

Don Zavislan prepares to remove a cast. It has no rough edges so animal can't rub it off.

"WE'VE NEVER HAD A REPAIR JOB FAIL"

Look What They're Doing With Hornless Longhorns

By Patty Jones

What! A Texas Longhorn with no horns? Just think how Fred Bohn, Liberty, Mo., felt when he took his prize heifer to the vet's to repair a broken horn, and returned to find blood dripping down both sides of her head.

The vet had fouled up by sawing both her horns off so they'd match!

The sickening part of our polled Texas Longhorn story is that there might have been some hope in saving the broken horns. Don Zavislan, Texas Longhorn breeder from Pueblo, Colorado, has several tips for breeders who might find an injured horn.

The first sign of a "loose or damaged" horn will be blood coming from either side of the nose. "It may appear to be alright, but these small cracks or slight breaks can start a horn growing crooked or cause the shell to fall off if not treated," according to Zavislan.

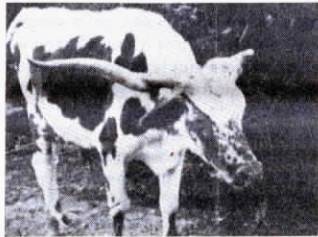
So you ask, "When can the horn be repaired, depending on how bad the break is?"

Zavislan claims that most breaks can be repaired with plaster casts even when "they're just hanging by the skin. Of course the sooner they're repaired, the better chance you have of saving the horn. Immediately, is best," he says.

"The result is a cow with a horn that has a slight growth ring where the cast was, but with equal horn length on both sides of her head. There's no price depreciation on our cattle because of an injured horn!"

"If you're in doubt of whether or not the horn is repairable, go ahead and repair it. We've never had one fail and we've had some bad ones," says Don.

"Now, the types of breaks I'm



This broken horn could have been restored.

talking about are breaks at the base of the horn. If a horn breaks at the tip, your chances of saving it are next to none. The best thing to do if a tip breaks is to cut off the damaged part as far out as you can."

The horns will wear anyway with normal horn growth, but if they're shattered and not cleaned up, they'll continue to shatter until they're all the way down to the core. If you rasp-off the broken part, you'll be surprised how they'll eventually blend in.

Applying the casting material is a simple procedure. The material needed is inexpensive and consists of four-inch wide rolls of plaster cast. You'll need a minimum of three rolls of plaster cast each time you cast a set of horns. If the cattle are going to be roped, be sure and use half-inch wide rebar to reinforce the casting. Rebar is the material used in construction that reinforces concrete. If the cattle will just be turned out, rebar isn't necessary.

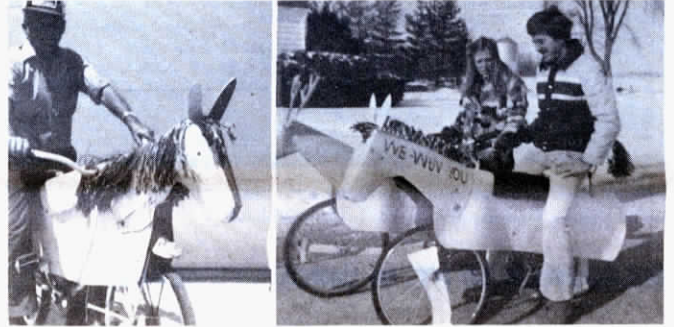
Don says he has repaired some pretty bad breaks, even when the horn is hanging clear down the side of the cow's head. The trick to the whole thing is getting there soon enough to repair it before an infection

FARM SHOW



Editor's Note: Most of what goes into Ag World stems from story ideas sent to us by readers. This special section of FARM SHOW touches on the lighter side of farming and ranching — everything from human interest stories, to unusual hobbies, to unique things farm families are doing for fun or profit.

If you've read or heard a good Ag World type story you'd like to share with others, send it to: FARM SHOW, Box 704, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.



"Horse mobiles" have an off-center front wheel that makes them gallop. Carl Wenzinger, left, is working on a "pig mobile" and a "camel mobile".

GALLOPS LIKE A REAL HORSE

"Horse Powered" Bicycle

Something that will soon join the country-western fad that's sweeping the country is a "horse-mobile".

That's the name given to a bicycle modified to look like and ride like a horse. It's the creation of retired farmer Carl Wenzinger of New Bavaria, Ohio.

Wenzinger built his first one from a 26 in. bicycle frame and 24 in. wheels. The trickiest part of it was mounting the front wheel off-center

sets in or the blood supply has been damaged.

Owen McGill, of Wheatland, Wyo., had a Texas Longhorn that shelled a horn completely. He was there when it happened, put the horn back in place, and casted it immediately. The cow is now fine and her horns are still growing, even though this happened over three years ago.

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to give the vehicle a bouncing or galloping effect when it moves.

A horse's head and body made of heavy plastic are finished off with a rope tail and mane to simulate the appearance of a real horse.

"It's been a real hit in parades," says Wenzinger. "A lot of people wanted one, so I bought 50 old bikes to convert into horse-mobiles. This winter, I'm working on a patent and organizing a company to build and market them."

Wenzinger has also made a "deer-mobile", and plans to develop a pig-mobile, and a camel-mobile from a bicycle built for two.

Other variations on the drawing board include a horse-mobile with a monkey that plays a drum and cymbal, and a team of horses and cart that will run by battery and electric motor.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carl Wenzinger, New Bavaria, Ohio 43548 (ph 419 653-8652).