



Silo unloader was turned into ride using 2-in. steel tubing, plywood and a silo unloader. It took about 20 to 25 hours to build.

Silage Equipment Merry-Go-Round

Greg Kinsey of Boones Mill, Virginia, had fun making his merry-go-round and his kids have had fun using it.

He started with the 10-ft. dia. outer metal ring from an old silo unloader (the part at the top of an upright silo that dispenses silage down the chute). To make a base for it to turn on, he took a wheel from a silage wagon (rubber tire and all), and cut out the center of the rim before welding it to the big ring from the silo unloader. Six or seven sections of 2-in. steel tubing, welded like spokes, serve as the floor support frame which he covered with plywood from some old concrete forms.

For the center pipe, Kinsey used a 5-ft. section of 6-in. dia. well pipe. He welded on eight support pipes from center over to the outer edge of the silo ring.

"I painted it Deere green and yellow with the center pipe swirled like a barber's pole," he says. "It looks kind of neat when it's turning. I had 20 to 30 kids here for a birthday party one time and all of them were on there



Over 20 children used the ride at once at a recent party.

at one time. It was packed full and worked great."

Kinsey says the nice part about the project was that every piece of it came out of the junk pile. All he bought was the paint. He says it took him 20 to 25 hours to build the unit.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Greg Kinsey, 3850 Retreat Rd., Boones Mill, Va. 24065 (ph 540 334-1937).

Blacksmith's Roses Last Forever

Blacksmithing may be considered the ultimate macho occupation, but it also has its softer side. While Daryl Thompson of Elrose, Sask., can make any tool, knife, heater grill, cabinet hardware or bracket you'd want, he has also perfected the skill of making iron roses with paper-thin petals.

Thompson makes two different kinds of roses. The traditional method has been used for 600 years using ordinary blacksmith tools. The other requires a combination of blacksmithing and modern gas welding.

For a traditional rose, he starts with a piece of 3/8-in. sq. flat steel. The metal is constantly heated and reheated in a forge until it becomes pliable. First, he forms the stem of the rose with a hammer and anvil. Then he pre-forms the petals "all in one piece."

"I give them their rough shape as one whole unit at first, and then divide them into individual petals using a chisel," he explains. "Once they are cut, but each petal is still attached, I hammer them into their final shape. At that point, they are scrolled or wound up into a spiral around the stem. This is the trickiest part because the petals should overlap."

After the rose has taken its basic form, he curls over the edges of the petals and heats the whole piece until it turns yellow. He then dips the tips of the petals in water before placing the rose back onto the anvil and turning the petals to give them their final form.

The first rose he ever made took him 4 1/2 hours, but now he can do one in anywhere from 15 to 35 minutes. These roses measure 1 1/2 to 2 in. across, and he sells them for \$35 each.



Making roses from metal is a 600-year-old tradition.

Thompson says it takes longer to make iron roses when incorporating modern techniques, but the trade off is that they can be made to look staggeringly realistic. These take up to 1 1/4 hours to make and he charges \$75 for each. "They're made up of sheets of metal which are hammered, poked, punched and prodded, and then fastened to a stem," he says.

He's also made grapes, carnations, tulips, poppies, daisies, a fern, and says he's still trying to make a thistle.

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FARM SHOW



Simple Game Provides Hours Of Fun

By Mark Newhall, Editor & Publisher

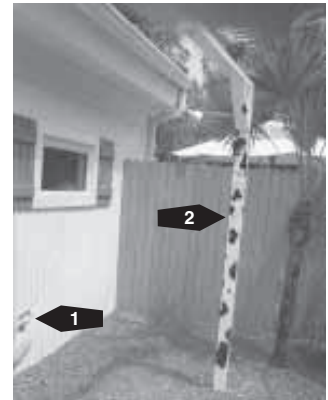
I was on vacation last winter in Florida when my wife and I went into a little restaurant called the Island Cow on Sanibel Island. The theme was "cow" and the whole place was full of pictures of cows, statuettes of cows, Holstein black and white paint, etc.

There was a waiting list so we were directed to the back patio to wait in the warm sunshine. As we did I noticed some kids over in a corner gathered around a wood post. I headed over and found out they were playing a simple game, called appropriately enough, the "Ring Game".

The post, painted "cow white and black", was about 8 ft. tall with a horizontal piece on top sticking out about 4 ft. There was a large metal hook screwed into the post about halfway up and a metal ring about 2 in. dia. hanging on a string from an eye hook screwed into the horizontal piece up above. The string holding the ring was just long enough so the ring could catch on the hook. The object of the game was to stand back away from the post and swing the ring so it would catch on the hook.

It was obviously addictive and people kept crowding around to try it. Some kids didn't want to go inside when their names were called. I tried it myself and found it to be a lot harder than it looks. It was also addictive.

When we got to our table, I asked the waitress about it and she said they sell the Ring Game as a kit right at the restaurant. It includes instructions, a couple metal hooks, a ring and a piece of brightly colored red string. I bought it for \$12, although



Catching the ring (1) on the hook (2) is harder than it looks.

you could easily put it together with a dollar's worth of stuff from the hardware store.

When we got back to Minnesota, I installed the game under our deck, with the hook in one of the support posts and the eye hook holding the string and ring screwed into one of the joists up above. Ever since, I've been trying to beat both my kids and wife.

Give it a try. You'll like it.

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World Record Egg

A 160-gram chicken egg laid recently at a poultry farm in the Belarussian town of Mir, is thought to be the world's largest and heaviest egg.

According to *Interfax* news service, at more than 1/3 lb. it's almost three times the size of an average chicken egg and outweighs the current Guinness Book of World Records holder by 14 grams. That record has been held for the past five years by a Cuban hen.

The giant egg from Belarus is thought to have a good chance of becoming the new record holder and is currently being considered by the Guinness Book of World Records committee. The odds of pinpointing which nestling hen out of 20,000 laid the egg are proving to be poorer, however, but farm managers have narrowed down the possible source of the egg to 2,000 chickens aged around 350 days, according to the report.

A veterinarian is protecting the special egg in a refrigerated safe box that also contains other rare eggs, including one of the small-



Photo courtesy ITAR-TASS

World record egg is three times larger than a standard size chicken egg.

est eggs ever recorded at 15 grams, an egg with three yolks, and an egg shaped like a wooden Russian doll.