

Editor's Notebook



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Burning Corn On The Cob

Long-time FARM SHOW reader Gary Haight called recently to tell us about something going on in his farm neighborhood near Walkerville, Mich.

"I've built a few outdoor wood-burning stoves of my own design so I'm always interested in other people's stoves. While talking to one of my neighbors recently, he was telling me he had started burning corn in his outside wood furnace. He was using corn on the cob - not shelled corn like is used in most corn stoves - and he couldn't believe how well it worked.

"He'd been burning it steady for 7 days and said it burned great. No need for stoking at all and he was getting 48 hrs. of burn out of a full stove compared to 24 hrs. of burn with a full load of wood. And the fire was hotter.

"He tells me he's going to build a corn crib right next to his furnace and order a load of cob corn. Next year he might even start picking it himself.

"After seeing this furnace in action, I'm convinced it's a great way to go. Any outside wood burner should be able to burn cob corn."

Update On Planting Earthworm "Eggs"

Illinois farmer Bill Kreitzer has been featured twice in FARM SHOW for his work with an automated process for putting earthworm eggs into capsules (Vol. 26, No. 3 and Vol. 14, No. 2). He recently contacted us with an update.

Kreitzer, who farms near Elliott, Ill., "plants" earthworms in fields, using "melt away" gelatin capsules containing earthworm eggs. He markets the earthworm egg capsules under the brand name Vermipods™.

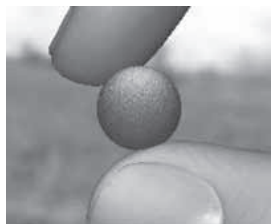
Earthworms reproduce by laying a cocoon with eggs inside it. Under ideal laboratory conditions, earthworm eggs hatch in 3 to 6 weeks. However, the eggs hatch only when soil temperature is right. Kreitzer devised an automated process to encapsulate mass quantities of earthworm cocoons in a way that keeps the eggs viable for over a year.

He says Vermipods are gaining widespread acceptance in the horticulture industry, and that he's now ready to sell to farmers providing they understand the research is still not complete.

"We sold more than 1 million Vermipods last year to the horticulture industry," says Kreitzer. "We plan to encapsulate 2 to 3 million cocoons this year."

His original idea of mixing the capsules with seed in planters or drills has changed. "We now recommend sticking a probe in the ground, the same kind used for soil testing, and dropping the capsules in the hole. We're working on an ATV-mounted device that will do the job automatically."

Vermipods are currently being sold by several mail order companies, such as Gardens Alive (www.gardensalive.com; ph 513-354-1483), which sells a package of 50 capsules for \$12.95. Kreitzer is working on a program that will make it



Earthworm cocoons are encapsulated in melt-away capsules that have a shelf life of up to a year.

possible to repopulate farm fields with 300 Vermipods per acre for a cost of about \$30 an acre. Research on migration of earthworms hatched from Vermipods is planned at the University of Ohio later this year.

Kreitzer says building up the earthworm population on his own farm has really paid off. "I have a 5-acre field that I haven't fertilized in 10 years but in the last three years I've still been getting 200 bu. corn yields and 60 bu. bean yields. Some parts of our farm have about 500,000 earthworms per acre. Even in last year's drought, what little rain we got was able to soak into the ground and was retained better than on conventional ground."

Kreitzer notes that other companies sell earthworm cocoons but cautions that you get what you pay for. "We use an earth dwelling worm that will go below the frost line and survive. It's a worm that handles real well in storage and when it's planted in agricultural soils, it will survive."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Kreitzer; ph 217 781-4367 or 480 970-1903; BillKreitzer@AdvancedPrairie.com; www.AdvancedBiotechnology.com).



Sam's repulsive appearance scared nearly everyone who saw him, but he won the love and respect of his owner.

World's Ugliest Dog Dies

The title of "World's Ugliest Dog" is once again up for grabs since the three-time winner died at almost 15 yrs. of age last fall.

"Sam" was a purebred Chinese Crested Hairless, which some would say is an ugly breed to start with, but Sam took things to new heights of ugliness.

"I don't think there'll ever be another Sam," says owner Susie Lockheed, of Santa Barbara, California, adding wryly, "Some people would think that's a good thing."

But Lockheed loved Sam just the same, even with his virtually hairless, warty, wrinkled, brown, splotchy skin that was also dotted with blackheads and moles. His crooked teeth jutted out at odd angles, and he had a sparse tuft of yellowish-white hair at the peak of his knobby head. He was blind, so his eyes looked alien - one a milky white color, and the other reddish-purple from cataracts. A fleshy flap of skin hung from his withered neck, and on his hindquarters, he had a large hernia lump.

