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“Krazy Ken The Farmer’s Friend” Hard-To-Find Chains Found Here

Finding chain for chain-driven farm machinery is getting tougher and tougher as old companies go out of business and new machinery switches to belts or hydraulic drives.

That’s why business is booming at Farmchains.com. Owner Ken Novak, self-styled “Krazy Ken, the Farmer’s Friend,” says customers can order chains from his website, from the catalog or over the phone.

Novak carries gathering chains, precision roller chains, T-Bar and T-Rod chains, agricultural roller chains, and more. He also carries rare chains like steel detachable.

“I have guys calling up looking for chain for 40 to 50-year-old machines,” he says. “It was the first real ‘ag’ chain. I deal direct with the only manufacturer of steel detachable chain left in the world.”

Farmchains stocks and offers best prices on New Holland round baler upper and floor chains. We supply all brands manure spreader aprons, elevator, conveyor and cross conveyor chains, forage wagon and bunk feeder chains.

Contact: Ken Novak, Farmchains.com, P.O. Box 77, Dixon, Ill. 61021 (ph 800 648-5429; fax 815 288-6790; cnsupply@grics.net; www.farmchains.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 42

Now Is The Time To Prevent Poison Ivy

If you want to eliminate or reduce the agony of a poison ivy infection next summer, now is the time to do something about it. It sounds too good to be true, but for 17 years Eric’s Pharmacy in Shawnee, Okla., has offered a simple treatment that is very effective. Pharmacist and owner, Eric Winegardner uses an old German formulation to create a compound that includes a small amount of Rhus Toxicodendron (the base substance in poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac) and plant resin. It’s sold in packs with three liquid vials. One vial is taken each week for 3 weeks, by holding the liquid in the mouth 30 seconds before swallowing.

“Basically it’s like an oral vaccine,” Winegardner says. It builds immunity against symptoms from the poison plants. He admits he was skeptical when he first got the formula from another pharmacist. Now, he notes, his customers would be very angry if he quit making the Homeopathic compound.

About 75 percent of his customers are local ranchers or businesses like gas and

power companies that buy the solution for their workers. The rest of the sales are made through the pharmacy’s website (\$16.95).

“It has varying degrees of effectiveness. Just about everyone will respond to it. Most become immune, some still get a mild rash. For some it just doesn’t work,” Winegardner says. “But from our experience most people respond to it. It’s changed a lot of people’s lives.”

There are very few side effects with the Homeopathic treatment. He’s only heard of a few people who got a light rash. The crucial thing is to take the treatment during the winter, when poison ivy is dormant. The dose lasts about a year and is safe for young children as well. Winegardner adds that it’s important to avoid using minty mouthwash prior to taking to the solution as it prevents absorption.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eric’s Poison Ivy Treatment, 3306 N. Kickapoo, Shawnee, Okla. 74804 (ph 405 275-9640; www.poisonivyprevention.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 43

Ice Cube “Bullets” Help Prevent Grain Bin Deaths

Don Perrion is saddened every time he hears about a grain bin death when workers go into a bin to dislodge bridged grain. He believes his Grain Worker Life Saver is a device that any farmer can put together. He came up with the idea in 1962 and used it successfully when he farmed in Ipswich, S. Dak.

The Life Saver uses compressed air and ice cube “bullets” to dislodge grain from outside the bin.

“I blast ice cubes from the outside or the top,” Perrion says. He has a trailer with a 12 hp gas engine and 30 cu. ft./min. air compressor with 100 ft. of hose that connects to a 5-gal. tank with a 2-in. valve. It’s the type of tank used to seat beads on tubeless tires that releases a 140-lb. blast of air. That’s enough air to propel an ice cube 600 ft. or knock a couple feet of caked grain off a bin wall.

“Start 2 or 3 ft. down from the top and work your way down. You don’t want the whole works to bury the sweep,” Perrion explains.

The barrel that connects to the tank valve is a 2-in. dia., 4-ft. long steel exhaust pipe. Perrion makes ice cubes in 3-oz. paper cups, tears the paper off and drops one or two at a time into the pipe.

“It’s an insignificant amount of water that doesn’t contaminate the grain. It just gets absorbed,” Perrion notes.

For taller bins, 8-ft. pipe extensions can be



added with cam lock couplings. If the walk-in door isn’t accessible, Perrion uses his Life Saver from the top of the bin. He slips in an ice cube and holds it in place with a paper straw slipped through a 1/4-in. hole drilled through the pipe.

Perrion, who’s in the grain cleaning business, provides instructions on how to make them to anyone interested, and he gives demonstrations locally. With farmers owning most of the parts, the cost can be \$200 or less to buy the tank and valve.

“My idea is to save lives,” he says. “It would please the heck out of me if everyone had one of these in their shop.”

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