



Thompson paints the kernels on an ear of field corn to depict a U.S. flag.

## Patriotic Hobby Keeps Retired Farmer Busy

With a renewed sense of patriotism sweeping America the past couple months, a retired farmer's unusual hobby is keeping him busier than ever.

We first reported on Bud Thompson's "Flag Corn" seven years ago. "I painted my first ear in 1991 for a friend who had cancer. He liked it so much he started telling everyone about it. Soon I had so many orders I had trouble keeping up. To date I have painted 2,350 ears, sending them to all 50 states, several foreign countries, members of

Congress and organizations like the Chicago Board of Trade," says Thompson.

He uses acrylic paint to create the stars and stripes and then clear-coats the finished ear to protect it. It takes about 2 hrs. to complete each ear and the 81-year-old retired farmer sells them for \$11 postpaid. That includes a small metal display stand.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bud Thompson, Box 116, Roseville, Ill. 61473 (ph 309 426-2253).



Tractor-mounted burner has three flame tubes protruding from back of machine.

## Farm-Built Field Burner

With more than 1,000 acres of wild blueberries, Bill Guptill of Guptill Farms, Wesley, Maine, has had to find ways to make plant care easier. One of the best tools he's found is a home-built diesel-fueled burner.

He says pruning blueberry plants by burning off their tops encourages new, fruit-bearing growth the second year after burning and also kills bugs and renews the fields.

Commercial burning machines are available but Guptill had this one built to his own specifications. In fact, he's built eight burners in all. Some use diesel, some burn gasoline, and some are actually fueled by straw.

His tractor-mounted burner, built five years ago, is designed so he can control the fuel and air mix from the driver's seat, as well as the direction of the three flame tubes protruding from the back of the machine. With these controls and by adjusting tractor ground speed, he can precisely control the amount of burning in the field. The burner consumes some 25 gal. of diesel fuel an hour. When conditions are right, a good operator can burn off an 80-acre field in about an hour. While a burner is operating in a field,



Guptill can control the fuel and air mix from the driver's seat, as well as direction of the flame tubes.

Guptill stations other workers around the edge to watch for and control any fires that might get out of control.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Guptill, Guptill Farms, Guptill Rd., Wesley, Me. 04686 (ph 207 255-9000).

Story and photos excerpted from *Rural Delivery*, Box 1509, Liverpool, Nova Scotia (Website: [www.countrymagazines.com](http://www.countrymagazines.com)).



Stores were sold out of flags so Renee Linzalone decided to paint one on her white Arabian horse.

## Family Shows Its Patriotism By Painting Flag On Horse

Since September 11, millions of Americans have demonstrated a renewed sense of patriotism by flying the flag. Renee Linzalone decided to go one step further by painting the American flag on Captain, her 21-year-old white Arabian horse. Renee and husband, Mike, live on a small farm near Newberry, Fla. They used clothing dye and shoe polish to paint the stars and stripes on both sides of the horse.

"When we went out to buy a new flag, all the stores were sold out. That's when Mike suggested we paint the horse," says Renee. "He painted the stripes and I painted the stars. Everyone who drives by does a double take when they see it."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Renee Linzalone, 7960 S.E. 32<sup>nd</sup> Place, Newberry, Fla. 32669 (ph 352 472-5826).

Billboards like this one are springing up across Canada and in a number of U.S. border states, thanks to a Canadian organization that wanted to express its solidarity with the U.S. during the current crisis.



## Billboards Express Canadian Solidarity

"We were looking for a way to express our solidarity with the the United States in this time of crisis," says Mark Kihn, subscriber to FARM SHOW and vice president of a Canadian association that recently put up billboards across Canada and in a number of U.S. border states. The billboards feature the U.S. and Canadian flags under the words "Together for Freedom".

Kihn says the billboard reflects the belief

of the National Citizens Coalition that the attack on the U.S. was an attack on democracy. "Freedom must be defended and we believe Canada must help to defend it," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Kihn, National Citizens Coalition, Suite 240, 600-6<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alberta Canada T2P 0S5 (ph 403 269-3545; Website: [www.morefreedom.org](http://www.morefreedom.org)).

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