

**Editor's
Notebook**



Mark Newhall
Editor &
Publisher

My Big Mistake

I would like to apologize to owners of 1995 Ford Windstars who read my report in the last issue on our "worst buy" van. There was a mistake in the story.

In case you didn't see it, FARM SHOW's troubled '95 Windstar is now on it's fifth engine at less than 80,000 miles. The problem with '95 Windstars is a faulty head gasket. Initially, the van came with a 36,000-mile warranty. After a couple years, Ford extended it to 60,000 miles and finally to 7 years and 100,000 miles.

In my report I stated that the warranty had now been extended indefinitely and that Ford was fixing all such head gasket problems, regardless of the age or mileage on the vehicle. This was based on information given to me by my dealer rep but he was wrong and I should have checked it. At this time, the warranty is still at 7 years or 100,000 miles.

I soon heard from some loyal FARM SHOW readers who were pretty upset - and not just at me. These Windstar owners are about as frustrated as you can get with Ford.

Larry Wuebker of Ft. Loramie, Ohio, owns a '95 Windstar that was built by Ford on April 25th, 1995. On April 25th of 2002 - exactly 7 years to the day since his van was built - the head gasket went out and his engine failed. He took it to his Ford dealer, figuring he was lucky because he had just gotten in under the 7-year deadline. To his surprise, Ford denied his claim, even though the vehicle had less than 100,000 miles. The dealer said the 7-year warranty period technically expired at midnight the night before, on April 24th.

Other readers called with similar stories. Several had broken-down Windstars with just over 100,000 miles or which had just passed the 7-year limit.

In my opinion, Ford should fix every one of these failed vehicles if the engine failure can be traced back to a faulty gasket. There's overwhelming evidence of a problem at the factory, including Ford's previous extensions of the warranty. Virtually every one of the 1995's and early 1996 models have the problem, according to all available information.

If you have one of these vans, there's a tremendous amount of information on the internet, including websites which are actively campaigning to get Ford to extend the warranty indefinitely. These sites also detail ways other owners have managed to get compensated by Ford, such as small claims court, lemon laws, class action suits, etc. Just go to www.google.com and search for "1995 Ford Windstar head gasket" or contact me and I'll send you a packet of information with names and numbers to contact: Mark Newhall, FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044; E-mail: mark@farmshow.com.

Coyotes Chasing Cars

There are reports that coyotes are actually chasing cars along Highway 341 near Virginia City, Nev.

Robert Kerr, executive director of the Nevada Coyote Council, theorizes that crossbreeding between coyotes and packs of wild Pekinese dogs - which have roamed the area since the Comstock gold rush days - is the reason for the car chasing. The crossbreeding may have transmitted some domestic canine traits to the coyotes. *Capital Press*

**"Muzzled" Sheep
Contribute To Science**

There are some funny-looking sheep running around New Zealand.

According to a story in the New Zealand magazine Country-Wide, researchers for a livestock association are trying to reduce the amount of methane gas burped out by sheep. To do that, the sheep are fitted with a methane-detecting muzzle.

There's actually a serious purpose behind the research. Scientists working on the project say that 4 to 12 percent of the energy contained in food is lost in the form of methane gas. About 90 percent is burped out the front end. The other 10 percent comes out the back. If methane loss can be reduced, less feed would be required.



How To Bathe A Cat

1. Thoroughly clean the toilet.
2. Add the required amount of shampoo to the toilet water and put both lids up.
3. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.
4. In one smooth movement, put the cat in the toilet and close both lids. You may need to stand on the lid so he cannot escape. The cat will self agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from your toilet. The cat is actually enjoying this.
5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a "power wash" and "rinse" which I have found to be quite effective.
6. Have someone open the door to the outside and ensure that there are no people between the toilet and the outside door.
7. Stand behind the toilet as far as you can, and quickly lift both lids.
8. The now clean cat will rocket out of the toilet, and run outside where he will dry himself.

Sincerely, The Dog

**Hog Producer Beats
Neighbors In Court**

In September, 1998, Tony and Anita Knapke of Greenville, Ohio, were sued for \$10 million by three neighbors who wanted to stop them from putting up two new hog finishing units and a lagoon system.

