

White concrete corn ears stand 6-ft., 3-in. tall and weigh 1,500 lbs.

GIANT CONCRETE EARS

"Field Of Corn" Celebrates World Of Agriculture

If you ever find yourself anywhere near Columbus, Ohio, you might want to take a detour to nearby Dublin to see one of the most unusual "art exhibits" in North America.

There, you'll find 109 white ears of corn sculpted out of concrete and standing 6-ft., 3-in. tall in even rows. Interspersed with a stand of Osage Orange trees, the work is called "Field of Corn" by its creator, Columbus sculptor Malcolm Cochran.

"I wanted to create a memorial for agricultural life which is rapidly disappearing around Dublin and elsewhere," says Cochran.

So a year and a half ago, Cochran and two landscape architects proposed setting up the "Field of Corn" as part of an Art in

Public Places program.

The land was once owned by Sam Frantz, an Ohio pioneer of corn hybridization, which added significance to the project, notes Cochran.

It took about two months to create the 1,500-lb. ears of corn. Three rubber molds with different kernel patterns were used, and the concrete was poured in Dalton, Ga. The ears were shipped to Dublin on three flatbeds. They were erected and painted white last fall.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dublin Arts Council, 129 South High Street, Dublin, Ohio 43017 (ph 614 889-7444; fax 889-2888).



Kevin Ocehoeki, who's over 6 ft. tall, poses with 2,250-lb. "Big Blue."

Will This Be The Next World Record Steer?

"He's a legend come to life," says Darrell Roehl who farms near Odessa, Minn., about his giant 2 1/2-year-old pet steer named "Big Blue" that already weighs over 2,250 lbs.

That's even close to the world's record listed in the Guinness Book of World Records, but Roehl thinks his steer might have a shot. The world record is currently held by a 5,000-lb. Holstein-Durham cross owned by A.S. Rand of Maine.

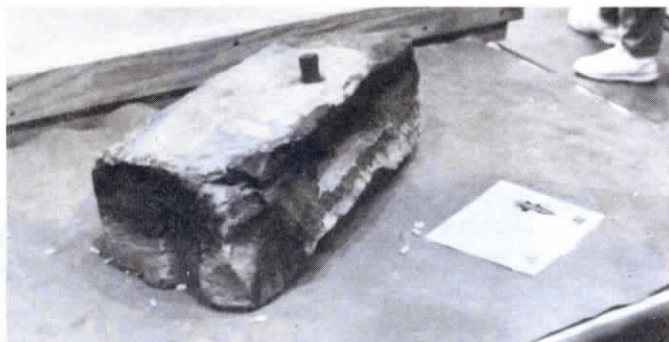
"Big Blue" is likely a Holstein-Simmental cross and is grayish-brown in color. Roehl bought the steer and two other Hereford steers at about 400 lbs. in De-

cember of 1992 at a Watertown, S. Dak., auction barn. There was nothing remarkable about him until he started growing and growing and growing.

Now, "Big Blue" stands 5-ft. tall at the top of his shoulders. He has an 86-in. girth and a 30-in. horn span.

Roehl hopes "Big Blue" will be invited to some of the Paul Bunyon celebrations Minnesota observes every year to portray "Babe," the blue ox.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Darrell Roehl, R.R. 1, Box 55, Odessa, Minn. 56276 (ph 612 568-2378).



This block of concrete may be the world's first no-till corn planter, says the collector who owns it.

20-IN. WIDE, GROOVED BLOCK OF CONCRETE Early "No-Till" Planter

By C.F. Marley

If you think no-till planters are fairly new, take a look at this corn planter that probably dates back to the 1800's.

It consists simply of a block of concrete about 20 in. wide with protrusions on the sides that would dig a pair of grooves as the block was pulled through the field by an ox or horse. The operator sat on the block, dropping seed by hand into the protrusions as he went along. A notch in front of the wedge helped keep soil moving through the planter.

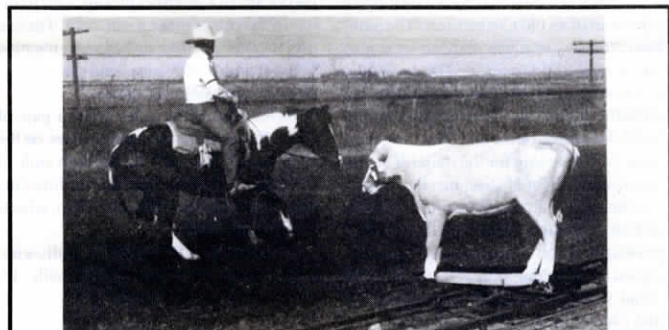
Owner Marvin Wilkerson, Dahlgren, Ill., bought the stone planter from a retired John Deere dealer in Carmi, Ill. Wilkerson displayed the planter last winter at the Greater

Peoria Farm Show in Peoria, Ill.

"It originally had a short wooden stub tongue cut from tree limbs and two wood foot rests on the side for the operator's feet. We've actually tried the planter out in the field and it did work," says Wilkerson.

When he first saw the block planter, he says it reminded him of a primitive ridge-till cultivator he remembered seeing during the droughts of the 1930's. Farmers would pull a wedge-shaped stone between corn rows to knock out weeds and to ridge dirt up against the rows.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marvin Wilkerson, Dahlgren, Ill. (ph 618 736-2733).



The Cuttin' Critter trains horses quickly, horse trainers say.

Mechanical Cow Trains Cuttin' Horses

"I've used various types of mechanical cows all my life, and this is the best one I've ever seen. One of the best things about it is that it doesn't require another person to operate it," says Cletus Huling, a nationally known Tennessee horse trainer, about the computerized Cuttin' Critter.

"It's a lot more dependable and economical than live cattle, which sour after you work them two or three times so you always need a fresh supply. That can cost thousands of dollars a month," says Huling, who had a Cuttin' Critter installed in his riding arena last year. "This teaches the horse what you expect it to do by repetition. That's great for working on specific problems with young horses and it's a great maintenance tool for older horses."

The Cuttin' Critter is the brainchild of Jerry Paterson, a Texas inventor.

The Cuttin' Critter consists of a fiberglass cow the size of a 500-lb. heifer. It's mounted on a bar that swivels 180 degrees. Cow and bar mount atop a dolly pulled by a continuous rope loop along a track that's usually set up 120 ft. long.

Driven by an electric motor, the rope

and cart are radio controlled and computer operated. The computer has 7 programs which vary movement, speed, stopping time and distance, etc., of the cow. In all, over 40 combinations are available from the programs, which become more complex as numbers increase.

It took Paterson, who learned electronics while working with irrigation systems, about 7 years to perfect the system. It began with a hydraulically controlled model in 1985, then evolved to electrical in 1989. Paterson trained horses with the electric model himself for two years and sold the first prototype in 1991. A few bugs were discovered and Paterson worked them out by 1992, when he sold 14 machines. To date, he has 92 machines operating in the U.S., Canada and Germany.

The Cuttin' Critter, which carries a 2-year warranty, is available in ground track or ceiling-mount models. Costs \$16,500 and \$21,750, respectively.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jerry Paterson, Cuttin' Critter, 1405 S. I-35, Valley View, Texas 76272 (ph 817 726-3757).