

Editor's Notebook



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Great Gift Idea For Christmas!

If you've got a hard-to-buy for farmer or rancher on your Christmas gift list this year, why not do your shopping right here?

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.

In addition to a full year of FARM SHOW, we'll send each gift recipient a FREE copy of our new "Book of Do-It-Yourself Plans". It's a 56-page collection of "do-it-for-fun" projects gleaned from past issues of FARM SHOW.

Use the handy order form inserted elsewhere in this issue (or see page 11) 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, 1999):

When you give more than one gift subscription, the price drops. If you like, you can give 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, business associates, students, or others.

United States: Your first gift subscription 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 \$23.95. Each additional gift is only \$14.95. If figures out to \$38.90 for two gift subs, \$53.85 for three, \$68.80 for four, etc.

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

Why Are Cutterbars On The Right?

The answer to why cutterbars are on the right goes back more than 250 years to early U.S. settlers.

In the early 1700's, Swiss and Germans began immigrating to Pennsylvania. In a few years, they were building wagons to use on their newly cleared farms. They hitched up their horses with the lead horse on the left just like they'd done in their homeland.

When mowers were developed in the early 1800's, the in-

ventors had to decide on which side the cutterbar should go. Naturally, you'd want to be able to get to the lead horse in case of an emergency. And you wouldn't want to have to skip over the cutterbar to get there or you might end up with one or two short legs. So the cutterbar went on the right and stayed there.

To rake and pick up cleanly, you have to follow the path of the mower. So rakes rake from right to left. Likewise, baler pickups are on the right. All because of the way horses were hitched 250 years ago. (New Holland)

Why It's Impossible To Be A Vegetarian

Following is a list of reasons why it's "impossible" to be a vegetarian.

Cattle by-products are used for margarine, shortening, chewing gum and certain candies. Gelatin from bones and horns is used in the making of marshmallows, ice cream, canned meats and gelatin products. Natural sausage casings come from the intestines. The fine hair from the ear is used to make 'camel hair' artist brushes, while hair from the hides is used in the production of insulation and rug pads. The bones, horns and hooves provide many important by-products such as buttons, bone china, piano keys, glues, animal feeds and fertilizers. They also supply non-edible gelatin for photographic film, wallpaper, sandpaper, tooth brushes and violin strings. Beef tallow provides glycerin for lipstick, face and hand creams, tooth paste and cough medicine. A variety of cleaning agents are derived from tallow - commercial soaps, industrial cleaners, shampoos, liquid soap and detergent. The inedible fats are also used for candles, fabric softeners, automobile tires, adhesives, crayons, chalk, phonograph records, explosives, inks and matches.

Cattle-derived medicines prevent blood clots in the vessels of the heart, control anemia, and help to make childbirth safer. Millions of diabetics require insulin daily. It takes the pancreas of 26 animals to supply one diabetic with enough insulin for one year. Heparin, which is used to prevent blood coagulation during operations, comes from the lungs of the animal.

"The pituitary glands from cattle produce hormones for humans. Other extracts are used to treat allergies, anemia, respiratory diseases and leukemia.

"Other pharmaceuticals derived from cattle include thrombin, extracted from the blood to promote blood coagulation, epinephrine from the adrenal glands, to relieve symptoms of hay fever, asthma and forms of allergies, parathyroid hormone for treatment of parathyroid deficiency and rennet, a mild enzyme from the stomach, to help babies digest milk.

So even if you were truly committed to the idea of consuming no products derived from cattle and other animals, you could not unless you lived like a hermit. There are no true vegetarians in this society.

(Excerpted from a booklet published by the British Columbia Cattlemen's Association).

Cars That Changed The World

Racing legend Parnelli Jones put together the following list of cars that "changed the world" for Forbes magazine. Do you agree with his picks?

The Jeep (circa 1944): Hard to imagine Americans fighting World War II without the jeep. It was probably the only nice thing soldiers had to say about the army.



Seems like half the vehicles you see today have some jeep genes in them. The jeep was the original 4-WD passenger vehicle.



1955 Chevrolet: Heavy iron American cars really came into their own in the early 50's, when Chevrolet started turning them out with clean lines and a little more power than you needed just to ease around town. This was the period when the small block V-8 engine really came into its own, and even-

tually grew into the Chevy 350, probably the most popular V-8 of all time.

1955-1960 Cadillac: Big tail fins. Lots of chrome. Longer and wider than a city bus. These were the cars you needed to own if you wanted people to notice you. The Cadillac said you'd made it. It made luxury into something you could drive.



Ford Mustang 1964-1965: The Mustang took the European



notion of "sports car" and turned it into something Americans could appreciate. The Mustang was a car that understood that driving is not just about transportation.

There have been a whole lot of cars since that have been sold to people who like to have fun on the road. And they all go back to the Mustang.

Volkswagon Beetle 1945-1970: They say this car was Hitler's idea. If that's true, then it proves that just about anybody can get one thing right. This car made it possible for a lot of people to drive. With that little air-cooled engine, it was cheap, reliable and easy to fix.



Signs That You're "Chronologically Gifted" (Getting Old)

- Your wife refers to your waterbed as "The Dead Sea"
- Your favorite TV station is the weather channel
- You order prune juice and the waiter says "excellent choice"
- You go to the bathroom and forget to zip up your pants
- You go to the bathroom and forget to zip down your pants

The 100 Most Fascinating Tractors In The World

If you're a classic tractor enthusiast, you'll love this new book that presents 100 of the greatest, most significant vintage farm tractors from around the world.

Classic Tractors of the World (Voyageur Press) includes everything from Allis-Chalmers in the U.S. to Ferguson in the U.K. to Zetor in Czechoslovakia, as well as other lesser known makes such as Malves in Brazil to the GeDe in the Netherlands to the Ursus in Poland.

The book was compiled by Nick Baldwin, a freelance writer from Somerset, England, and Andrew Morland, a freelance photographer, also of Somerset, England. They scoured the globe to find rare examples of tractors to describe and photograph.

Hardcover, 192 pages, 150 color photos, 75 illustrations, index.

Sells for \$29.95 plus \$3.95 S&H. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Voyageur Press, P.O. Box 338, Stillwater, Minn. 55082-5002 (ph 800 888-9653 or 651 430-2210; fax 2211; E-mail books@voyageurpress.com).

A little boy and his mother are walking around the supermarket when the boy notices a rather hefty gentleman in the aisle ahead of them. Just then the man's pager goes off in his back pocket. The boy starts tugging on his mother's arm. "Look out," he says loudly, "he's backing up."

