



Louise and Delbert Lingbert model two of the feed sack jackets they make as a hobby.

TAKES FOUR SACKS TO MAKE A SPORTY NEW JACKET

Old Cotton Feed Bags Make Dandy Jackets

It's an unusual hobby, admit Delbert and Louise Lingbeck, an Austin, Minn., couple who are turning old-style seamless cotton bags into trendy "feed bag" jackets.

The washable, lightweight jackets are hip length, with a small flat collar, big "patch" pockets and set-in sleeves.

The bags are leftovers from the 1930's and 1940's when farmers hauled their grain to a mill, which ground it and poured it into the bags. Some farmers still own the bags, which often carry unique logos of seed companies, or artwork illustrating sunny farm scenes, sunrises, flying geese, buffalo - or even a champion corn husker at work.

The Lingbecks find the bags at flea markets, antique sales, and farm auctions, buying them no matter what their condition. "Once in a while, we get lucky and find a farmer who has stored away some new sacks some place for a long time," says Louise. "But even if there's a tear or hole in the fabric, it's no problem. We just patch it or stitch it, and it becomes part of what makes the jackets so interesting."

The Lingbecks pay \$1 to \$15 for the bags, depending on their design and condition.

According to Louise, it takes 4 sacks to

make a jacket - 1 for the back, 1 for the front, and 2 for the sleeves. As a pattern for the jackets, Louise took apart her husband's jacket and modified it to a design that she liked.

The Lingbecks work together laying out the pattern and cutting. Louise does the sewing and Delbert makes the buttons from deer horns, looped with narrow tires of deer skin. "We make the collars and pockets from scraps, or sometimes from shot bags which held BBs used in loading shotgun shells," notes Louise.

Because cotton bags now are obsolete, many of them have become collectors items, says Louise. "The most unusual ones are more valuable if you don't cut them up. Bags with the most interesting logos would make neat wall hangings," she adds.

The Lingbecks, who are retired, make most of the "feed bag" jackets as gifts for friends. "Since we pattern the 'feed bag' jackets after ordinary jackets, we don't offer a pattern," says Louise.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Delbert and Louise Lingbeck, Rt. 3, Austin, Minn. 55912 (ph 507 437-4829).

FARM SHOW

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The sweeper's 24-in. dia. nylon brush is driven by a 1 1/2 hp. gas engine.

BRUSHES UP DEAD GRASS, LEAVES, TWIGS AND STONES AS YOU MOW

"Mechanical Broom" Sweeps Lawns Clean

It picks up dead grass, leaves, twigs, gravel and even large stones, says Roy Lechler, Kiel, Wisc., about the self-powered lawn sweeper which he built for pulling behind his riding lawn mower.

The unique rig features a 24 in. dia. nylon brush, powered by a 1 1/2 hp engine and enclosed by a shield made of galvanized steel. The brush, shield and engine are mounted on a rectangular frame, 3 ft. long and 30 in. wide, made of 1/2 x 1 1/2 in. steel tubing.

As the brush rotates, it scoops up material and throws it into a trailing plywood hopper, 3 ft. wide, 2 ft. long and 24 in. high. The hopper is attached to the rear end of the sweeper frame. Four 8 in. wheels, borrowed from a riding lawn mower, support the lawn sweeper and hopper.

To operate the sweeper, Lechler simply drops a pin into the riding mower's drawbar and pulls a rope to start the engine, which powers a drive pulley to turn the brush.

A 3-ft. long lever, mounted on the right front corner of the sweeper frame, allows Lechler to adjust brush height.

Lechler uses the sweeper, which he built

last year, mainly for spring cleanup as he mows the lawn. "It's durable and does a much better job of picking up debris and stones than commercial, push-type sweepers," says Lechler.

To pick up heavy stones and heavy, wet leaves, he keeps the brush close to the ground. "If the brush is set low and you stay in one place on uneven ground, it will sweep a hump right down," notes Lechler. "On uneven ground, you've got to keep moving. Of course, the smoother the lawn, the better job it does."

"It doesn't work the best for picking up dry leaves, which tend to fly away as they're thrown toward the hopper. But it does a good job of sweeping out dead grass, stones and twigs," he adds.

Lechler says any riding lawn mower, or garden tractor could pull the sweeper. He adds that the rig probably would sweep up snow, although he hasn't tried it on snow yet. He spent about \$500 to build the rig.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roy Lechler, Rt. 1, Hwy. 67, Kiel, Wisc. 53042 (ph 414 894-3773).