



Photo courtesy Tri-State Livestock News.

The "Rhythm Roper", with 28 in. horns and spring-loaded, easy-release rear legs, simulates the action of a live steer.

"MORE LIKE A STEER THAN A STEER"

New "Mechanical Steer" Sharpens Roping Skills

By M. Jill Karolevitz

Mechanical bulls have been the rage ever since cowboy life was glamorized in the movie "Urban Cowboy," but the twisting hulks served more as an excuse for bar room betting, rather than a useful training tool . . . such is not the case for the new Rhythm Roper, manufactured in Rapid City, S. Dak.

Jim Roth, Sturgis, S. Dak. and Darrell Hoar, Rapid City, put their heads together several years ago and came up with the idea that a mechanical steer would be beneficial for training all types of ropers, from beginners to professionals. After "quite a little cutting and chopping," the men created a machine that they felt simulated the action of a live steer, and began using it for sharpening the roping skills of Stuart and Nancy Hoar, Darrell's children.

The prototype is not retired, but its much improved successor is gaining popularity as a valid training tool for ropers.

With the aid of stopwatches, tape measures and a bit of patience, Roth and Hoar drew up the plans for the Rhythm Roper as it sells today. Some of its special features include a 44 in. base, an adjustable head with 22 or 28-in. horns, an optional motor for solo practice, a front leg with coordi-

nated movements and spring loaded hind legs for easy rope release.

Made out of high strength steel pipe and tubing, the machine is durable, yet lightweight for easy handling. It requires a minimum of maintenance — "just treat it with common sense and a little kindness," Hoar says, "and it will be nearly maintenance-free."

According to Roth and Hoar, the advantages of a Rhythm Roper are many.

"If you're going to be a top roper, you've got to practice several hours a day, and you have to start when you're young," Roth notes. "Many of the top ropers come out of the south and southwest these days because they have good weather to practice in. Now, here in the Midwest, with the indoor arenas, roping schools and the Rhythm Roper, I'm hoping we can get some top ropers from this area."

Cattle ranching requires a lot of roping, especially when there is work to be done on critters in distant pastures. Hoar notes that the Rhythm Roper can hone a rancher's roping skills so that he can rope cattle on the range and treat them with a minimum amount of effort or strain.

"Two cowboys can treat cattle very efficiently on the range," Hoar points

"BOOSTS HP., CUTS FUEL USE, LENGTHENS ENGINE LIFE BY UP TO ONE-THIRD"

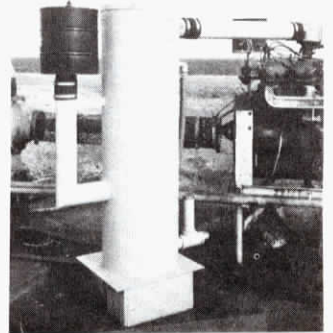
New "Inlet Air Cooler" For Irrigation Engines

"It'll pay for itself in reduced engine maintenance alone," says Floyd J. Leonard, Jr., Sublette, Kan., one of the first farmers anywhere to test a new engine "Inlet Air Cooler" that's designed to lower engine operating temperature, boost horsepower and cut fuel usage on irrigation engines.

The air cooler consists of a barrel-shaped metal cylinder that's about the size of a household hot water heater. Cold water from the irrigation well trickles into the cooler at a rate of 3 to 5 gal. per minute, dropping through a series of rings that break up the flow of water. Meanwhile, outside air is drawn into the cooler and up through the water by the pull of the irrigation engine intake manifold. The hot, dry outside air is thus converted to cool, high humidity air.

"Before I installed the air cooler on my Minneapolis Moline engine, the engine rpm's varied from 1,550 rpm's during the day when the air was hot and dry, to 1,700 at night when the air cooled down. That meant a difference of about 150 gals. per hour of water. Now there's not even 20 rpm's difference between night and day operation and the engine runs a couple hundred degrees cooler. The exhaust manifold used to glow cherry red at night but now you can't see it. The engine also uses about 14% less natural gas with the air cooling system installed. Because the engine runs so much easier and cooler, I estimate it will run up to 1/3 longer before we have to tear it down," says Leonard, who has had a prototype Inlet Air Cooler in operation for two years and has since bought three more for other engines. His son has also purchased several units.

Jim Persinger, of Fuel, Inc., inventor of the new air cooler, says the idea is one that farmers readily understand. "Anyone who has ever driven a tractor at night knows that engines always run better when the air is cool and moist," he says. "The Inlet Air Cooler provides the engine with a uniform source of air. No matter what the outside air temperature, air leaves



Hot, dry outside air is pulled through the water-cooled air cooler.

the Inlet Air Cooler at about 95% humidity and 60 to 70°."

Persinger says he first got the idea from a customer who had suggested rigging up a car radiator to cool down the operation of his irrigation engines on hot summer days.

"As soon as you install the Inlet Air Cooler, you have to lean the engine down and throttle it back," says Persinger. "The result in very dry, hot air is 20 to 30% more horsepower and 10 to 30% less fuel consumption. Engine exhaust temperature drops 100 to 300°."

Persinger says the Inlet Air Cooler allows farmers who would have switched to larger engines because of dropping water tables to stick with their old engines.

The air cooler requires no power to operate. Water is simply pulled off the well and then drained back into it. Air is pulled in through an air filter on the side of the unit.

Two Inlet Air Coolers 16 and 24-in. in dia. are available depending on the size of the engine. They sell for \$800 to \$1,200 and can be installed in less than an hour with standard tools.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Persinger, Fuel Inc., Box 477, Hugoton, Kan. 67951 (ph. 316 544-2882 or 2165).

out. "The Rhythm Roper also has its place in the roping arena, and/or roping clubs and schools."

Scott McGinley, a professional roper from Rapid City, has used the Rhythm Roper, and is pleased with its action. "It's something consistent to watch and practice on, unlike a live steer. It teaches you to rope at the right time and in the correct way. If your rhythm is off a bit, it teaches you to adjust your timing. In addition, some roping machines are noted for being gaudy, with sharp edges. This machine is clean and as safe as you can get it," says McGinley.

Roth and Hoar plan to market the machine, 50 of which have been made so far, throughout the U.S. and Canada. It sells for \$795, less the optional 6 hp. electric motor which sells for \$184. Without the motor, the machine is towed and a ground-driven wheel provides mechanical action simulating the movements of a live steer.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rhythm Roper, Box 658-T, Rapid City, S. Dak. 57701 (ph 605 787-5872)

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