



Pickup exhaust inflates inexpensive air bag. Photo courtesy New Zealand Farmer

LETS YOU DUMP FOR A FRACTION OF THE COST OF HYDRAULICS

Use Air Bags To "Dump" Your Pickup

Here's an idea promoted by truck dealers in New Zealand to make it more economical to turn pickups into dumpers.

Converting a pickup to dump with hydraulics can cost thousands of dollars. Using an air-lift jack, powered off the exhaust of the truck engine, can cost less than \$100.

Air-lift jacks were developed to replace conventional jacks to lift cars, vans, trucks, tractors and other farm equipment. They're made from a tough rubberized canvas material and — thanks to a one-way valve — require just 6 to 8 psi to lift up to 9,000 lbs.

An Auckland, New Zealand pickup dealer simply hinges the rear of the pickup box. The bag inflates in about 20 sec., easily handling any load the pickup can haul.

The bag is sandwiched between

thick plywood panels, one mounted on the chassis and the other under the deck. As the bag inflates, it raises the deck. There's a valve on the bag to keep it from over-inflating and it can be locked in the raised position.

A U.S. company, Imex International, sells air-lift jacks but says it has never tried to adapt it to a pickup dump. However, Dave Kresl, company president, says he'll work with anyone who wants to try it. Bags come in three sizes. A 22-in. lift bag that lifts 8,000 lbs. sells for \$49.95. A 25-in. lifting bag, that'll lift 9,000 lbs. sells for \$59.95. A heavy-duty industrial strength bag that lifts 30 in. is also available.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Kresl, Imex International Sales, P.O. Box 9657, Downers Grove, Ill. 60515 (ph 312 968-6063).

Battery-Operated 'Instant Heat' Branding Iron

"It'll even brand hogs," says Arthur Yarrington, Australian inventor of a new "instant heat" battery-powered branding iron.

The 12-volt powered iron heats up instantly when triggered by a thumb-operated switch. Yarrington says that because it uses no radiant heat and only burns the hide and not the flesh of the animal, it can be successfully used on hogs.

"Because the head of the brander heats up much more evenly than an iron heated up in a firebox, you get a cleaner and easier to read brand. You can also make the brand more complex because it'll mark better," says Yarrington noting that unlike conventional branding irons, only the branding head of the iron gets hot so

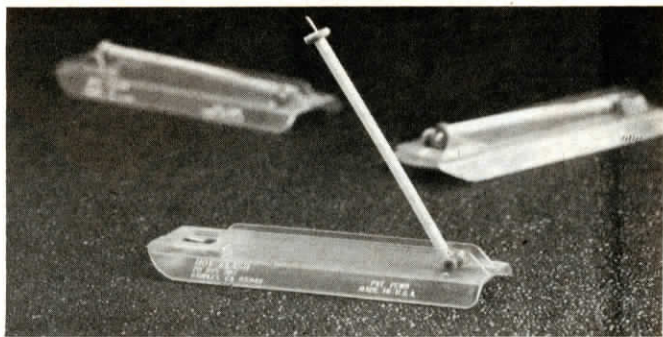
there's less chance the operator will get burned.

The iron runs off the battery in a pickup or tractor or, for small bunches of cattle, you can haul a 12-volt battery out on a motorcycle or 3-wheeler.

The fast-heating head is made from a high-temperature nickle chrome alloy. Heads are interchangeable.

Yarrington is looking for a manufacturer or distributor in the U.S. or Canada.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arthur Yarrington, A.G.Y. Inventions, M.S. 1073 Crow's Nest, 4355 Queensland, Australia.



Plastic "Hot Flash" detector glues to back of cow. When another animal mounts, it breaks "trigger" and bright yellow pin pops up.

POPS UP STRAIGHT WHEN MOUNTING ANIMAL BREAKS SEAL

"Hot Flash" Detector Boosts A.I. Success Rate

"Helps catch hard-to-detect heats," says Dr. Everett Colburn, veterinarian and inventor of the new pop-up "Hot Flash" heat detector.

Colburn says a big problem with other visual heat detector methods, such as chalk or dye, is that they're hard to detect at a glance when you've got lots of animals in one place. "Hot Flash detectors are easily visible from a distance and, at 85 to 90% accuracy, they're just as effective or more so than other techniques," he notes.

Hot Flash detectors work on the principle that a cow in heat will be mounted by other cows. The detector consists of a 2x6-in. hard plastic plate that attaches to the cow's back with livestock glue. The plate is fitted with a spring-loaded flexible yellow pin held in place by a plastic "trigger". When another animal mounts the cow, it breaks the trigger, causing the bright yellow pin to stand straight up in the air.

Because at least 100 lbs. pressure is required to trigger the device, animals can not ordinarily accidentally activate the detector. Once activated Colburn says the pin bends easily and therefore won't damage any other animal that might mount.

"Farmers have become more sensitive to the need to detect heat rapidly because it can cost \$2 to \$3 for every day a cow's open over 115 days. By detecting heat quickly you can also protect animals with sore feet or legs because only a brief mount is required to activate the trigger," notes Colburn.

Hot Flash detectors sell for \$1.75 apiece in a carton of 24. In addition to cattle, Colburn is also testing the device on sheep.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hot Flash Livestock Heat Detectors, P.O. Box 307, Gridley, Calif. 95948 (ph 916 846-6212).



Electric iron gets so hot it makes a more easy-to-read brand that causes less stress to animals.