

**Editor's
Notebook**



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**Editor &
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Charles Matyka built this "tractor" after reading a story in FARM SHOW nearly 40 years ago.

"Tractor" Still Turns Heads

One of the most eye-catching ideas ever featured in FARM SHOW was a "tractor" shown on the cover of FARM SHOW in 1978 (Vol. 2, No. 1).

Michael Radtke of Rib Lake, Wis., recently wrote to tell us about the tractor his 91-year-old grandfather, Charles Matyka, built nearly 40 years ago, based on that original story.

"Once he saw it in FARM SHOW, Grandpa decided he had to build one," Radtke says. "The milk truck driver checked on him every time he stopped. The veterinarian couldn't figure out how it was going to sit level with big tires on back and little ones on front. And the machinist who made the driveshaft simply could not imagine what anybody would need such a short driveshaft for!"

Matyka answered all their questions when he merged a 1958 Ford F-600 truck with a 1960 Massey Harris 44 tractor. With a combination of 25 forward speeds and 5 in reverse, and a pto with 5 speeds and reverse, Matyka put about 12,000 miles on the trucktor doing all kinds of farm work. He used it to spread manure, pull hay wagons, load silos and occasionally pull people out of ditches.

"It became quite famous in our area," says Radtke.

Though it's retired from farm work, the proud grandson takes his grandfather's tractor to local parades and events, including the popular Edgar Steam Show (Aug. 26-28) in central Wisconsin.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Michael Radtke, W4157 Trout Ave., Rib Lake, Wis. 54470 (ph 715 905-0320).

Town Rejects Processing Plant

When word leaked out to residents of Nickerson, Neb., that regional economic development planners had decided to locate a new chicken processing plant in the farming community of 400 people, no one celebrated the 1,100 jobs that would be created. Residents packed the local fire hall to complain that roads couldn't handle the traffic, the stench from the plant would be unbearable, and immigrants and other out-of-towners would flood the area, overwhelming schools and changing the character of the town.

Georgia-based Lincoln Premium Poultry wanted to process 1.6 million chickens a week for warehouse chain Costco. After the town council voted unanimously against the proposed \$300 million plant, the company said they'd take the plant - and their money - and go elsewhere. There have been similar protests against big processing plants in small towns in Iowa, California and Texas. Even though the jobs would have paid \$13 to \$17 an hour, residents of the town said quality of life for long-term residents was more important than the possible economic boost. (AP)



To avoid having to take off muddy boots, John Chestnut made these slippers out of carpet and pvc pipe.

"Mud Slippers"

One of the best parts of my job is opening the mail. You never know what you're going to see.

A recent letter from John Chestnut, Edgerton, Mo., was accompanied by the photo above of his "mud slippers". The first line of the letter said, "If you think this is stupid, just toss it!" But I didn't think it was stupid, and after I showed the picture to my wife, neither did she.

Chestnut explains: "We just got new carpet in the house and my wife told me I was going to have to start taking my boots off, even if I just came in briefly. Since I wear lace-up boots, it's a chore to take them off. So I came up with a solution, making slippers out of pieces of carpet. I assembled a couple foot loops out of small diameter pvc pipe and bolted them to the carpet. My boots slip into them easily and they're easy to clean off with a hose when they get dirty. Problem solved!"

Liberty Quotes

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

"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." *Supreme Court Justice Tom. C. Clark*

"There are two good things in life - freedom of thought and freedom of action." *W. Somerset Maugham*

"The issue today is the same today as it has been throughout all history, whether man shall be allowed to govern himself or be ruled by a small elite." *Thomas Jefferson*

"There is no worse tyranny than to force a man to pay for what he does not want merely because you think it would be good for him." *Robert Heinlein*

"In 1950, the average family of four paid 2 percent of its earnings to federal taxes. Today it pays 24 percent." *William R. Mattox, Jr.*

"Liberty is not collective, it is personal. All liberty is individual liberty." *Calvin Coolidge*

"If you suppose that good intentions justify intruding on the lives and properties of your fellow citizens, I have a question. Do you appreciate being the target of somebody else's good intentions, or haven't you had that particular dubious pleasure yet?" *Cat Farmer*

"The system of private property is the most important guaranty of freedom, not only for those who own property but scarcely less for those who do not." *Friedrich August von Hayek*

"The art of taxation consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest possible amount of feathers with the smallest possible amount of hissing." *Jean Baptiste Colbert*

Jean Baptiste Colbert

Dairy Women Band Together

The Dairy Girl Network has grown from 45 women who met for dinner at the 2013 World Dairy Expo to 2,600 members who have joined through Facebook. Thanks to founder Laura Daniels' enthusiasm and networking skills, more than 1,000 women are expected to attend 10 events held throughout the U.S. in 2016. One of them is the group's first national convention on Nov. 1-3 in Minneapolis.