Even the judges at the World's Ugliest Dog Contest in Sonoma, Calif., recoiled at his extreme distasteful appearance, but it was exactly that ugliness that made Sam a famous celebrity.

It earned him limousine rides, stays in luxury hotels, TV appearances, and a personal visit with millionaire Donald Trump.

He was seen on Japanese television, talked about on New Zealand radio, and read about in Britain's Daily Mirror tabloid.

On her website, Lockheed marketed his image (and still does) on T-shirts, a calendar, refrigerator magnets, and even a coffee "ugly mug."

"At the time of his death, Sam was scheduled to be filmed for a Discovery Channel series on the world's ugliest species," Lockheed explains. "Unfortunately, Sam started suffering from a number of age-related ailments such as lung and kidney problems and eventually, congestive heart failure. He didn't make any public appearances for a time prior to my decision to have him humanely euthanized."

She met Sam for the first time six years ago at a rescue shelter, and was actually terrified of him because he acted vicious. After much convincing from the staff, she agreed to take him home on a 48-hour trial basis. Lockheed quickly grew to love the unfortunate animal, but her boyfriend at the time was so repulsed by Sam's appearance, that he broke up with her.

Later, however, another man was drawn to her after seeing a photo of her and Sam on an online dating service, and he remains her beau today.

Following the loss of Sam, Lockheed still has three other Chinese Crested Hairless dogs in her home, where she oper-

ates - of all things - a beauty parlor.

She is quick to point out that Sam's story illustrates that there "can be love, affection and respect for even the seemingly unattractive souls of this world." She has been told that more and more animals that had been considered un-adoptable in the past, are now being taken in and loved.

"Although Sam will be missed by millions, he surely did his good deed while on this earth!" she points out.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Susie Lockheed, Santa Barbara, California (SAM@SamUgliestDog.com, www.samugliestdog.com).

"My All-Time Best Buy"

I received this note from a reader the other day:

"My all-time best buy is a 1958 Charlotte Jewel I came across in 1977. She has only required basic routine maintenance - a few flowers now and then and an occasional trip to a local shop or two. She always starts right up and runs on a couple pots of coffee a day. I think that's pretty good for a model that's got over 118,000 hrs. All without any major overhauls.

"Lately, she jumps out of 'supper gear' and into 'eat-out mode' about once a week. If I try to get her back into supper gear, there's so much grinding you'd think she was going to explode. So I load her up and haul her downtown for a fish fry and pie. Then, sure enough, come morning, she's all cooled down and runs real smooth for about another week. Some of the other locals in town have been having the same problem, but with different models. They get all worked up and trade 'em in on newer models, and then end up having all kinds of troubles.

"Sometimes when I work her real hard, she'll get to spitting and sputtering but I learned a trick from my Dad, who had a '21 Emily Lola. Shut her down real quick and give her several hugs and kisses and she'll just start right back up, purring like a kitten. Seems like magic but it works.

"You can have all your newfangled models. My '58 Charlotte Jewel has been a real gem for me." *Gary Sampson, Freedom, N.Y.*

Liberty Quotes

"The object and practice of liberty lies in the limitation of government power." *General Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964)*

"The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe. To be your own man is hard business. If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened. But no price is too high to pay for the privilege of owning yourself." *Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)*

"The tree of liberty only grows when watered by the blood of tyrants." *Bertrand Barere de Vieuzac*

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty." *John F. Kennedy (1917-1963)*

"No man shall rule over me with my consent. And I will rule over no man." *William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879)*

"None who have always been free can understand the terrible fascinating power of the hope of freedom to those who are not free." *Pearl S. Buck (1892-1973)*

"The spirit of liberty is the spirit which is not too sure that it is right; the spirit of liberty is the spirit which seeks to understand the minds of other men and women..." *Judge Learned Hand (1872-1961)*

"An unexamined idea, to paraphrase Socrates, is not worth having and a society whose ideas are never explored for possible error may eventually find its foundations insecure." *Mark Van Doren (1894-1972)*

A newly married young man goes to see Sam, his fatherly old boss.

"Sam, something terrible is happening and I have to talk to you about it."

Sam asks, "What's wrong?"

The man replied, "My wife is poisoning me."

Sam, very surprised by this, asks, "How can that be?"

The man then pleads, "I'm telling you I'm certain she's poisoning me, what should I do?"

Sam then offers, "Tell you what. Let me go talk to her, I'll see what I can find out and let you know."

The next day Sam calls the man and says, "Well, I spoke to your wife on the phone yesterday for over three hours. Three long, long hours. You want my advice?"

The man anxiously answers, "Yes."

"Take the poison," says Sam.