

**Editor's  
Notebook**



**Mark Newhall**  
Editor &  
Publisher

**He Retired At Age 100 To  
Have More Time For Hobbies**

When I read recently that the editor of a magazine for rabbit breeders was retiring at age 100, I thought it might be interesting to find out more about this fellow. From the photos, he looked to be closer to 65 years old than 100.

Since one of FARM SHOW's best writers, C.F. Marley, is 85 years old, I figured he'd be the perfect guy to interview Oren Reynolds of Decatur, Ill., who told the readers of his magazine - Domestic Rabbits - that he was going to retire to have more free time.



Reynolds holds a copy of the last issue of the magazine he edited for 33 years.

Reynolds was born in 1906 near Herrick, Ill., and went west with his family to homestead in Montana. He later returned to Illinois during the Depression years. He got into rabbits as an adult when his young son started pestering him to get a pet. "I've been with them ever since," he says, and points to the plaques and trophies that cover the walls of his home office. As an award-winning breeder, he's a member of the American Rabbit Breeders Association Hall of Fame.

Reynolds became editor of Domestic Rabbits 33 years ago at the age of 67, when most people are already retired. He was still actively involved in editorial chores when he announced his retirement last fall.

Reynolds is a spry and youthful looking 100 years old. He lives alone in his own house and does his own housekeeping. He tends a garden and only recently gave up big-time rabbit breeding. However, he might get back into it part time, now that he has more time for his hobbies.

"Rabbits can be great for relaxation," Reynolds says. "You can have the worst day in the world and then forget the whole thing after a few minutes with your rabbits."

He outlived two wives. Bessie was at his side for 63 years and died in 1988. His second wife, Ida, died in 2001 after 12 years of marriage. Besides raising rabbits, tending garden, and serving actively in local, state and national clubs, Reynolds also sells rabbit feed from his garage and cooks himself three meals a day.

**Don't Get Burned Burning Corn**

Corn stoves are so hot right now that a lot of people are getting burned, warns Mike DeBeau of M-D Grain. His concern centers around poor quality stoves rushed onto the market by opportunists. Another problem is burning poor quality corn.

"Either way, people may get disappointed in corn stoves," says DeBeau, who manufactures corn stoves himself.

He recognizes that frustrated users are bad for the long-term health of his industry.

When it comes to the quality of corn burned in a stove, DeBeau has a few pointers that will maximize btu's and minimize problems like ash and creosote buildup.

"Corn isn't all alike when it comes to what burns best," he

says. "Waxy corn doesn't have the btu's of #2 yellow. Sweet corn would be the best if you could find it, and popcorn burns like paper, way too hot."

DeBeau's rules for clean burning include:

1. Burn #2 yellow - the smaller the kernels, the better.
2. Avoid corn with excessive cob and stalk trash.
3. Look for corn with moisture levels under 14 percent and weighing 56 lbs./bu. or greater.
4. Store corn so it stays dry.

"Moisture is the number one problem with burning corn," he explains. "Moisture has a huge impact on btu output. Number 2 yellow at 12 percent moisture should produce 9,000 btu/lb. while 14 percent corn will drop to 7,500 btu/lb."

DeBeau agrees that stoves "can" burn 16 to 18 percent moisture corn, but he adds, "you won't get the heat output, and you will end up with more ash and soot buildup."

If you are planning to burn your own corn, start planning for next year's fuel supply early. Plant a few acres of a small kernel, quick-drying variety.

A little advance planning can also help if you will be buying corn to burn. DeBeau suggests buying your supply prior to harvest. Corn carried over from the previous year has to be dry to be kept in storage. Once new crop corn has been harvested, elevator managers often blend the higher moisture corn with the dry corn.

Thinking ahead about bulk versus bagged corn can also reduce costs, he says. "Bags are convenient, but bulk is cheaper," he says.

"Demand for bulk storage of corn for fuel has shown up in our local machinery market," he adds. "Gravity box wagons were practically being given away. Now people are buying them just to hold corn for burning. They can back them in a shed or throw a tarp over them, and the corn will be fine."

While many corn stoves can be adapted to burn other grains, DeBeau warns that one source of grain fuel should be avoided at all costs. That is treated seed.

"Inhalation can result in serious health problems or even death," he cautions.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike DeBeau, M-D Grain, 30726 850<sup>th</sup> Ave., Blooming Prairie, Minn. 55917 (ph 507 583-5088; mdgrain@hotmail.com).

