

**Editor's
Notebook**



**Mark Newhall
Editor**

There's A New Guy Around Here

I started working for FARM SHOW in 1978, one year after founder Harold Johnson and his wife, Joan, launched it from a closet-sized office here in Lakeville, Minn. In 1994 I took over and have served as both editor and publisher ever since.

I'm happy to announce that once again things are changing a bit around here thanks to Scott Geyer, who took over as owner and publisher in February. Scott has worked with us for more than 25 years as our printing sales rep and later as the General Manager of the printing plant where FARM SHOW has been printed since it started. In the course of his career, Scott has worked with hundreds of magazine publishers. There aren't many people who know the publishing business as well as he does.



New owner and publisher of FARM SHOW Scott Geyer has worked closely with our staff for many years. Former publisher Mark Newhall will continue to serve as editor.

Scott studied journalism at South Dakota State University after living in New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Illinois and South Dakota as a youth. He's worked in printing and publishing all his life and has been a big fan of FARM SHOW since I met him in 1991. I'm thrilled that he was interested in joining us here.

I plan to continue on as editor for the foreseeable future. Bringing Scott on board will give me more time to write and work with the "made it myself" inventors and companies we cover. (My email/phone are at the bottom of this page.)

You can reach Scott by email - scott@farmshow.com - or by phone at 1-800-834-9665.

World's Largest Insect Farm

Large scale production of black fly larvae in North America is getting a big boost from a new 180,000 sq. ft. plant that recently opened in Balzak, Alberta. The \$30 million plant grinds up waste animal products from packing plants and other sources - along with plant material, bakery waste, and even manure - and feeds the "salsa-like" mix to large batches of fly larvae. The insatiable insect eaters mate within 2 days and each female deposits as many as 500 eggs. The adults die and groups of eggs hatch about 4 days later, releasing new batches of larvae.

"Our first few years were spent learning how to grow them," says Victoria Leung at Enterra, the company behind the insect-growing operation. "It's the hatchery with its mating and breeding that is the tricky part. We operate a continuous batch system and start new containers of larvae every day."

The company developed the process over several years before building its first commercial scale pilot plant in Langley, British Columbia in 2015. Production of grubs, protein, and oil has been sold out most of the time due to high demand.

The customer base includes fish and poultry feed producers as well as pet food companies. Black fly larvae are so efficient at converting food waste into protein and oils that they're very competitive with other feed ingredients. The fact that insects are a natural part of the diets of many animals is also important since the market for whole grubs is growing as feed for chickens, wild birds, and fish.

Enterra already has plans to build 2 more big plants in Vancouver and Ohio. Another company called EnviroFlight recently opened a black soldier fly production facility in

Kentucky, producing 3,200 tons annually of grubs, protein meal, and oils using raw material from breweries, distilleries, and the baking industry.

Hay Burner Once Kept Settlers Warm

Early settlers on the prairies didn't have much wood available, so they burned what they had, whether buffalo chips or cow chips. In many areas, prairie hay became an important fuel source.

According to the Nebraska State Historical Society, the practice was especially common in the central and northern parts of that state.

Burning loose grass required constant attention as it was fed into stoves. Twisted grass provided more concentrated heat.

In 1876 a patent was granted to a Dakota Territory resident for a machine to twist hay or straw for fuel. Such machines twisted the stems and cut them to length.

Special stoves were designed just for burning hay, with patents issued for at least 5 hay burners between 1877 and 1882. The first of these, the 1878 vintage hay burner shown above, was donated to the Society in 1934. It used removable, spring-operated, cylindrical magazines to feed hay into the stove. A supply of packed cylinders would be kept on hand to be quickly inserted as needed.

Another common design was the wash boiler stove. A metal container stuffed with grass was turned upside down over the firebox and connected to the stove. Reportedly, it could hold a fire for 2 hrs. if tightly packed.

The cylinder stove and the wash boiler stove were multi-purpose. In addition to being space heaters, they served as cooktops and ovens.

According to one early settler, burning grass was superior to wood. In an 1877 letter to his brother, Daniel Oaks said, "Now D.B. I would like to tell you about how we get along without wood for fuel. Instead of working my team to death hauling wood from 20 miles away, I just take my mower and horses and go down to the Sioux bottom. In two days I can cut and put up enough hay to last me one year."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nebraska State Historical Society, P.O. Box 82554, Lincoln, Neb. 68501 (ph 402 471-3270).



This patented "twisted hay burner" used removable, spring-operated cylindrical magazines to feed hay into the stove. A supply of packed cylinders would be kept at the ready.

