

**Editor's
Notebook**



Mark Newhall
Editor & Publisher

He Says Geese Don't Like Roundup Ready Beans

Veteran farm writer C.F. Marley, who's been covering "everything ag" in Illinois for more than 50 years and is still on the road nearly every day, recently called to tell us about an unusual situation he had just observed. It seems he was visiting a farm near his home base of Nokomis, Ill. The farmer asked Marley to take a look at a 50-acre field of beans that was situated near a pond. What Marley saw amazed him.

Two varieties of beans were planted in adjoining plots – one with Roundup Ready beans and the other with conventional beans. The Roundup beans were higher than Marley's waist when he visited while the conventional beans in the adjoining field were still just ankle high. The farmer explained that a flock of geese who live on the pond had been grazing on the beans all summer. But they wouldn't touch the Roundup Ready beans. All they would eat was the conventional beans, which resulted in a distinct line marking the boundary between the two crops.

"I've never seen anything like it. What's amazing is that the field with Round Ready beans had been planted to conventional beans the previous year, and the geese ate them. This year, they won't go near that field," says Marley, who told us the farmer who owned the bean field did not want his name used. Marley says anyone who wants more information can call him at 217-563-2588.

The report from Illinois comes on the heels of a new research report out of Iowa State University which reportedly confirms some of the data in earlier research concerning damage to Monarch butterflies exposed to pollen from genetically-modified corn.

Farmers Buy Deere Dealerships

When two local dealerships closed and parts became hard to find, three Fullerton, N. Dak., farmers took matters into their own hands. They bought the dealerships and reopened them.

Carl Larson, Rodney Larson, and Jody Lacina bought the Deere dealerships in LaMoure and Ellendale. Both cities and the state shipped in with grants and tax abatements, which made the deal work financially. City officials said they frequently spend money trying to lure big businesses, so they decided they should also do what they could to keep their existing small businesses.

Did You Know . . .

- If you multiply 111,111,111 times 111,111,111 you get 12,234,678,987,654,3321.
- Coca-Cola was originally green.
- The Queen Elizabeth II cruise liner moves only 6 in. for every 1 gal. of fuel it burns.
- The interstate highway system, which is officially known as the National Defense Highway System, is designed so that one mile in every five must be straight to be usable as airstrips in times of war.

Foul-Smelling Odor Repels Coyotes

Canadian researchers say they're having success repelling coyotes with a foul-smelling concoction called "bone oil" that even hungry coyotes will go out of their way to avoid.

Dr. John Martin, who works for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, got the idea when he came across a reference to the oil, which farmers in Britain apparently have used for decades to protect young lambs. He obtained some of the product and has been testing it. He says it works as long as coyotes have something else to eat. It won't work if they're very hungry and there's no other prey nearby.

A dab of the oil can be applied to each animal periodically, or a teaspoon of oil can be applied to each fencepost around a pasture. Coyotes won't cross the smelly barrier.

Martin is working with Canadian government authorities to bring the oil into North America. At this time it is not available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dr. John Martin, Veterinary Scientist, OMAFRA, Wellington, 2nd Flr, RR 1, Fergus, Ont. N1M 2W3 Canada (ph 519 846-3420; E-Mail: jmartin@omafra.gov.on.ca) *Ontario Farmer*

Selling Seed Direct To Farmers

Every seed company in North America is trying to reach customers quicker and less expensively through the internet, toll-free numbers, and fast shipping. But it's a tricky business because they don't want to upset their existing farmer-dealer network.

One of the fastest-growing seed companies in the U.S. has never had a dealer network. Heartland Hybrids sells direct to farmers, a business method that allows it to offer the latest hybrids at bargain prices. The company has no stores and no dealers.



Free CD-rom from Heartland Hybrids contains crop production software plus the company's entire catalog with video testimonials from customers.

It takes orders over the phone and through the internet. That allows it to sell single cross seed corn for just \$57 a bag and BT and Roundup Ready hybrids for \$84 a bag (80,000 count). The company also offers silage corn, alfalfa, and soybeans.

Company president Jay Asplin grew up working in a family seed business that sold seed through dealers. But when he started Heartland Hybrids several years ago, he felt he had to do things a different way. Heartland advertises in farm magazines and has a comprehensive web site. You can also call to get a high-quality 4-color catalog and a free CD-Rom that contains the company's seed catalog, video testimonials, and free crop production and financial software. The company will also provide you with names of customers in your area who you can call to see how the seed has actually performed.

