"There is a higher court than the court of justice, and that is the court of conscience. It supercedes all other courts." *Mhatma Gandhi*

"If it weren't for lawyers, we wouldn't need them." *A.K. Griffin*

"You don't make the poor richer by making the rich poorer." *Winston Churchill*

"If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that government may not prohibit the expression

of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable." *Justice William J. Brennan*

"The history of the world is none other than the consciousness of freedom." *Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel*

"You can't run a society or cope with its problems if people are not held accountable for what they do." *John Leo*

"For the great majority of mankind are satisfied with appearances, as though they were realities, and are often more influenced by the things that seem than by those that are." *Niccolo Machiavelli*

"In no sense do I advocate evading or defying the law. That would lead to anarchy. An individual who breaks a law that his conscience tells him is unjust and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for law." *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Feds Take Over Dog Breeding

If you breed dogs to sell puppies, you may be required to get a USDA dog breeders license under new federal regulations. The new rules apply if you own or keep more than 4 breeding females; if you sell animals for pets; or if the sale of puppies does not take place face-to-face. Working, hunting and service animals are still exempt from license requirements, although the USDA reserves the right to determine if a dog is sold as a working dog or as a pet.

Regulators say the reason for the change is the internet. The old rules assumed that when pets were exchanged face-to-face between breeder and customer, the dog would be inspected prior to the sale. With more and more dogs being sold over the internet, that is no longer true.

They say the new rules are designed to make sure internet-based pet breeders and sellers are licensed and regulated and that animals and facilities are inspected.

The tricky part is the definition of working, hunting or service dog. You may sell a puppy bred to herd cattle, but if the buyer treats it as a pet, it is up to the USDA to decide if you are exempt or need to be licensed.

Quick Takes

- The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- How is it that one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?
- A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on the list.
- If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
- The voices in my head may not be real but they have some good ideas!

Poor Ole was really in trouble. As he sat in court, the judge said, "Ole, you are charged with breaking into a dress shop three times and stealing just one dress. What is your explanation?"

"Vell, Your Honor, I took da dress as a present for my wife, Lena, and she made me exchange it twice," explained an embarrassed Ole.

Ole went fishing one day. First he caught a big trout, but he threw it back into the water. Next he caught a fat pike, but he threw that back, too. Finally, he caught a small bass.

Ole grinned, and then placed the little fish in his bag. A man, who had been watching, asked Ole, "Why did you throw back the two big fish and keep the little one?" "Vell," replied Ole. "I haff a small frying pan."

A man owned a small farm in Southern Illinois. The State's Wage & Hour Department sent an agent out to conduct an audit to make sure he was paying proper wages to his help.

"Just give me a list of all your employees and tell me how much you pay them," the agent told the farmer.

"All right," said the farmer. "I have a hired man. Been with me for three years. I pay him \$600 a week plus room and board. I have a cook. She's been here 6 months. She gets \$500 a week plus room and board."

"Anybody else," asked the agent as he scribbled on a note pad.

"Yeah," the farmer said. "We have one other fellow who's not too bright. Works about 18 hrs. a day. I pay him \$10 a week and give him chewing tobacco."

"Aha!" the agent said, excited. "That's the man I want to talk to!"

"Speaking," said the farmer.