Liberty Quotes

"I know of but one freedom and that is freedom of the mind." *Antoine De Saint-Exupery*

"Children should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom." *John Adams*

"Universities should be safe havens where ruthless examination of realities will not be distorted by the aim to please or inhibited by the risk of displeasure." *Kingman Brewster*

"I tell you true, liberty is the best of all things; never live beneath the noose of a servile halter." *William Wallace*

"Non-cooperation with evil is as much a duty as is cooperation with good." *Mahatma Ghandhi*

"There is only one success: to be able to spend your life in your own way, and not to give others absurd maddening claims upon it." *Christopher Darlington Morley*

"Freedom of speech is the whole thing, the whole ball game. Free speech is life itself. What is freedom of expression? Without the freedom to offend, it ceases to exist." *Salman Rushdie*

"What is ominous is the ease with which some people go from saying that they don't like something to saying that the government should forbid it. When you go down that road, don't expect freedom to survive very long." *Thomas Sowell*

"Our Republic was not established by cowards and cowards will not preserve it. This will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." *Elmer Davis*

"The Constitution is not neutral. It was designed to take the government off the backs of people." *Justice William O. Douglas*

"Self-reliance is the only road to true freedom, and being one's own person is its ultimate reward." *Patricia Sampson*

Here's a tip for keeping boot laces the same length from side to side. When I put in a new set of laces, I put a knot in the center of the lace prior to threading it into my shoe. The knot keeps the lace centered so neither side ever gets longer than the other. *Dennis Strahle, Eagle, Mich.*



Readers Respond To "Clean Up Rusty Tools With Water" Story

Several readers responded to Jim Ruen's story in the last issue about removing rust from tools and parts by soaking them in a bucket of plain water. Some had their own variations.

Duane Ramseyer of Idaho says running water does a better job than still water at removing rust. He ties tools and other rusty items to a stake or post and drops them in irrigation canals.

"It will take about a third of the rust off the first time," he says. "I'll pound the piece with a hammer on an anvil to loosen remaining rust and put them back under the water."

Richard Peterson, a Minnesota reader, sent in a note telling us he adds orange Kool-Aid to the water. An internet search suggested that any type of Kool-Aid should work due to the citric and ascorbic acids in the mix.

"I was an antiques dealer at one time and read back then about using Kool-Aid to remove rust," says Peterson. "I had a bunch of old planter plates and other rusty items. Recently, I dropped them into a pail of water with a packet of Kool-Aid. In a day or two they were practically like new."

Other suggestions include a 50/50 mix of vinegar and water, with some users suggesting rust could then be rubbed away in a few hours. Cola drinks, which contain phosphoric acid, are also suggested for rust removal. Perhaps the most surprising idea is to use a 9:1 mix of water and molasses.

One concern raised with acetic acid mixes such as vinegar is that they also accelerate rusting on bare metal. So it's important to rinse the items well once the rust is removed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Ruen, 33750 Forster Rd., La Crescent, Minn. 55947 (ph 507 895-2229; farmshowjim@gmail.com).

Points To Ponder

- "When faced with the truth, people either accept it or get angry. The truth often hurts, but it only hurts the guilty. To them, truth is offensive." *Benjamin Haldeman*
- "Food is an important part of a balanced diet." *Fran Lebowitz*
- "Yesterday's home runs don't win today's games." *Babe Ruth*
- "I have seen the future and it is very much like the present, only longer." *Kahlil Gibran*
- "You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great." *Zig Ziglar*
- "Reality is that which, when you stop believing in it, doesn't go away." *Phillip K. Dick*
- "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder." *Steven Wright*
- "The one predominant duty we all have is to find one's work and do it." *Charlotte Perkins Gilman*

Sven and Ole heard about a local livestock organization that would pay a \$5,000 bounty for every live wolf captured. They headed to the woods and hunted for days. One night, sleeping by the campfire, Ole woke up and saw that they were surrounded by 50 hungry, ferocious wolves. He yelled at Sven, "Hey! Wake up, Sven. We're rich!"

Ole died and went to heaven, where he saw two gates. One gate had a sign saying, "For men whose wives ruled over them." The other said, "For men who were the head of their house." The line for the men whose wives ruled over them was as long as the eye could see. But Ole was the only one standing in front of the "head of house" gate. St. Peter asked him, "Why are you standing in this line?" Ole responded, "I don't know why. My wife told me to stand here."

Ole was working with cattle out on pasture one day when he was approached by a stranger and asked how much he thought his prize cow was worth. Ole thought for a moment, looked at the stranger closely, and then said, "Vell, dat depends. Are you da tax assessor or vas she kilt by yur car?"

A woman asked her mechanic, Sven, to put air in her car's tires. When she saw the bill, she noticed a \$20 charge for the service.

"Twenty dollars!" she said. "Last time I was in here you put air in my tires for free." "Vell," said Sven, "Dats inflation fer yew!"