

Foam Hat, Football Help Promote Industry

From the creators of world famous "Cheesehead" hats come these new foam rubber novelty items that are sure to draw plenty of attention to America's No. 1 cash crop.

The "Corn Head Hat" would make any corn farmer - or Nebraska "Corn Husker" fan - proud. One-size-fits-all. Sells for \$20 plus \$6 S&H.

The "Cornball" is a nearly regulation-size football with one end slightly flattened to resemble the butt end of the ear that attaches to the stalk. Sells for \$8.75 plus \$6 S&H.

"Corn" earrings are also available for \$5 per pair.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Foamation Inc., 2018 S. 1st Street, Milwaukee, Wis. 53207-1100 (ph 414 481-3337; fax 769-1030).



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"Computerized" Tombstone Tells Life Story

An Ohio company has high hopes for its "computerized" tombstone that stores the life history of the dearly departed.

The computer program stores up to 250 pages of personalized information - photos, text, genealogy, etc. - on the deceased. A 4 by 6 in. black and white weather-proof display screen mounts on the tombstone or cremation urn. It's powered by a 3-volt battery that lasts eight to 10 years. Passersby can browse through the information at will.

Sells for \$1,300 to \$5,500, depending on model and length of biography.

A solar powered model will soon be available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leif Technologies, Box 235, Lebanon, Ohio 45036 (ph 513 932-1108; fax 1144; website www.Leif.com).



"Seat Valet" Closes Toilet Seat Automatically

The latest solution to the "toilet seat wars" is an automatic closing device that lowers the seat whenever the toilet is flushed.

"It works off pressure in the lines, which is typically about 40 psi," explains inventor Joseph Denys of St. Clair Shores, Mich. "A sensor mounts along the side of the toilet bowl and connects to a small hydraulic cylinder, with one end attached to an arm on the toilet seat. The sensor senses the drop in water pressure in the water inlet to the toilet tank when the toilet's flushed. This activates the cylinder's ram, which lowers the seat."

Denys, 68, has built several of the patented seat closers and sells them for \$80. He's looking for a manufacturer and/or marketer to take over building and selling the devices.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cardi-



nal Enterprises, 20109 Rosedale, St. Clair Shores, Mich. 48080 (ph 810 775-7269).

They Turned 1/2-Acre Mill Into Home Sweet Home

Rural Missouri residents Larry and Gail Schmitz always wanted a big farm home to live in. They got their wish and a whole lot more when their local feed elevator went on the auction block.

"There was a lot of local history connected with the structure, which is located on four city lots. We decided to go for it," says Gail of Barnett, Mo., population 250. "We put in a bid in April of 1996, FHA accepted it the following November, and we moved in last June."

The half-acre structure, constructed in 1912 out of pine brought to the community via railroad from Tennessee, sits on a lot that measures 2.9 acres.

The Schmitz's have cleaned up around the outside of the building and so far have turned some of the office space into living quarters. They plan to renovate the rest of the building to turn it into a bed and breakfast and mini farm museum within the next two to three years.

"I hope that at our age we don't run out of steam," says Gail who, with her husband, is retired.

One thing's certain: They aren't likely to run out of room.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry and Gail Schmitz, P.O. Box 108, Barnett, Mo. 56011 (ph 573 392-5268).



Home-Built Exerciser Ideal For Seniors

"I used to go to the health club every day and use seven or eight different exercise machines, but I can get as much good out of this right at home," says Wallace A. Johnson about a five-in-one exercise machine he built. It's ideal for senior citizens because it's easy to get on and off because you sit only about 2 ft. off the ground, he notes.

Johnson, 77, used a wheel off a conventional exercise bike he bought at an auction and mounted it in a 26-in. wide by 5 1/2-ft. frame built out of 2 by 4's. He built a seat for the machine out of bolted-together 2 by 4's and mounted it, recumbent-style, on the frame.

Handles and cylinders off a rowing machine that he bought at a garage sale mount

on each side of the frame near the front.

The rear of the frame telescopes 3 ft. on 1 1/2-in. steel pipe fitted inside 2-in. dia. PVC pipe. One weight per side, made of four 10-lb. bricks covered with vinyl and suspended from a pulley, help the frame telescope.

An electric massage pad can be added to the frame for a five-way workout - legs, arms, neck, back and abdomen.

"I've used it every day since I built it last June and have actually lost 20 lbs.," says Johnson.

Out-of-pocket expense was about \$80.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wallace A. Johnson, 901 12th St. N., New Ulm, Minn. 56073 (ph 507 354-1601).