"Speakers will cover personal development and technical dairy topics," says Daniels, who owns a dairy farm near Cobb, Wis. "I never foresaw what this organization could turn into."

The DGN has a board of directors, is incorporated as a 501(c)(6) non-profit, and has strong corporate sponsors.

Daniels organized the first informal dinner so that out-of-town women visiting the World Dairy Expo would have a welcoming experience and a chance to compare notes with

other women working and living similar lives. All DGN events focus on mixing and introducing people who share work, geography or other interests.

For women who can't get to events, this November DGN will launch Inspire, a mentorship program to connect willing mentors with mentees.

DGN is also helping women meet other dairy-related women in their area to create local peer groups who will meet regularly for lunch or other informal gatherings.

"We hope to form smaller groups of 15 to 20 women so they can build strong bonds," Daniels says. "Times have changed and dairy women don't make as many in-person social connections. Sometimes they don't know the other women in their area who work on dairy operations."

One of the best things about the DGN is that it's free. Members who sign up on the website can request a monthly email newsletter and join a private Facebook page where women can ask questions or give advice and support.

Though "girl" is in the group's name, Daniels says it's an organization for women of all ages. "The term 'girl' is to show that it is non-threatening and that we can have fun and learn from each other," she says.

For more information, go to www.dairygirlnetwork.com.

Father's Day Is Coming Soon

If you've got a father in your family who likes the "best & worst buys" section in FARM SHOW, our new 168-page *Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys* book might be just the right gift. It includes thousands of owner reports from the past 5 years of FARM SHOW, sorted into categories so it's easy to find any product you're interested in. You'll also learn about "best buy" products that you might not have heard about, including "where to buy" contact information. The book is free with a new or renewal subscription.

We've got other best-selling books available, too, including our three 482-page "Encyclopedias of Made It Myself Ideas". You can buy all 3 books at a discount price. See ads in this issue or at our website, www.farmshow.com. You can also give us a call toll-free at 1-800-834-9665.

Points To Ponder

"My son, observe the postage stamp! Its usefulness depends upon its ability to stick to one thing until it gets there." *Josh Billings*

"Fishermen know the sea is dangerous and the storms are terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore." *Vincent van Gogh*

"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what you want them to achieve, and they will surprise you with their ingenuity." *General George S. Patton, Jr.*

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." *Mark Twain*

"Imagination is more important than knowledge." *Albert Einstein*

"I always wanted to be somebody but I should have been more specific." *Lily Tomlin*

Sven and Ole got a pilot to fly them into Canada to go moose hunting. They bagged 4 and, as they started to load the small plane for the return trip, the pilot said the plane could take only 2 moose. Ole objected strenuously. "Last year vee shot 4 and da pilot let us put dem all on board and he had da same plane as you."

Reluctantly, the pilot gave in and all 4 moose were loaded. However, even at full power the little plane couldn't handle the big load and they crashed a few minutes after takeoff. Climbing out of the wreckage, Sven said to Ole, "Any idea vere vee are?"

"Yah!" said Ole. "I tink ve're purdy close to vere ve crashed last year."

Ole came home after a visit to an appliance store and told Lena he had bought a big freezer. "Da sales guy tolt me ve vould save enuff money buying food in bulk to pay for it," he told her excitedly.

"Ole!" said Lena. "Right now, ve're buying our house with vhat ve're saving on rent. And ve're buying movie tickets with money ve're saving on cable TV. And ve're paying for da new car vith money ve're saving on gas. We can't afford to save any more money right now!"

Lars and Ole worked for the public works department in their small town. One day an onlooker watched as Ole would dig a hole and Lars, following behind, would fill it in. They worked up one side of the street and down the other, working furiously.

The onlooker was amazed at how hard they worked but couldn't figure out what they were doing. "Why do you keep digging holes that your partner fills in?"

Ole replied, "Vell, I suppose it looks odd because vee normally haf a 3-man team to plant trees. Sven is da guy who puts da trees in da hole but today he called in sick."

