

**THERE'S ONLY A HANDFUL
SO FAR IN NORTH AMERICA**

Sheep Breed Called "Pigs With Wool"

A heavy-muscled new breed of sheep from Holland is being hailed by sheep producers who've seen them as "pigs with wool" for their superior conformation and consistent carcass size and quality.

So far only a handful of producers in the U.S. and Canada have been able to get the new Texel sheep due to stringent import and quarantine regulations on imported livestock. Michiel Messing and his wife Grace, Dutch immigrants farming near Eckville, Alberta, have a flock of 75 purebred ewes and rams in quarantine. They won't be able to start selling breeding stock for two more

years.

The Messing's say one of the biggest problems facing the North American sheep market is inconsistent carcass quality. Packers complain that lambs come in all shapes and sizes with conformation that varies widely. Texels are strictly a meat breed that's heavily muscled and produces a real "ham". In fact, at a recent lamb carcass competition in Alberta, Texels took both first and second place prizes out of 66 entries flown in from across Canada, according to a report in COUNTRY GUIDE Magazine.



Texels are strictly a meat breed. They're heavily muscled and produce a real "ham".

Texels have a 140 to 150 percent lambing rate. It does take about 10 more days to reach market weight but the carcass yields 5 to 7 percent more on average than other breeds. And it's considered very lean, says Messing.

Canada and a few in the U.S. but so far no one is selling any, Messing told FARM SHOW.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Michiel & Grace Messing, Western Texels, Box 329, Eckville, Alberta T0M 0X0 (ph 403 746-5483).

There are two other Texel producers in

NO TWO ALIKE

Toy Tractors Made Out Of Nails, Bolts

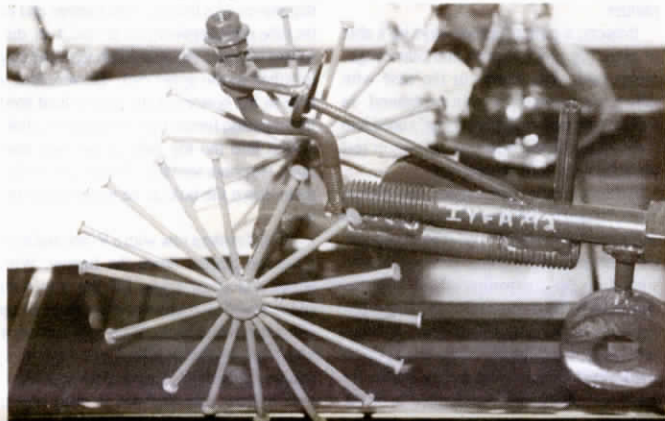
When a group of young farmers took on responsibility for creating centerpieces for an Indiana Young Farmers convention last year in Indianapolis, Dennis Maxie - one member of the group - suggested they make toy replicas of old Deere tractors out of nuts, bolts, washers, etc., and that's exactly what they did.

The group made 50 miniature tractors, with no two alike, according to Maxie, who was director of the Brownstown Ambitious Young Farmers association. The chapter's 14 members met at the Brownstown High School ag shop during Christmas break to make the tractors.

Maxie says he got the idea from a gift he

received a couple of years ago for Christmas. Each tractor took about six hours to make, with all chapter members working together. The men did the welding and the women did the painting and final details.

The tractors were all made completely by free-hand. Sixteen 8-penny nails were used to make each wheel. Two big bolts were welded together for the body, two bolts were used for the rear axle, one bolt was used for the front axle, and another bolt was bent into the shape of a man who's seated on the tractor. His arms, formed by a staple, hold onto a steering wheel that's made from a lock washer. A long nail forms the steering linkage and a roll pin forms the exhaust



Sixteen 8-penny nails were used to make each rear wheel while two bolts were welded together for the body. Another bolt was bent into shape of a man.

stack. A pair of large washers are used for the front wheels.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dennis Maxie, 9178 S.

Co. Rd. 825 E., Austin, Ind. 47102 (ph 812 793-3781).

(Photo courtesy of FARM WEEK)

Electric Car Charges Itself On-The-Go

Jake Langer converted a 1982 Chevrolet Chevette into an electric car that's powered by a 40 hp DC electric motor and is equipped with a home-built turbine in front that charges the car's batteries on-the-go.

A large air scoop up front funnels air into the all-aluminum turbine. Air is forced down and against nine rotating paddles that power two alternators, one mounted on each side of the turbine. They, in turn, charge four 12-volt batteries that mount in place of the engine. A Briggs & Stratton gas engine and a 24-volt airplane generator are mounted in place of the car's back

seats and are used to recharge five more batteries mounted at the back of the car. The 40 hp electric motor connects to the car's 4-speed transmission.

"The efficient design of the turbine is the key. It creates 15 to 18 hp at 40 mph. The turbine is beveled so that air goes in without any back pressure. As the rotating paddles release air they create a vacuum that pulls more air through the opening in front. I've only driven my electric car at speeds up to 50 or 60 mph, but I'm sure it could go 75 or 80 mph. It'll go twice as far as any other electric car because the turbine constantly

recharges the batteries.

"The 40 hp DC electric motor cost about \$1,500. It weighs only 105 lbs. My electric car weighs less than it did when it had an engine and full tank of gas. The car originally had an automatic transmission. I replaced it with the 4-speed transmission because it's lighter and smaller. It weighs only 40 lbs. compared to 100 lbs. for the automatic transmission. When the front batteries run low I can simply plug them into a battery charger."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jake Langer, Truck Utilities Mfg. Co., 2370



Home-built turbine in front charges car's batteries on-the-go.

English St. at Hwy. 36, St. Paul, Minn. 55109 (ph 612 484-3305).

Hobby Keeps Ex-Farmer Busy

"I read in your January issue (Vol. 17, No. 1) about the farmer who carves farm equipment. I, too, carve all types of equipment out of wood and thought your readers might like to see what I've done," says retired farmer Robert Gearing, Leigh, Neb.

"The only tools I use are two craft knives and a pair of needle nose side cutter pliers. I use rubber bands for belts and light wire for cables and chains. I do them all from memory. I never have a pattern or photo to go by. I've won prizes at craft shows and county fairs when I've exhib-

ited them.

"Here's a partial list of mini equipment I've made: Tractor-mounted hay stacker, dump rake, hose-pulled rake, blue grass stripper, stack mover truck, tractors, dozer, combine, backhoe, grader, rock picker, manure spreader, grinder/mixer, corn sheller, and many more. Each piece is detailed and authentic except for the wheels. I just carve out circles for them."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert E. Gearing, Sr., Box 173, Leigh, Neb. 68643.



Gearing uses 2 craft knives and a pair of needle nose pliers to carve toys out of wood.