

**Editor's
Notebook**



Mark Newhall
Editor &
Publisher

British Farm Inventions

The weekly British farm magazine, *Farmer's Weekly*, holds an invention contest each year. Machinery editor David Cousins was kind enough to send us photos and a few details of this year's winners. Here are a few that caught our eye:

Cow Feeding System - Yorkshire farmer Tim Gibson milks his 200-head cow herd with robots. To improve productivity, he decided to automate mixed ration feeding as well with



Tractor dumps feed into central mixer and automatically controlled paddle feeder brings fresh feed to cows every 2 hrs. A centralized feed mixer that sends feed into the free-stall barns with a chain-paddle system in troughs that works like an inverted barn cleaner. He built the system entirely from scratch, using a big feed blender salvaged from a feed mill and conveyor chain and paddles from a vegetable packing plant. The electric-powered system runs on 3-phase power. Since installing, milk production is up and labor costs are way down. On most days, the farm can be managed by one person. A loader tractor fills the intake hopper with silage while concentrates and grain are delivered via augers. The system is programmed to deliver fresh feed every 2 hrs. (Tim Gibson; tim@tim-gibson.co.uk)

Post Vibrator - John Lord built a machine that "vibrates" fenceposts into the ground rather than driving them. It'll push big wood posts into the ground, pointed or not. The machine consists of a hydraulic vibrator mounted on the outside of a truck tire rim. The tire insulates the loader tractor from the vibration. (John Lord; simonjclord@gmail.com)



Loader-mounted "vibrator" drives posts into ground.

Silage Loader - A group of farmers and custom operators use this giant silage loader built by Joe Williams. It's used to quickly load semi trucks with big loads from dump-style silage wagons.

Giant silage loader fills It'll load 14 tons of silage in just semi trucks in minutes. 5 min. in a clean and safe way, says Williams. (Joe Williams; john.parkins1972@gmail.com)

Remote-Controlled Flatbed Trailer - Student Josiah Jones built this remote-controlled tilting flatbed using an old boat-moving trailer and some electric hydraulic valves taken from a sprayer. The idea is to drive equipment onto the trailer without getting down off the seat. And it eliminates beaver-tail ramps, which create a pivot point when loading tracked equipment. (Josiah Jones; josiahjones@hotmail.com)



Remote-controlled flatbed trailer tilts to ground for easy loading.



"Water jug" bird feeder hangs right outside the window of editor Mark Newhall's office.

"Lazy Man's" Bird Feeder

I like feeding birds but I don't like having to refill feeders all the time. That's why I finally got around to copying an idea from a FARM SHOW story 2 years ago (Vol. 36, No. 6). John Dougoveto's idea was to fill up a large water jug with sunflower seeds, and make a perch at one end using a chunk of stiff wire and a couple of radiator hose clamps. I hung the feeder under the 3-ft. overhang right outside my office window. It took a couple days, but since the birds started coming there has been a steady stream of them.

What I like about this feeder is that it holds a lot of seed and it seems there's a lot less waste because birds hop right inside to grab seeds. I bought the 3-gal. water jug for \$17 online at Amazon.com.

Farming Rights Threatened In California Legal Case

A California land-use case moving through the federal court system should concern farm landowners in all 50 states. It involves "an outrageous federal denial of due process rights and property rights", says the Pacific Legal Foundation, which is representing the defendant in the case.

In February, 2013 - without any notice, hearing, or evidence of an on-site investigation - federal officials ordered Duarte Nursery, Inc. of Modesto, Calif. to shut down its wheat farm in Tehama County in northern California. The Army Corps of Engineers claimed that "deep" plowing was disturbing "wetlands". The PLF says the feds issued this decree without first investigating the alleged infraction or learning the facts.

No deep plowing had taken place, and there hadn't been plowing of any kind on or near wetlands, the Duartes say. The PLF wrote in a news release that "Federal regulators threw due process rights out the window when they ordered a halt to wheat-growing operations on private farmland in Tehama County without giving the property owners advance notice or opportunity for a hearing".

On behalf of the Duarte family, PLF is suing the Army Corps of Engineers over this regulatory decree that shut down a productive farm without justification. The PLF says the Corps and the EPA are proposing changes to the Clean Water Act, which has significant implications for farmers and ranchers. The EPA issued suggested changes that alter what "waters of the United States" means - specifically, the Clean Water Act's unique word "navigable". The Corps desires to expand its authority over wetlands, "leaving farmers in dire situations with land that is unable to be properly farmed".

