

**Editor's Notebook**



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Editor & Publisher

**Recent Farm Show Finds!**

Just before this issue went to press, I attended the Farm Progress Show in Decatur, Ill. Earlier in August, I went to Farmfest and Dakotafest. Here are a few things that caught my eye. We'll have more next issue.



**Hagie Weed Zapper** – Clarksons Farm in Cerro Gordo, Ill., promoted their custom weed zapping service designed to kill waterhemp and other pesticide-resistant weeds with 15,000 volts. ([www.clarkson-farm.com](http://www.clarkson-farm.com))



**Big Brute** – Welker Farms, early Big Bud adopters, say their 425-hp, self-propelled sprayer was built to look like a brother to their giant tractors. It was on-site at Farm Progress. ([www.welkerfarmsinc.com](http://www.welkerfarmsinc.com))



**Deere Tank Scales** – Deere's 1910 scales for air seeders help you work faster by knowing exactly how much product is left in your tanks. Makes it easier to calibrate application rates.



**New Row Crop Planter** – Re-Envision Ag says it has developed the first new planting system in 70 years. There are no double disc openers. Instead, it uses a cone-shaped "dibble" to provide exact placement even in difficult conditions, widening the planting window by several days. ([www.reenvisionag.com](http://www.reenvisionag.com))



**Camera Analyzes Crops** – Camera mounts on any vehicle. As you drive through fields, it uploads real-time data to the cloud on crop needs and potential problems. ([www.bloomfield.ai](http://www.bloomfield.ai))



**Next Combine Makes U.S. Debut** – The 45-ft. wide Next power unit is designed to carry a combine, planter, and tillage units as needed, eliminating the need for tractors in the field. The U-shaped carrier pivots 90 degrees for road travel. First featured in our Vol. 46, No. 1 issue. ([www.next.de/en/](http://www.next.de/en/))



**Cableless Feed Truck** – This self-driving feed truck is still at the concept stage but is designed to reduce labor and deliver more consistent rations to livestock. ([www.ala.engineering](http://www.ala.engineering))

**Loud Noise In F-150 Pickups**

Have you heard an ear-splitting crashing sound inside the cab of your Ford F-150 pickup lately?

Reportedly, some owners of recent model F-150s have been driving along normally when the truck's audio system suddenly emits an extremely loud crashing sound followed by blaring static. The *Wall Street Journal* reported that one owner of a 2022 model who heard the noise thought a golf ball had crashed through one of the windows.

Other owners have described it as a "sonic boom". In some cases, drivers were able to turn off the sound right away. Others say it lasted for 15 min. or more, continuing

even after the vehicle was shut down.

Ford issued a technical service bulletin to dealers this summer, saying it was related to the amplifier in the vehicle's sound system. The bulletin covers 2021-23 F-150s and Expedition SUVs as well as Ford's 2022 F-150 Lightning electric truck.

Ford developed a software fix that customers can get at a dealership or through a downloadable update.

**Medical Robots Coming To The Farm**

Robotic arms are routinely used to perform delicate surgeries on human bodies. So what could make more sense than bringing those robotics out to the farm to take on the tricky task of selecting and picking ripe berries?

That's what a research team from Arkansas and Georgia has been doing with a prototype machine that picks blackberries. Until now, harvesting berries has required the human hand to prevent squishing. That's become a problem as farms struggle to find enough people to pick them.

Co-leader of the project is Georgia Institute of Technology's Professor Yue Chen. Chen has a background in medical robotics and was one of the first to identify the similarities between the needs of the medical field and agriculture. "Mathematically, grasping a delicate fruit is similar to taking a piece of tissue from a patient," he says. "Both rely on extremely accurate motion control and navigation."

Chen joined forces with Renee Threlfall, a food science researcher at the University of Arkansas, and two graduate students. They began by studying how much force humans use to pick blackberries by using silicone finger caps threaded with biometric sensors. The graduate students picked thousands of berries with the finger caps on.

People primarily use three fingers while picking berries and about one-half-Newton of force. This data was used to build a three-fingered silicone hand capable of grabbing and pulling berries off the bush using the same pressure.

"The latest machine uses a new version of our soft robotic gripper and a stereotactic camera to identify ripe berries and harvest them autonomously - with no human input. Berry locations are identified by the stereotactic camera using a machine learning algorithm, and the ripeness of the berries is evaluated by an onboard infrared sensor."

Check out this video to see the robot berry picker in action: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=61rDpQN9-wM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61rDpQN9-wM)

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Medical robotic techniques were used to develop this 3-fingered berry picker.

