

Editor's Notebook



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Vending Machines Replace Small Town Grocery Stores

Our friend Andy Sewell in England was driving through the tiny crossroads town of Clifton in Derbyshire recently when he spotted an unusual-looking vending machine on main street.

He stopped to investigate and found that the machine contained basic grocery items that most people use day-to-day. After asking around, he learned that soon after the small town's only grocery store closed, entrepreneur Peter Fox installed the giant vending machine, which is constructed like a small building. Fox spent 7 1/2 years perfecting the innovative machine, which takes cash or credit cards to issue milk, eggs, toiletries, kitchen essentials, pet food and even umbrellas. The machine is wired to send out emails when its shelves need restocking.



Big vending machine carries everyday staples such as canned goods, milk, eggs and even fresh produce.



Fox says that just like in many rural areas of North America, thousands of small towns in England have lost their local stores so residents have to drive long distances even for the most basic items. His biggest challenge in building the machine was designing mechanisms to handle milk, eggs, and fresh produce.

The mini store is fitted with security cameras and alarms. Customers can check online to make sure what they need is in stock before making the drive into town.

Andy tells us the quality of the automated grocery shop was impressive and that the prices were less than what you'd pay at most gas station stores (www.villagevending.com).

FARM SHOW Meets Mr. Lucas

We're blessed to have a talented staff of writers at FARM SHOW who love digging out "made it myself" inventions and then presenting them in a clear, straight-forward way.

Dee Goerge is one of our best. She recently attended a national gathering of ag writers and had a chance to meet Forrest Lucas, the rags-to-riches founder of Lucas Oil, an oil additive company. They met during a tour of Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the Indianapolis Colts. Lucas told Dee how he got his start running a trucking company. He was fed up with trucks breaking down while crossing the Mojave Desert. He experimented and came up with a "secret sauce" recipe for an oil additive that launched his new company. It wasn't an easy journey, but the down-to-earth Lucas says he never went into debt as he built his business.



FARM SHOW writer Dee Goerge toured Lucas Oil Stadium recently with company founder Forrest Lucas.

In addition to sponsoring the football stadium and a drag-racing team, Lucas owns 2,000 head of top-genetics

Simmentals in the Missouri Ozarks. He also founded an organization called Protect The Harvest (www.protecttheharvest.com) whose mission is to stand up for animal production and fight animal rights groups that have proposed regulations to take away rights of farmers, sportsmen, and animal owners.

My "Best Buys"

Here's a list of some of the "best buys" I've made over the past year or so. I'm an editor, not a farmer, so don't expect any reports on tractors or combines!

Dropcam (amazon.com - \$149) - If you've ever tried to set up a remote security camera, you know it's often a nightmare. Not so with the Dropcam. Just plug it in, go through a couple steps on your smartphone or computer, and you get a video feed you can view anywhere in the world at any time. All it needs is a WiFi signal.



Karcher Pressure Washer (amazon.com; 800-387-3394 - \$179) - Karcher sent FARM SHOW an electric-powered "Follow Me" 1,800 psi mini pressure washer to try. I was pretty skeptical because of its small size. While I would never use it to power wash a barn, I was very impressed when using it to blast off a deck, clean an old dirty concrete sidewalk, and to take the paint off some old porch furniture. Just hook it up to a garden hose and a 110-volt outlet, and press the trigger. The two things I love: It works! And it shuts off when you let up on the trigger so you have silence, unlike my 3,000 psi Honda-powered unit that runs continuously.



Iphone (apple.com) - What is there to say? I finally got rid of my old flip phone about a year ago and can't believe how amazing it is to carry easy access to the internet around in your pocket. Unlike my computer, it never crashes and updates itself flawlessly.

Podcasts ([Itunes.com](http://itunes.com)) Whether you want to learn, be entertained, or follow markets, there's an amazing variety of great stuff out there that beats listening to the radio any day. You can listen on a smartphone or computer.

RDIO - (rdio.com - \$9.95/month) - In my opinion, this is the best streaming music service. You can listen to almost any music ever produced album by album, song by song, or make up your own playlists.

LG Wireless Headphones (amazon.com - \$42.99) - When I'm working around the house or at FARM SHOW on weekends, I like to listen to podcasts or music on my Iphone. These wireless headphones make it easy. They hold a charge for days and can pick up the bluetooth signal from my phone up to about 20 ft. away.