As of late 2014 the Duartes have been burdened with significant costs because of the legal action. They've gone through two seasons of not being able to produce crops on their property.

The Pacific Legal Foundation is a donor-supported legal-watchdog organization that litigates for limited government, property rights, free enterprise and a balanced approach to environmental regulations, in courts across the country.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pacific Legal Foundation, 930 G Street, Sacramento, Calif. 95814 (ph 916 419-7111; www.pacificlegal.org). **Lorn Manthey, Contributing Editor**

Liberty Quotes

"The reason so many problems do not get solved in Washington is that solving those problems is not the number one priority. Re-election is." **Thomas Sowell**

"The deterioration of every government begins with the decay of the principles on which it was founded." **Charles-Louis De Secondat**

"Prohibition goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation and makes a crime out of things that are not crimes." **Abraham Lincoln**

"Most of the harm in the world is done by good people, and not by accident, lapse, or omission. It is the result of

their deliberate actions, long persevered in, which they hold to be motivated by high ideals toward virtuous ends." **Isabel Paterson**

"At the end of a century that saw the evils of communism, Nazism and other modern tyrannies, the impulse to centralize power remains amazingly persistent." **Joseph Sobran**

"The Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions." **Daniel Webster**

"What is a left-wing socialist but a Marxist without a gun?" **Don Feder**

"When a government takes over a people's economic life it becomes absolute, and when it has become absolute it destroys the arts, the minds, the liberties and the meaning of the people it governs." **Maxwell Anderson**

"Dollar Per Item" Internet Auction

Fed up with high fees on internet auction sites like eBay, Kevin Somers and Steve Schuchter started their own. TractorAuctions.com participants pay just \$10 up front, which allows you to sell up to 10 items.

"A lot of guys are trying to earn extra income with tractors and parts," says Schuchter. "eBay charges a final value fee of 10 percent, and others also charge fees. We wanted to make it simple, easy and as cheap as possible without policing."

He notes that selling on other sites can also be more complicated. "On our site, auction credits don't expire, and if an item doesn't sell, or if there is a reserve on it and the bids don't reach it, the item can be relisted once without cost," explains Schuchter.

He says the concept was well received when they shared it with exhibitors at tractor shows this past summer. "One guy got down on his knees and thanked me," says Schuchter. "Now we are trying to spread the word."

TractorAuctions.com has more than 100 auctions up and running. Schuchter acknowledges that eBay has around 300,000 tractor-related items being auctioned off at any one time. "If we could get 10 percent of that, we'd be happy," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, TractorAuctions.com, LLC, P.O. Box 104, Alexandria, Ky. 41001 (ph 859 592-1840; steve@tractorauctions.com; www.tractorauctions.com).

Points To Ponder

"It is preoccupation with possessions, more than anything else, that prevents us from living freely and nobly." **Bertrand Russell**

"Honesty pays, but it don't seem to pay enough to suit some people." **Frank McKinney Hubbard**

"A veteran - whether active duty, retired, national guard, or reserve - is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a check made payable to 'The United States of America', for an amount of 'up to and including my life'." **Anonymous**

"Live so the preacher doesn't have to tell lies at your funeral." **Anonymous**

"I cannot believe that the purpose of life is to be 'happy'. I think the purpose of life is to be useful, to be responsible, to be compassionate. It is above all, to matter: to count, to stand for something, to have made some difference that you lived at all." **Leo Rosten**

"To speak ill of others is a dishonest way of praising ourselves." **Will Durant**

Ole had to use the outhouse. As he stepped inside, a quarter fell out of his pocket into the hole. Ole stood there looking at it for a moment, then took out his wallet and threw all his paper money - fives, tens and twenties - down the hole. Sven happened to be walking by and saw this. "What are you doink?" Sven said. "Are you crazy?" Ole responded, "You don't tink I'm goink down dere for just a quarter, do you?"

Ole and Sven went deer hunting and Ole accidentally shot Sven. Ole managed to get Sven out of the woods and drove him to the emergency room. After a while, the doctor comes out to Ole in the waiting room.

"Doctor, is my friend going tew be ok? I drovf him here as fast as I could."

"I'm sorry, Ole," the doctor said. "But you know, I think we might have had a better chance of saving him if he hadn't been field-dressed and tied him to the roof of your car!"

Ole took his girlfriend, Lena, to her first football game. Afterward, he asked her how she liked the game.

"I liked it, but I couldn't understand why dey vere killing demselves for just 25 cents," Lena said.

"Vhat dew yew mean?" Ole asked.

"Vell, everyone kept yelling, 'Get the quarter back!'"