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### "BEST SILAGE CORN EVER"

## Farmer/Seed Breeder Develops Giant Corn

"We think it's the biggest breakthrough ever in corn silage," says plant breeder and farmer Leonard Juhnke, Sedgwick, Kan., about the gigantic silage corn he developed by combining eight different crosses from all different geographic areas in the U.S. Juhnke, who also sells his own wheat varieties, put the corn on the market for the first time last fall.

The gigantic corn grows to heights of 17 ft. and produces twice the tonnage per acre as conventional varieties at lower plant populations, according to Juhnke. "Its stalks are as big around as a man's wrist. TDN tests out at 90.21 versus 80 to 85 for many silage varieties. Protein from our crop last fall tested at 12.32% versus about 8% for my other corn. Crude fiber tests at 3.41% and fat at 5.4%. This is a corn that's bred for

silage. Other silage corn is just seed corn that's being used for silage," states Juhnke.

Ears on the open-pollinated corn are multi-colored with blue, white, yellow and red kernels. Because the red tends to dominate, Juhnke says growers will have to go back to the original cross — buying more seed from him — every few years.

"I've been working on this corn for 11 years. It'll grow anywhere in the country, with protein content rising higher the further north you go," says Juhnke.

The new silage corn sells for \$100 per bu.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leonard J. Juhnke, Sedgwick, Kan. 67135 (ph 316 772-5638).

## Gardener Grows "Goliath" Corn

"Someday this variety might provide the genetic basis for a tremendous silage corn," says Thane Earle, a Whitewater, Wis., gardener whose hobby is collecting rare seeds with the purpose of preserving near extinct varieties for future generations of farmers.

Earle owns seeds from over 160 varieties of corn, giving him one of the largest private collections in the country. He also owns seeds to more than 550 varieties of tomatoes and many other rare plants.

His gigantic 15 to 20-ft. tall corn originated in the Honduras in Central America. It's got a stalk that's as big as a baseball bat and gets 2 to 3 ears.

Earle plants more than 100 corn varieties each year and has had to develop practical methods to keep track of them. To avoid contamination, all plants are hand-pollinated.



"Nearly 80% of all commercial seeds are now hybrids. We're in danger of losing much of our genetic diversity in this country," says Earle, who's a member of Seed Saver's Exchange, headquartered in De-



Wedge-shaped point welds to bottom edge of shoe.

## Add-On Point For IH Planters

Donald Gooden, president of Valley Mfg. Co., Emmons, Minn., has come up with a way to rebuild worn Inter-

national 400 and 500 planter shoes so they'll once again leave a properly shaped seed furrow.

"A new planter shoe costs around \$22," says Gooden. "My 'planter shoe wedge,' costs just \$4.00. The wedge is narrowed to a point and welds onto the shoe plate."

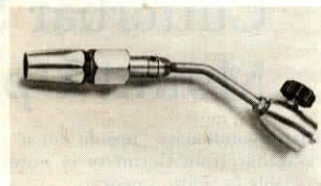
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donald Gooden, Valley, Mfg. Co., Emmons, Minn. 56029 (ph 507 297-5750).

## Gas Calf Dehorner

"It developed out of frustration with electric units that are slow heating and require long lengths of extension cord," says Daniel Stoffel, manufacturer of the first gas-heated calf dehorner.

The dehorner works like an electric dehorner in that it uses heat to kill the horn's growth cells causing the horn bud to atrophy and fall off. The advantage is that it maintains its high heat consistently, minimizing stress to animals, and is portable. Like other dehorners, it is also virtually bloodless, which eliminates fly and infection problems that can occur when using a knife to dehorn.

The solid brass dehorner tip is fit-



ted to a heavy-duty burner that attaches to any standard hand-held propane tank. Sells for \$44.95, shipping included.

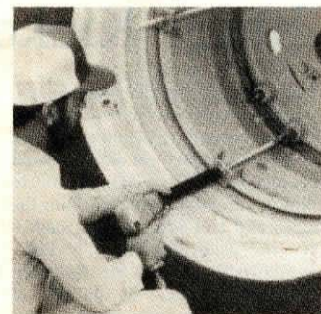
For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Daniel W. Stoffel, Carin Mfg. Corp., 4632 Hwy. 28, Kewaskum, Wis. 53040 (ph 414 626-4577).

## Tractor Dual Deep Socket

"Saves busted knuckles," says the manufacturer of this new deep socket for impact wrench or ratchet that takes the hard work out of removing tractor dual clamps, or getting into other hard-to-reach spots.

The approximately 1-ft. long socket is available in 1-1/16-in. and 1-1/8-in. sizes and fits a 1/2-in. impact wrench or ratchet. Sells for \$24.95.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, HR Manufacturing Co., Rt. 1, Box 71, Pender, Neb. 68047 (ph 402 385-3220).



corah, Iowa, which is an organization of gardeners who freely exchange rare seeds in an effort to preserve unusual varieties. (Earle would like to hear from anyone with rare seeds to trade or sell. Contact: Thane Earle, Rt. 2, Box 287, Whitewater, Wis. 53190 ph 414 473-2174).

Seed Saver's Exchange, started by Ken Whealy, publishes catalogues each year that list available rare seeds. Members of the exchange simply exchange small samples of their own rare seeds to get new ones

while outsiders pay a small fee for a sample.

Members of Seed Savers are a dedicated lot who get together once a year. "At our meeting last summer there was a garden plot that contained over 370 different varieties of squash, along with many other unusual plant varieties," says Earle.

A yearly membership in Seed Saver's Exchange costs \$10.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Whealy, Seed Savers Exchange, 203 Rural Ave., Decorah, Iowa 52101.