

Pedal Tractor Used To Raise Funds At School

Tom Klatt, a tech ed teacher at Hudson High School in Hudson, Wis., built an adult-sized pedal tractor to use as a fundraising tool for the school's VICA Skills USA club (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America).

While the size of the tractor isn't much bigger than a child's pedal tractor, it has heavy-duty components that'll hold up to 500 lbs., including 1/8-in. thick 4 by 4-in. tubing and No. 40 drive chain.

New tires provide good traction, and the seat from a scrapped Cub Cadet adjusts for adults and kids.

Klatt's neighbor donated a pulling sled. Last March (Career and Tech Ed month) members held pedal pulls during lunch hours, charging \$1/pull. Money raised went to the VICA club, and winners received plaques made by the wood shop and sandwiches from the local Subway restaurant.

At first students were hesitant, but after a few tried it the word spread. About 70 students, including a dozen females,

participated. Up to 300 lbs. was put in the sled for the senior competitors. Klatt plans to hold a pedal pull again next March.

"We had about 12 different students working on the project," he says. "The hardest thing was not letting them test it out until it was complete. So we built it on a tall table and strapped it down."

The class does a variety of welding repair projects for the school and community, but the pedal tractor was a good lesson in craftsmanship, and the students came up with the design themselves. Klatt emphasized safety, and students made sure it was strong and didn't have any sharp edges. Total cost to build it was about \$250.

"My next step is to have them make attachments: corn chopper, chopper box, manure spreader, and so on," Klatt says.

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A Wisconsin high school recently held a pedal pull fundraiser using this home-built pedal tractor. The money raised went to the school's VICA Skills USA club.

World's Largest Holstein Stands Guard Over North Dakota Farmland

For a nearly 40-year-old cow, Salem Sue is in excellent shape. The world's largest fiberglass Holstein still attracts travelers on I-94 near New Salem, N. Dak. The 38-ft. tall, 50-ft. long cow can be seen for 5 miles from her perch on a hill. It's worth the time to walk up the path to snap a photo and appreciate Sue's view of miles of farmland.

The New Salem Lions Club commissioned the \$40,000 sculpture from Sculpture Mfg. Co. of Lacrosse, Wis., in 1974. Sue arrived in three parts (12,000 lbs. total) and was paid for by local dairymen, businessmen and residents, who wanted to honor and advertise their booming dairy industry.

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The world's largest fiberglass Holstein attracts travelers on Interstate I-94 near New Salem, N. Dak.



The 38-ft. tall, 50-ft. long cow can be seen for 5 miles from her perch on a hill.

"Donkey Lady" Runs Rescue Facility

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

Abused and neglected donkeys have a safe haven in Wisconsin, operated by retired dental office manager Angel Langoski. She moved to Mount Calvary, Wis., seven years ago with the intention of raising Pinto draft horses. Instead, she took in a pair of donkeys, whose owner could no longer care for them. Word spread, more donkeys arrived and she became known as the donkey lady.

Recently, Langoski formed the nonprofit Holyland Donkey Haven, in order to accept contributions to help pay for the donkeys' care. The name, Holyland, is the area she lives in. It's called that because nearby towns are St. Peter, Jericho, and St. Cloud.

So far, she has rehabilitated and adopted out 8 donkeys to new homes. She has 10 donkeys on her farm right now, but the numbers can change quickly.

"Most people just don't know how to care for donkeys," Langoski explains. "They don't think donkeys need their hooves trimmed every 8 weeks like a horse. But they do, because hooves don't wear down in soft pasture. That's the biggest form of neglect. Otherwise, donkeys are easy to care for because of their hardiness."

However, donkeys require a different training style than horses.

"Because of their high intelligence, donkeys get bored easily if you make them repeat something," she explains. Instead of doing the same thing for an hour and a half, she works with a donkey for 15 min. or so, then lets him think about it and works with him again in another day or two.

"Donkeys are very kind, gentle animals,"

she says, and they make great riding animals for children, as well as for driving carts and formal riding events such as dressage.

She has an indoor arena and works with children and adults with special needs. As an example of donkeys' intelligence she tells the story of work done by a woman in England, where donkeys are taken to children's homes for therapy. One task is to pick up an envelope, ride the donkey to the mailbox and mail the letter. One young boy's disabilities prevented him from picking up the envelope — so the donkey did the whole task for him, on his own initiative.

Langoski isolates newcomer donkeys and works with them to rehabilitate them physically, emotionally and socially. It can take weeks before they are ready to be with other donkeys. Langoski encourages their playfulness and creativity by providing the donkeys with balls and mounds of dirt to play on.

Langoski charges a \$650 adoption fee to ensure they are placed in good homes. Some donkeys are put with flocks of sheep to protect them from coyotes. Others are put on pasture to be a companion to a single horse.

"I always say, the donkey picks the person," Langoski says. She relates how a woman came to the farm to adopt a miniature donkey. But when a standard donkey came up to her and nuzzled her, she was smitten and changed her mind.

When owners understand that donkeys need to be trained differently, they can be a better choice than a horse, Langoski says. It only costs about \$500 a year for a



Abused and neglected donkeys have a safe haven in Wisconsin, thanks to Angel Langoski. She rehabilitates donkeys and then finds them new homes.

healthy donkey to have a vet wellness check and shots, farrier hoof trimming and feed. Donkeys eat about 1/5th as much as a horse and thrive on the cheapest hay, along with a little oats, vitamin/mineral supplements and a free-choice mineral block.

Rehabilitating animals takes more money, however, so Langoski holds a few fundraising events. One of them is Donkey Day

(Oct. 6, 2012) with vendors and activities on her farm and a silent auction that includes paintings made by a couple of the donkeys.

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