**Better Shoelace Tying**

James Arlen at MAKE Magazine wants to make sure you never trip over your shoelaces again. Tie your shoes the normal way but after you make the first loop, wrap twice around the first loop before pushing through the second loop. "Yes, it's that simple," he says. "The knot won't come undone, there's no need to double knot, and you can still undo the laces just by pulling the free ends."

I received a call from Allan Weil, a reader in Saskatchewan. He told me he was giving FARM SHOW as a wedding gift to a friend. "What do you give to a 40-year-old guy who has everything?" he asked. So he gave the guy four T-bone steaks and a subscription to this magazine. "I figured he'd enjoy the subscription and both he and his wife would get to enjoy the steaks," he told me.

An elderly friend of mine who's in his 80's told me recently that he's looking forward to turning 90. I asked him why and he said, "Well, I watch the obituaries regularly and I've noticed that very few people die in their 90's."

**Liberty Quotes**

"The trouble with most folks isn't so much their ignorance, as knowing so many things that ain't so." *Josh Billings*

"The most important service rendered by the press and the magazines is that of educating people to approach printed matter with distrust." *Samuel Butler*

"It is poor civic hygiene to install technologies that could someday facilitate a police state." *Bruce Schneier*

"We have plenty of freedom in this country but not a great deal of independence." *John W. Raper*

"If you think you're too small to make a difference, you haven't been in bed with a mosquito." *Anita Roddick*

"I believe that liberty is the only genuinely valuable thing that men have invented, at least in the field of government, in a thousand years. I believe that it is better to be free than not to be free, even when the former is dangerous and the latter safe. I believe that the finest qualities of man can flourish only in free air — that progress made under the shadow of the policeman's club is false progress, and of no permanent value. I believe that any man who takes the liberty of another into his keeping is bound to become a tyrant, and

that any man who yields up his liberty, in however slight the measure, is bound to become a slave." *H.L. Mencken*

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live." *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"A right is not what someone gives you; it's what no one can take from you." *Ramsey Clark*

"Our job this day is to become part of the answer to the world's immense and protracted suffering rather than continuing our ancient task of being part of the difficulty." *Hugh Prather*

"Don't go around saying the world owes you a living; the world owes you nothing; it was here first." *Mark Twain*

"A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing." *George Bernard Shaw*

**Chinese-Built Tractors**

We've been hearing from a few subscribers lately who are annoyed with us for "promoting" Chinese-built tractors such as the "crate tractor" discussed on page 11 of this issue.

I understand where they're coming from. But have you tried to buy a 100 percent U.S.-built car, truck, or tractor lately? It's not easy. Nearly all utility-sized tractors are built in Europe, Japan, Korea, India, or China, even if they have a "brand" name from a U.S. manufacturer. And many parts on tractors that are built in the U.S. come from overseas.

China is reportedly in the process of building the largest tractor factories the world has ever seen. Like it or not, the world's going to be flooded with those less expensive machines. Similar to Japan in the 1950's and 60's, the quality is not yet up to the standards we're used to in the Western world. But most reports say the quality is rapidly improving.

According to a recent story in the Des Moines Register, a 40-hp Foton tractor built in China sells for \$10,900 while similar size machines from Deere and Case IH sell for as much as \$23,000. That's a big enough difference to get anyone's attention.

As a publication dealing with what's new in ag machinery, we feel we have to report on what's actually happening, not what we wish were happening.

**Getting Old**

- Reporters interviewing a 104-year old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure."
- The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs.
- I've sure gotten old. I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees. Fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation. Hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.
- A 97-year-old man goes into his doctor's office and says, "Doc, I want my sex drive lowered." "Sir," replied the doctor, you're 97. Don't you think your sex drive is all in your head?" "You're darn right it is!" replied the old man. "That's why I want it lowered!"
- My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.
- I've still got it but nobody wants to see it.
- These days, about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, "For fast relief."
- The Senility Prayer: Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

**Paddy was driving down the street** in a sweat because he had an important meeting with his banker and he couldn't find a parking place.

Looking up toward heaven, he said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place, I will go to mass every Sunday for the rest of me life and give up me Irish Whiskey."

Miraculously, a parking place appeared. Paddy looked up again and said "Never mind, Lord. I just found one."