Waterpic Flosser - (amazon.com; 800-525-2774 - \$40) - This product has been around forever and now I know why. It makes "mouth maintenance" easy.

Got a "best" or "worst" buy of your own? Send it to us: Editor@farmshow.com, or mail to: FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

Liberty Quotes

"The deterioration of every government begins with the decay of the principles on which it was founded."
C.L. De Montesquieu

"Occupants of public offices love power and are prone to abuse it."
George Washington

"The more that is given, the less people will work for themselves, and the less they work, the more their poverty will increase."
Leo Tolstoy

"You can only protect your liberties in this world by protecting the other man's freedom. You can only be free if I am free."
Clarence Darrow

"Attack another's rights and you destroy your own."
John Jay Chapman

"Under democracy one party always devotes its chief energies to trying to prove that the other party is unfit to rule. Both commonly succeed, and are right."
H.L. Mencken

"A society of sheep must in time beget a government of wolves."
Paul Valery

"If the First Amendment means anything, it means that a state has no business telling a man, sitting alone in his house, what books he may read or what films he may watch. Our whole constitutional heritage rebels at the

thought of giving government the power to control men's minds."
Justice Thurgood Marshall

"The test for whether one is living in a police state is that those who are charged with enforcing the law are allowed to break the laws with impunity."
Jon Roland

"Nothing can destroy a government more quickly than its failure to observe its own laws, or worse, its disregard of the charter of its own existence."
Justice Tom C. Clark

"Freedom is the right to be wrong, not the right to do wrong."
John G. Diefenbaker

"Laws are like cobwebs which may catch small flies, but let wasps and hornets break through."
Jonathon Swift



Josh Groetsch, right, won the services of volunteers who told him they enjoyed getting their hands dirty on the farm.

Rock Pickers For A Day!

"It was like winning the lottery," says Minnesota dairy farmer Josh Groetsch who recently won the services of 13 rock pickers for a day. The volunteers picked 6 wagonloads of rock off 110 acres on Groetsch's farm near Sauk Centre.

The "rock pickers for a day" contest is a promotion run by Dairy Star, a weekly Minnesota farm newspaper, along with a local credit union. "We wanted a promotion that would help farmers with their least favorite job. It's been very successful," says Mark Klaphake, editor and general manager of Dairy Star noting that employees at the two companies volunteered for the work.

"FARM SHOW" Couple Weds

A couple who met through FARM SHOW recently sent us this photo taken at their wedding wearing FARM SHOW hats.

"They added the perfect touch to our wedding photos since we met because of your story about me," says Christina (Marshall) Woodgate, who married Steve Woodgate a couple years after Steve read about the harp Christina built herself from wood she harvested on her family's farm.



FARM SHOW hats made it into one of Christina and Steve Woodgate's wedding photos!

Now settled on Steve's farm near Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Christina has opened a music studio and joined the local symphony. In lieu of gifts, they had wedding guests donate to a barn fund to help put up new housing for the horses she brought with her from Illinois. You can read more about Christina at our website in Vol. 38, No. 1 and Vol. 29, No. 2.

Ole does not like to go to weddings and he attends very few. Finally his wife Lena dragged him to one.

As they entered the church, an usher asked, "Are you on the groom's side or the bride's?"

Before Lena could reply, Ole exclaimed in a shocked tone, "Uff da! Are dey fighting already?"

Ole and Lena were having dinner at a very fine restaurant one evening. Trying to impress Lena, Ole asked the waiter to bring a bottle of red wine.

"What year?" asked the waiter.
"Vel, right now!" snapped Ole. "Ve vant tew have it vit our dinner!"

After a very long, boring sermon, the minister announced that the board would hold a brief meeting immediately after the benediction. A stranger, Ole, was the first to meet the minister up front after the service.

"You must have misunderstood the announcement," said the minister. "I said a meeting of the board."

"Vell, so I heard," said Ole. "If dere was anyvun more bored den I vas, I would like tew meet him!"

"Waiter, my food is yust terrible!" yelled Ole.

"I'm very sorry, sir," said the waiter. "Do you have any other complaints?"

"Vell, ya," grumbled Ole. "Da servings are yust tew small!"