**Liberty Quotes**

"In a free society the state does not administer the affairs of men. It administers justice among men who conduct their own affairs." *Walter Lippmann*

"That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

*Abraham Lincoln*

"Freedom lies in being bold." *Robert Frost*

"The clash of ideas is the sound of freedom."

*Lady Bird Johnson*

"Those who suppress freedom always do so in the name of law and order." *John V. Lindsay*

"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*

"I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

*Thomas Jefferson*

"Authority has every reason to fear the skeptic, for authority can rarely survive in the face of doubt."

*Robert Lindner*

"We must never cease to proclaim in fearless tones the great principles of freedom and the rights of man which are the joint inheritance of the English-speaking world and which through the Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights, Habeas Corpus, Trial by Jury, and English common law, find their most famous expression in the American Declaration of Independence." *Winston Churchill*

"At the end of a century that has seen the evils of communism, fascism, and other modern tyrannies, the impulse to centralize power remains amazingly persistent." *Joseph Sobran*

**Recipe For Preserving Children**

- 6 Young children
- 1 Large grassy field
- 3 Dogs
- Flowers
- A babbling brook with pebbles
- Hot sun
- Deep blue sky

Mix the children and dogs together and empty them out into the field, stirring continuously. Sprinkle the field with flowers and pour the brook gently over the pebbles.

Cover all with a deep blue sky and bake in hot sun. Once children are well-browned and tired, they may be removed. Cool off in a soapy bathtub.

**Points To Ponder**

- "Everything is habit-forming, so make sure what you do is what you want to be doing." *Wilt Chamberlain*
- "Nothing is worth more than laughter." *Frida Kahlo*
- "Truth is always exciting. Speak it, then; life is dull without it." *Pearl S. Buck*
- "When somebody lies, somebody loses." *Stephanie Ericsson*
- "Love is blind, marriage is a real eye opener." *Gary Samson*
- "A problem is a chance to do your best." *Duke Ellington*
- "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." *Muhammad Ali*
- "A shoe that fits one person pinches another; there is no recipe for living that suits all cases." *Carl Gustav Jung*
- "People take different roads seeking fulfillment and happiness. Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've gotten lost." *H. Jackson Brown, Jr.*
- "Toleration is good for all or it is good for none." *Edmund Burke*

**Everything About Bees**

- Honey is the only food with every substance needed to sustain life
- Honey doesn't ever turn bad; you can actually eat honey found in Egyptian tombs that are thousands of years old
- A single bee produces just half a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime
- Honey has been used as an antibacterial and antifungal for generations
- Honey is a natural sleep aid; add a shot of honey to a cup of chamomile tea before sleep
- To make one pound of honey, bees need to visit 2 million flowers
- Bees don't sleep
- Honey helps heal burns
- Babies under 12 mos. of age shouldn't eat honey because their immune system isn't strong enough to handle a certain strain of bacteria often found in honey
- Without bees, over a third of all food eaten in America wouldn't exist
- Bees communicate with other bees by dancing
- How did bees know to make honeycombs into hexagons? It's the most efficient shape to store the maximum amount of honey with the least amount of wax.

**Sven and Ole got a job putting in telephone poles.** After the first day, the foreman asked how many poles they had put in.

"Two," said Ole.

"Only two?!" exclaimed the foreman. "All the other crews put in eight to ten."

"Ya," said Ole. "But did yew see how much dey left sticking out?"

**Ole and Sven were out fishing one day** when Sven asked, "Why do scuba divers always fall backwards off dere boats?"

Ole thought about it for a few minutes and then said, "Vell, if dey fell forwards dey'd still be in da boat."

**Ole and Sven went on a pricey out-of-town fishing trip** with a guide and returned home with only one fish.

"The way I figger it, dat fish cost us \$400," said Sven.

"Vell," replied Ole, "At dat price it's a good ting ve didn't catch anymore."

**Ole was chased down on the highway** by a state trooper. Once he caught up to Ole, the trooper said, "It's late and I'm due to go off shift soon. Give me a good reason why you were speeding and I'll forget about giving you a ticket."

Ole thought a bit, then said, "My wife ran off with a trooper and I tought yew vere bringing her back."

**Ole was stopped on the highway** by a police officer at 2:00 a.m. who asked, "Where are you going at this time of night?"

Ole replied, "I'm on my way tew a lecture on da dangers of alcohol and its negative effects on da human body, as well as smoking and staying out late."

The officer then said, "Really? Who's giving a lecture like that at this time of night?"

"Dat's my wife," said Ole.