

## AC Converter Makes Electric Milker Mobile

The EZ Power Pak makes the small dairy Ultimate EZ Milker (Vol. 38, No. 1) truly portable. Take it to the pasture or use it where AC power isn't available. The EZ Power Pak turns 20V DeWalt or 18V Milwaukee or Makita batteries into plug-in AC power sources, and not just for the milker.

"We have a 300-watt inverter in the EZ Power Pak," says Buck Wheeler, EZ Animal Products. "The only limitation on use is the amp draw of the item being plugged in."

He has used the battery converter to power a bank of LED strobe lights for shooting photos and video. Each EZ Power Pak is equipped with one AC outlet, as well as a USB outlet for powering up cell phones and other devices.

EZ Power Paks are not interchangeable

with different batteries. "When you order one, just indicate the battery you already have," says Wheeler. "The Power Pak will arrive ready to connect."

He recommends using a 6 Ah battery, but says that even a 5 Ah battery should be good for up to 5 milkings. Other AC uses will depend on power needs. The EZ Power Paks are priced at \$229, regardless of battery connectivity. Wheeler says a 220V unit will be available for foreign markets at a slightly higher price.

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EZ Power Pak turns 20-volt DeWalt or 18-volt Milwaukee or Makita batteries into plug-in AC power sources. Works great to power Wheeler's Ultimate EZ Milker.

## Catalog Features Rare Garden Varieties

Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co. features more than "1,800 amazing heirloom seed varieties." It's packed with vegetables and fruits that we've never seen anywhere else.

Here's a sampling of some that recently caught our eye:

- Chinese Pink Celery is served in high-end restaurants in China and is easier to grow than European-type green celery. Lightly sweet, crunchy and pretty, it may even appeal to fussy eaters.

- Brad's Atomic Grape Tomato explodes with color and sweet flavor. The color changes as they ripen from olive green to red and then brown/blue stripes. Despite the wispy foliage, the plants are rugged and highly productive with tomatoes ranging from a large grape tomato to plum size.

- Jyunpaku Okinawan Pure White Bitter Melon are up to 10 in. long. These Japanese melons actually have a mellow flavor when fully ripe. They can be sliced thin and eaten raw or added to soups. The seeds for this unusual fruit are spendy at \$5/5 seeds.

- Atomic Orange Corn is an open-pollinated soft flint corn developed by Ed Schultz of Bozeman, Mont. It matures in 60 to 80 days. The short 3 to 5-ft. stalks produce 10-in. ears that cover all the orange hues, from bright to russet, with an occasional all-white ear.

- Sichuan Red Beauty Radish also comes from China. Oblong and red from skin to heart it makes great pickles and can be eaten fresh. High in antioxidants it's a nutritious veggie that thrives in cool weather. Plant in late summer or early fall.

- Heirloom Seed Collection is a good choice for gardeners who want to try a little of everything. Store the seeds up to 10 years in the resealable mylar bag the packages come in along with Clyde's Garden Planner. The seeds cover everything from greens to tuber vegetables, to tomatoes, melons, corn and squash. Varieties are selected to be hardy in most U.S. climates. \$48/25 full-sized packets.

Jere Gettle printed the first Baker Creek Heirloom Seed catalog in 1998, and he and his wife, Emilee, offer free shipping with catalog orders. Besides selling seeds, they coordinate events and other businesses at their site in the Ozark Hills.

To get the 2018, 148-page catalog, fill out the form on their website ([www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com)) or download a PDF of the catalog.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co., 2278 Baker Creek Rd., Mansfield, Mo. 65704 (ph 417 924-8917).



Jyunpaku Okinawan Pure White Bitter Melon actually has a mellow flavor when fully ripe. Chinese Pink Celery is served in high-end restaurants in China.



Oblong and red from skin to heart, Sichuan Red Beauty Radish makes great pickles and can be eaten fresh. Atomic Orange Corn comes in different shades of orange.



As it ripens, Brad's Atomic Grape Tomato changes from olive green to red and then produces brown/blue stripes. In total, Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co. offers more than 1,800 heirloom seed varieties.



## High-Power Fans Push Air Where It's Needed

Directional fans from Artex Barn Solutions push a lot of air, and they push it where it's needed. The big fans cover an even bigger area, providing cow cooling solutions.

"Our fans are available for any size herd and most barn types," says John Fleming, ventilation and cooling manager, Artex Barn Solutions. "A 55-in. storm fan has a general coverage area of 10 by 33 ft., and a 72-in. fan has a general coverage area of 18 by 60 ft. in livestock barns. Both fans provide a minimum airflow of 500 ft. per min."

Cooling is a vital component of dairy housing, as heat stress can reduce milk production by 10 to 15 percent and feed intake by the same amount. Cooling fans can help, whether used with high pressure misting, fogging or by themselves. The key is air velocity and direction, according to Artex.

Storm fans, the company's most powerful fans, create extreme velocity with a single 72-in. fan replacing 4 single panel fans or eight 36-in. basket fans. Adjustable louvers can direct the air over and under the cows, as well as around obstacles.

The fully enclosed motors, precision bearing assembly, and quick-change belt systems promise trouble-free operation and easy cleaning. The corrosion-resistant, fiberglass housing includes a thick layer of UV protection. Six balanced, heavy-duty aluminum blades and enclosed motors provide consistent air movement and quiet operation at all speeds.

Fleming emphasizes that it is the company's quality control and company expertise in ventilation that sets its products apart in the marketplace.

"Product design and performance have become very similar across the market," he says. "Our products are manufactured, assembled and fully tested in our factory with only the motor outsourced."

Fleming says the company's hands on control of the manufacturing process offers quality and consistency. He notes that each fan shipped includes an electrical test report.

"This may not sound like much, but many fan sellers order fans from an independent manufacturer or order parts from several



High velocity Storm fans from Barn Solutions come with adjustable louvers that let you direct the air over and under cows, or around obstacles.

suppliers and simply assemble the fans," says Fleming.

The company offers a full range of cow comfort solutions from ventilation to lighting. Products are available through the company's

dealer network.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Artex Barn Solutions, P.O. Box 4111, Sumas Way RPO, Abbotsford, B.C. Canada V2S 8R1 (ph 604 870-1000; [www.artexbarn.com](http://www.artexbarn.com)).