

Pickup Supplies Hot Water To Pressure Washer

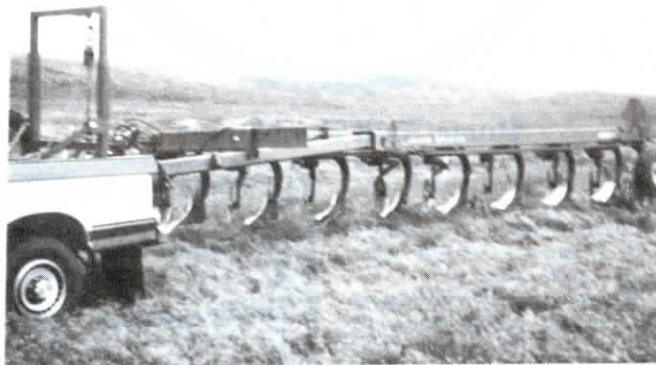
Canadian farmer Brian Hallet saved money by buying an inexpensive pressure washer and then hooking it up to his 1977 Chevy pickup to get hot pressurized water for machinery cleanup.

The Stettler, Alberta, farmer says he couldn't justify buying a commercial hot-water pressure washer but he wanted to wash with hot water because it cuts cleanup time in half. First he tried hooking up to household plumbing but the hot water heater couldn't keep up.

So he decided to put an old retired pickup to good use. He connected a cold water hose

to the heater line. As the engine idles, water circulates through the radiator and block, where it heats up to 140°. Another line carries this hot water back to the pressure washer. The only extra equipment needed was a pressure regulator on the cold water line feeding the truck so he could match input of water with the output of the pressure washer.

"I hook it up and wash continuously with plenty of hot water," says Hallett. "It's far better than a cold water wash, for a very small price." (*Country Guide Magazine*)



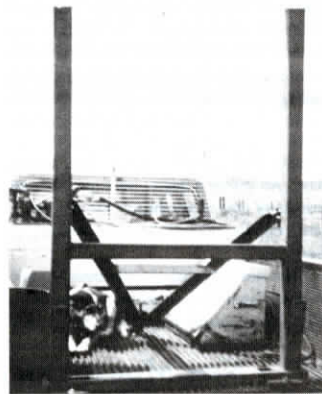
Transport Hitch For Farm Pickups

"When people see me pulling an 8-bottom plow with my pickup I tell them I've got the world's most powerful farm truck," jokes Ronald McCoy, Crookston, Neb., who actually only uses the pickup to transport the plow from farm to farm using a special lift frame he built for his pickup that lets him transport equipment at road speeds.

He mounted the rectangular frame, made out of steel tubing, at the back edge of the pickup box. It's held in place by a triangular brace that attaches to the fifth wheel ball hitch. A chain winch hangs from a hook at the top of the frame and fastens directly to the trailing equipment.

"Lets me tow equipment at 40 mph down the road between farms. I always get strange looks from people when they see me pulling a big plow or other equipment with the pickup," says McCoy.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Ronald F. McCoy, Box 11, Crookston, Neb. 69212 (ph 402 425-3224).

Automatic Sheep Counter

British farmer Dylan Jones, who runs a 600-head sheep flock near Corwen, in North Wales, made a nifty automatic sheep counter to make it easy for one man to work and count sheep at the same time.

His counter attaches to the side of a sheep race or similar narrow area through which sheep pass for dipping, shearing, etc. A small pivoting spring-loaded gate is pushed forward each time a sheep passes, triggering a simple, mechanical counter which he salvaged from an old copying machine. Once the sheep has passed, the gate springs back into the closed position. One side benefit is that the gate keeps sheep from backing up. It telescopes up and down to adapt to different size animals.

Jones says the gate saves time and labor since he no longer needs to have an extra man there to count sheep passing through. (*Farmer's Weekly*)



Photo shows airtight layer of candy coating across top of bunker silo filled with cracked corn.

Bunker Silos Sealed With Candy Coating

"It's like frosting on a cake," says Don Stickle, Jr., of Don Stickle & Sons Farms, Inc., about the ground-up candy coating they use to seal up silage and cracked corn in bunker silos.

Stickle says that before discovering candy coating, they tried just about every method of sealing silos including oils, lime and conventional plastic covers. "Nothing else provided the air-tight seal we get with candy," he says.

The Stickle's, who sell the specially-mixed candy coating in addition to using it in their own 9,000-head feedlot operation, have contracts with candy factories around the Midwest to buy up unused candy that would otherwise go to waste. The mix includes virtually every type of candy, including chocolate (they won't say what brands). It's

ground up along with a mixture of small grains and then spread out over the top of a bunk with a loader in a layer 6 to 10 in. thick. Once in place, the candy melts into a syrupy semi-solid state that dries to a solid coating, tightly sealing up the pile. When it comes to feeding out, the candy crust is simply mixed into the silage and fed right along with it. In fact, the Stickle's also sell the candy mixture as a feed additive, recommending that cattle receive 8 lbs. per head per day.

The candy coating sells for about \$65 a ton, depending on quantity. They ship semi loads to customers up to 300 miles away.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Stickle & Sons Farms, Inc., 3969 Buffalo Ridge Road, Anamosa, Iowa 52205 (ph 319 462-2030 or 2035).

Cow Milking Service

The dairy industry probably loses more farmers to the twice-daily, year-round grind of milking their herds than to fluctuating prices. Geraldine Dittus took advantage of that fact in starting a new sideline cow milking service.

The Almont, North Dakota farmer simply ran a 3-word ad in the weekly *New Salem Journal* last year that stated, "Will Do Milking", and received enough business to keep her going for the rest of the year.

One of her first customers, Pat Erhardt, who farms near Almont, hired Dittus so he and his wife could get away once in a while on weekends.

Her jobs are mostly close to home in Morton County, though one call came in from the Minot area, a 2 1/2 hr. drive north. "They wanted me to come up and stay a few days," she says.

North Dakota has about 1,500 dairy farms left, about 500 fewer than in 1987. Nationwide, about 13,000 dairy farms have gone out of business since 1987, says economist Jim Miller of the USDA. Changing lifestyles are certainly a major factor, he feels. "There certainly used to be a great number of dairy farmers that took an almost perverse pride in never doing anything very far from the farm. I think that's less common now," says Miller.

Dittus, 51, who raises beef cattle, pigs, sheep and grain on the 600-acre family farm, charges 50 cents to hook up each cow to machines for milking. "I make about \$200 extra a month," she says, noting that the only equipment you need to start a cow milking service is a car and a pair of overshoes. (*Grower's Guide*)