

Gear Gets Goats In Shape For Shows

Getting Grand Champion at the fair with any animal requires a lot of work. Sometimes the right piece of gear can make all the difference. When Jon Evans' 12-year old daughter Ashley started showing Bohr meat goats, she needed to build up the hindquarters on show wethers.

"The back end is hard to build up, but if Ashley could walk them on just their back legs, it would build up those muscles," explains Evans. "I built a goat exerciser that would do just that."

The exerciser is a 4 ft. wide, two-wheel cart with a tie bar on the front of a 10-in. deep platform. When the goats (up to four at a time) are tied to tubes on the bar, they naturally step up on the platform and walk on their rear legs. Ashley then tows the bar around the farmyard, a little more each day.

"By the time of the show, she is working them for 30 min. a day, five to six days a week," says Evans. "We picked up an old riding lawn tractor without a mower for her to use so she didn't wear out our good one."

To make the exerciser more useful, Evans made it as adjustable as possible. The platform can be raised up as the goats get bigger, and the hitch can be removed and the cart reversed. The tie tubes the goats are secured to can also be reversed. That puts the tie bar on back of the platform so goats tied to it don't climb up, but walk on all fours.

"The females need exercise too, but Ashley doesn't want their hindquarters built up," explains Evans. "By reversing the cart, she can use it to exercise them, too."

Another handy piece of goat gear is the 4-ft. long, 20-in. wide prep stand where goats are readied for the show. Evans built it out of angle iron and expanded metal for the platform with legs and tie bar made from 1 1/2-in. square steel tubing. Again, he used tension bolts and pieces of 1 3/4-in. tubing for housing sleeves in the corners of the platform and at its front for the upright tie bar.

To adjust the platform to the height of the goat or the person working on it, Evans can replace the 2-ft. legs with 30-in. legs with wheels attached to the rear pair. The wheels, which only come in contact with the ground when the front end of the platform is lifted, make it easy to move.

The front tie bar has two chains attached, one to go over the goat's muzzle and the other behind its ears to hold it in place. Sidebars made from round tubing bent in a U-shape can also be adjusted up or down or removed.

"I made it so it can be completely broken down and hauled in a car," says Evans. "Even the 6-ft. ramp is hinged half way so it can be folded up and carried."

The goat gear appears to work. Ashley has won two Grand Champions in the past four years of showing. Evans also reports the prep



Home-built goat exerciser is used to walk goat on just its back legs to build up muscles. Exerciser is a 4-ft. wide, 2-wheeled cart with a tie bar on front.

stand is popular with other goat owners at the shows once Ashley has finished with it.

Most of the steel tubing he used for the cart and the prep stand are recycled from four-wheeler crates delivered to a local dealer. Round steel tubing is recycled oil well sucker rod. Evans has used both to frame gates for kidding pens, using sections of a steel horse fence panel inside the frame.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jon Evans, 2410 Raintree Rd., Harrisburg, Ill. 62946 (ph 618 252-4318).



Another handy piece of goat gear is this 4-ft. long, 20-in. wide prep stand where goats are readied for shows.

"Nuts And Bolts" Farm Toys

Gary Nash, Only, Tenn., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of some hand-crafted "nuts and bolts" toys that he makes for sale.

"I make toy replicas of tractors and motorcycles from bolts, nuts, and washers, as well as cross necklaces from horseshoe nails," says Nash. "It has been a good form of relaxation since returning from service in Iraq. My friends and family really enjoy them, and I've received a lot of compliments on the quality and attention to detail. Word of mouth is spreading through our community, and I've had a number of requests to purchase."

Tractor - Available in Deere green with

yellow and black detailing, Farmall red with black detailing, or Ford blue with black detailing. Constructed from 3/4-in. dia. bolts. Measures 10 in. long by 6 in. wide by 7 in. high. Each tractor is hand crafted so dimensions may vary.

Sells for \$40 plus \$7 for S&H. Medium and small sizes also available.

Motorcycle - Available in black. Measures 9 in. long by 2 in. wide by 4 in. high. Hand crafted so dimensions may vary. Sells for \$30 plus \$5 S&H.

Cross necklace - Made from horseshoe nails and supported by micro suede cord (red



Gary Nash makes toy tractors and motorcycles from bolts, nuts, and washers.



or brown). Available with or without wood beads. "It has a nice casual, rustic look," says Nash.

Sells for \$10 plus \$3 S&H.

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UV Light Helps Make Indoor Pickles

Traditionally, kosher sour pickles are fermented in outdoor barrels, where the sun's ultraviolet rays kill the surface yeast.

But Jack Nachamkin of Glen Mills, Penn., likes to make his pickles in the basement. At first, he would go down every day and skim the layer of false yeast off the surface of the brine, but then he found a better system.

"I finally got the bright idea of shining an ultraviolet sterilizer onto the 20-gallon crock I was using. I was amazed how quickly the surface of the brine cleared up. The musty smell due to the yeast disappeared, and the delicious odor of the dill and garlic brine now fills the basement," he happily reports.

"The lamp doesn't have to be on all the time. Two hours a day is enough."

Nachamkin bought the UV sterilizer from a colleague who sells commercial large-scale sterilizers for air conditioner units. You could also use an aquarium sterilizer.

The photos were made for demonstration by removing part of the full cover needed to keep the pickles from floating out of the brine. This cover has to be in place during the entire process, not only to keep the pickles from floating, but to prevent the UV from sterilizing the brine, which depends on beneficial fermentation microbes.

Nachamkin has a favorite recipe for long-term brine: For every 2 1/2 gallons of water, add 3 1/2 cups of salt and 5 cups of vinegar. Make sure the salt is all dissolved. Pickles



Jack Nachamkin shines an ultraviolet sterilizer onto the 20-gal. crock he uses to make pickles in his basement. The light quickly clears up the surface of the brine.

can remain in this brine and will last all winter. To use them, remove what is needed, and soak them in fresh water to remove excess salt, to taste.

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Richard Heimberger has made almost 30 toys from old railroad spikes, including "Spike the dog" and a polar bear.



He Has Fun Building "Spike Toys"

"My grandchildren really enjoy them," says Richard Heimberger, Lucas, Ohio, about the railroad "spike animals" he makes for fun.

About three years ago, a logging railroad was torn out in the area where Heimberger's grandchildren live in Matlock, Washington. "I was out from Ohio visiting when Ian, my 4-year-old grandson, and I went for a walk and he started picking up spikes that had been left behind. I took a few spikes back home to Ohio with the idea of making something out of them," says Heimberger.

"I use a torch to bend the spikes. They're really old and rusty which gives the finished piece a rather rustic look."

His first project was "Spike the dog" for Ian, and since then he has made 27 other items including a polar bear, penguin, "Spikerasaurus", and "Spikerman". To make the dog's eyes, nose and mouth he drilled holes in the face, screwed in flathead screws,

and then filed them down. He also welded on small spots.

To make the backbone on Spikerasaurus he welded on additional flat metal and ground it down. Inverted spike heads were used to form the feet.

"The spike animals shown in the photos are the only ones that got painted," says Heimberger. "The rest have a natural finish attained by heavy wire brushing."

Some other spike toys Heimberger has made include a giraffe, baseball player, soccer player, cheerleader, lumberjack holding an axe, kangaroo, kangaroo with baby, two alligators, frog, three turtles, and a girl with a ponytail under a baseball hat leading a dog on a leash.

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