



Keith Betar brings old Stetson hats back to life, restoring them to like-new condition and occasionally adding embellishments of his own.

His Hobby Is Restoring, Selling Old Stetsons

"I'm always looking for old Stetsons. I like to try and bring them back to life," says Keith Betar. The Texas ranch overseer has been around horses and worn hats all his life. He appreciates quality hats like Stetson, Resistol and Serratelli and finds satisfaction in restoring them to like-new condition. And, occasionally he adds embellishments of his own.

"It's all done by hand," Betar says, explaining he modified a carpet shampoo steamer and mixes up non-chemical solutions to thoroughly clean the hats. He brushes out dirt and stains with baking soda, vinegar and water. Once cleaned, he shapes the hats. Some hats get new feathers or a leather band, but many look as they did when purchased new.

Betar explained that new Stetsons cost anywhere from \$100 to \$5,000. The quality rating is scored by X's on the hat's lining - the more X's the better.

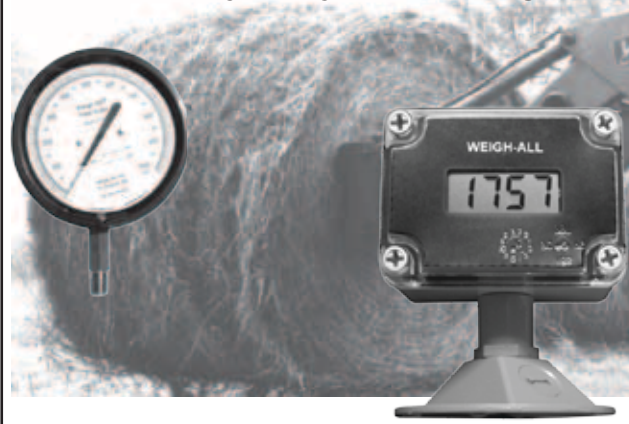
"I can tell by the lining, the band and tag how old it is," he says. He paid \$100 for a hat recently because of its age and quality. Most of the hats he buys come from people in Nevada, Texas and Arizona, but he's purchased hats from many other states as well, based on photos and information sellers provide. After cleaning and shaping them he sells them to buyers all over the U.S., as well as overseas to countries such as Great Britain.

Betar's hat-fixing hobby has led to a small side service business. With fewer Mom-and-Pop stores, hat owners have a hard time finding someone to clean and shape their hats. Between shipping and his time, Betar charges about \$50 for the service.

But his real passion is bringing old hats back to life for new owners who appreciate them.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Keith Betar, 35755 Singing Falls Dr., Temecula, Calif. 92592 (ph 951 767-0626; outwestranch@yahoo.com).

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Water-driven, self-cleaning screen is designed to work in water as shallow as 4 in.

Self-Cleaning Shallow Water Screen

Anyone who depends on surface water for irrigation will be interested in this self-cleaning screen that's designed to work in water as shallow as 4 inches.

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the pontoons. Flowing water moves past a series of paddles, which force the drum to rotate while a stainless steel spray bar mounted inside the drum cleans the screen.

An optional electric drive can be added for use in extreme conditions such as manure lagoons. Also optional is a galvanized lift boom that lets one person quickly swing out and gently lower the Riverscreen to the water surface.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Riverscreen Inc., 1925 Kiowa Road, Clay Center, KS 67432 (ph 785-632-5452; e-mail: Jessica@riverscreen.com; website: www.riverscreen.com).

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