Heartland has been nearly doubling its size every year. "We've become one of the fastest growing seed companies in the country because we're easy to work with – our 'store' is open 24 hrs. a day – and because of the way our products perform. Our low price is only an added benefit of buying from us," notes Asplin.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Heartland Hybrids, P.O. Box J, Dassel, Minn. 55325 (ph 800 883-0892; Web site: www.heartlandhybrids.com).

Tragedy Befalls Ranch Family

Heather Thomas, an Idaho rancher and frequent contributor to FARM SHOW, faced a terrible tragedy this past July when her daughter was critically burned in a range fire that got out of control. Andrea Thomas Daine, who is married and has a 2 1/2-year-old daughter, works on the family ranch with her mother and father. She will require numerous surgeries for skin grafting over 42 percent of her body. If all goes well, her recovery will take at least a year. Andrea is in the Intermountain Burn Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, which is nearly 400 miles from the family ranch.

A fund has been set up by the community to help with the many medical expenses not covered by insurance. Contact: Andrea Thomas Daine Fund, First Security Bank, P.O. Box 810, Salmon, Idaho 83467.

World Plowing Record

The Guinness Book of World Records has a new plowing record. It was set on a farm in France where 517 acres were turned over in one 24-hr. period.

J. Imbert piloted a Case-IH Quad-Trac tractor pulling a Gregoire-Besson 17-bottom rollover plow. The tractor and plow together measured 131 ft.

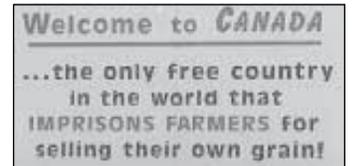


long. The plow worked a swath 30 ft. wide, turning over 18,700 lbs. of dirt per second in setting the record. To make it possible to set the record, various hydraulic sequences on the plow were automated by an in-cab control box so Imbert could control them by a single touch of a button.

You can see a video on the internet of the big plow at work. Go to www.gregoire-besson.com. The record will be included in this year's Guinness book.

The Controversial Canadian Wheat Board

"The Canadian Wheat Board is like a relic left over from the former USSR – and Canada wasn't even one of the Soviet republics! This monopolistic organization violates property rights, jails farmers for selling their own grain, and operates under a veil of secrecy the KGB would have been proud to call their own," says Mark Kihn of the National Citizen's Coalition which opposes nearly every action taken by the controversial Wheat Board.



Billboard on highway in Canada.

"A Canadian farmer recently painted a billboard on the side of a large semi truck that reads, 'Welcome to Canada – the only free country in the world that imprisons farmers for selling their own grain!' The trailer is parked along the Trans-Canada highway between Regina and Moose Jaw, Sask., a heavily traveled area.

"Our organization is also trying to raise awareness and, hopefully, overturn the Wheat Board monopoly to return control of the markets to farmers."

Contact: Mark Kihn, National Citizens' Coalition, Suite 240, 600-6th Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alta. T2P 0S5 Canada (ph 403 269-3545; E-mail: mkihn@ncc-on.org; Web site: www.citizenscoalition.org)

There is this atheist swimming in the ocean. All of a sudden he sees this shark in the water, so he starts swimming toward his boat. As he looks back he sees the shark turn and head toward him. His boat is a ways off and he starts swimming like crazy. He's scared to death, and as he turns to see the jaws of the great beast open, revealing its teeth in a horrific splendor, the atheist screams, "Oh God! Save me!" In an instant time is frozen and a bright light shines down from above. The man is motionless in the water when he hears the voice of God say, "You are an atheist. Why do you call upon me when you do not believe in me?"

Aghast with confusion and knowing he can't lie, the man replies, "Well, that's true I don't believe in You, but how about the shark? Can you make the shark believe in You?" The Lord replies, "As you wish," and the light retracted back into the heavens and the man could feel the water begin to move once again. As the atheist looks back he can see the jaws of the shark start to close down on him, when all of a sudden the shark stops and pulls back. Shocked, the man looks at the shark as the huge beast closes its eyes and bows its head and says, "Thank you, Lord, for this food for which I am about to receive..."

And one final item from the news . . .

A small two-seater airplane crashed into a cemetery early this morning in central Sweden. Swedish search and rescue workers have recovered 3,000 bodies thus far, and expect the number to climb as digging continues into the evening.