

Inventions By New Zealand Farmers

Awards were given at the recent New Zealand National Field Days in Hamilton to farmer-inventors with the best new farm inventions. Here are some of the ideas that attracted the most interest.

Remote Pickup Steering

Russ McPherson, Invercargill, needed a way to steer his pickup from the back of his pickup when feeding hay to cattle. He simply mounted a steering wheel on a post in the stake pockets just behind the cab and ran a shaft from there to the steering wheel. He has permanently mounted a connecting plate in the center of the wheel so, that when he needs to remote steer, he simply hooks up the remote steering shaft fitted with a U-joint. To operate he puts the truck in low gear, sets the throttle on low and hops out and up onto the back of the truck. It's

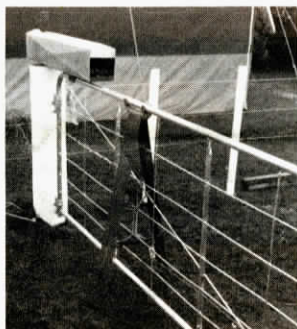


moving slow enough so he can easily get down and back into the driver's seat when he needs to stop. Hand-operated brake and clutch could also easily be rigged up, he notes.

Electric Gate "Trigger"

Getting on and off tractors to open and close gates is no longer a problem for Phillip MacDonald, Galatea, New Zealand, inventor of a "triggered" farm gate mechanism that opens the gate at the touch of a bumper — and closes it again when a pre-set amount of time has passed.

The sloping V-shaped trigger mounts at the center of the gate. When the front bumper — or tractor tire — nudges it, an electric switch activates a gate opening mechanism on the gate post. The closing interval can be adjusted so that, if there are animals around, the gate can close quickly behind the vehicle. The mechanism can be fitted to any



existing gate and can be electrified.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Phillip MacDonald, Jolly Road, Galatea, New Zealand.

Portable Power Unit

"It gives us a portable drive unit we can haul around the farm," says Bill McLennan, Cambridge, pleased with the power unit he drives with his motorcycle, pickup or car.

The drive wheel of his motorcycle rides on two cylinders, each of which is fitted with pulleys at either end. Depending on what machine he needs to power, he'll run V-belts off either end.

"I've used it to run air compressors, water pumps, generators, sheep shearing machinery, a concrete mixer, and many other machines," McLennan told FARM SHOW. Power output depends on the strength of the powering wheel.

Contact: FARM SHOW Fol-

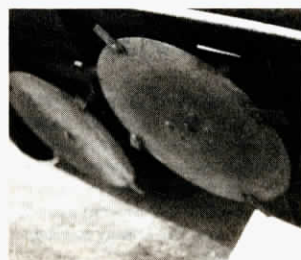


lowup, Bill McLennan, Rt. 2, Pukekura, R.D. 2, Cambridge, New Zealand.

Rotary Disc Mower

Replacing conventional mower blades with round blade-equipped discs cuts rpm's and horsepower required to operate big mowers, says Donald E. Fraser, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Fraser simply bolted four short blades to the four sides of a metal disc about the same diameter as the length of the blades it replaced. Because of the doubling of the cutting surface, he says, horsepower requirements are reduced and he can use a small utility tractor to run the big 12-ft. mower.



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donald E. Fraser, Tauwhare, R.D. 4, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Calf Scours Treatment

"The most common cause of death in young calves with scours is dehydration. This kit is a good way to get fluids back into the animal," says Colin Kingsbury who offers a \$15 kit to farmers that feeds a liquid mix of sugar, salts and water directly into the stomach.

The kit consists of a small funnel and a long plastic tube. Slipping the tube down to the calf's stomach is a matter of knowing a couple tricks and getting the calf into the proper position. Kingsbury sends along instructions to buyers to help properly administer the liquid.

"Forced feeding with a bottle often results in fluids getting into the windpipe and the lungs. This avoids that problem," he notes. Kingsbury says



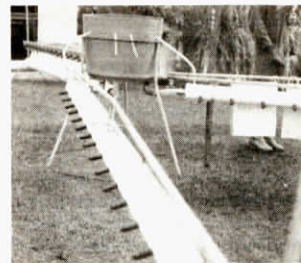
you can feed 2 quarts of fluid into the animal's stomach in two minutes using his kit.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Colin Kingsbury, Vaile Road, R.D. 4, Hamilton, New Zealand.

King-Size Calf Feeder

"It'll feed 96 calves at one time. Or, you can scale it down to feed smaller numbers," says Allen Troughton, Cambridge, New Zealand, about his king-size calf feeder that uses lengths of PVC pipe fitted with rows of rubber nipples — and fed out of one central reservoir — for high-speed calf feeding.

The three PVC nipple-equipped feeding arms are arranged fan-shape around a central reservoir. The nipples are



spread out enough so that every animal has room to maneuver.

Woven Wire "Climb-Through" Gate

A new "climb-through" gate provides a slick way to get past woven fences without building an expensive full-size gate.

Built out of metal tubing, the gate installs easily into the fence line by cutting into the fence and splicing the frame of the gate into the woven wire. The porthole-type gate then swings freely making a big enough opening to let a big man easily pass through.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, General Fencing Ltd., 189 Main South Road, P.O. Box 9048, Christchurch, New Zealand (ph 03 480-629).