The neighbors claimed the proposed 1,960-head facility would hurt property values and lessen their quality of life. After a couple years of legal wrangling, the judge denied the injunction request sought by the neighbors and the Knapkes were able to start construction in late 2001. What's more, this past March, the same judge awarded the Knapkes \$144,450 from two of the neighbors to compensate them for lost income and legal fees. The third neighbor settled out of court.

How did the Knapkes prevail? Testimony was presented by engineers, soil scientists, odor experts and water quality specialists. Perhaps most important was their track record of managing their hog farm with no environmental problems or neighbor complaints. Their reputation had a very positive effect.

Legal experts say the case sets a tremendous precedent for livestock producers in Ohio and also across the nation. Ohio is fortunate to have a law where anyone who tries to get an injunction against another party is liable for damages if the injunction is not granted. However, even in states without such a law, the case may have set a legal precedent. Farmers who follow good management practices and are generally good neighbors should not be prevented from running their businesses as they see fit. Perhaps other rural neighbors will think twice before suing their farming neighbors every time they put up a new building.

Words Of Wisdom

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream." *Mark Twain*

"Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michaelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein." *H. Jackson Brown*

"The safest course is to do nothing against one's conscience. With this secret, we can enjoy life and have no fear from death." *Voltaire*

"Every really new idea looks crazy at first." *Alfred North Whitehead*

"Parties who want milk should not seat themselves on a stool in the middle of a field in hope that the cow will back up to them." *Albert Hubbard*

Looking For Somewhere To Go?

If you're looking for somewhere to go this summer or fall, there's a lot going on. With the advent of the internet, it's becoming a lot easier to put together a fun and interesting road trip.

Here's a list of web sites that feature lists of farm shows, state fairs, and antique tractor shows or steam thresher reunions. If you're not on the internet at home, just take these web addresses to the library and you can look them up.

State Fairs: You'll find dates and data about all 50 state fairs at this Website: www.weekendevent.com/statefairs.htm.

Antique Tractor Shows: Check out this site for dates and data about 1,100 antique tractor shows and threshermen's reunions: www.yesterdaytractors.com.

Farm Shows: Our site lists dates of shows in the U.S., Canada, and Overseas. Check it out at www.farmshow.com.

Good & Faithful Servant

Consider the bee. He has five eyes: Three simple ones on top of his head and two compound ones with thousands of lenses. He has 5,000 nostrils - nose enough to smell an apple tree two miles away. He has two sets of wings which can be hooked together in flight so they flap as one, 16,000 times a minute. And no matter how he zig-zags his dizzy dance of the flowers, he always beelines it back to his hive home and his job there. He may be a street cleaner, a water carrier, a nurse, a sentry, a mason, an engineer or an air conditioner. If he is the latter, he may fan 12 hours at a stretch in the hive on top of 12 hours spent gathering nectar outside. Busy as a bee is no overstatement; he literally works himself to death, all for a single teaspoon of honey spread upon your breakfast toast, the entire quota of his few short weeks of life. A one-pound jar of honey on your table represents 50,000 miles as the bee flies, or a girdling of our globe twice around.

Lets us not take the bee so much for granted. All his dipping into dandelions and daisies and snapdragons is no joyous game but an instinctual obedience to an ordinance of nature that commands: "While the Earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest shall not cease." There are 100,000 species of plants which could never properly form seeds without the bee. Without him, our bread would not be sweet; indeed, there would be no bread or wine either. And so, in many churches, beeswax candles are used at the traditional service of bread-making and wine-drinking; it is a way of paying tribute to our good and faithful servant, the bee.

Weston A. Stevens

Leaving Omaha, I decided to stop at one of those rest areas on the side of the road. I go into the washroom. The first stall is taken, so I go into the second stall. I had just sat down when I hear a voice from the other stall.

"Hi there, how is it going?"

Okay ... I'm not the type to strike up conversations with strangers in washrooms on the side of the road. I didn't know what to say, so finally I say:

"Not bad."

Then the voice says: "So, what are you doing?"

I'm starting to find this a bit weird, but I say: "Well, I'm going back east . . ."

Then I hear the person, all flustered, say: "Look, I'll call you back. Every time I ask you a question, this idiot in the next stall keeps answering."