

“Made-It-Myself” Ideas From Foreign Farm Shows

The farmer-built ideas on this page were all on exhibit at recent farm shows in both Britain and New Zealand. Our thanks to *Farmer's Weekly Magazine* in Britain and *Farm Equipment News* in New Zealand for the photos and stories.



Rats get bait through hole in pipe that runs through jug.

“Rat Restaurant”

Tony Alson of Brockford, England, named his rat-killing invention the “Rat Restaurant”. He runs a piece of 3-in. dia. pipe through the bottom of a 2 1/2-gal. plastic jug. The pipe is positioned about 1 in. above the bottom of the jug. There's a small hole cut in the bottom of the pipe at the center of the jug. Alson fills the jug with bait, which then cascades all around the pipe. The rats get bait through the hole in the pipe. The advantage of the design is that the rats can see all the way through the pipe so they don't sense a trap, and the container holds plenty of bait. Also, pets and other animals can't get at the bait.



Dirty Cattle Cleaner looks like a garden hoe with the blade reversed.

Dirty Cattle Cleaner

Anyone who's ever had to clean caked-on manure off livestock will appreciate this idea from British farmer Thomas Priscott of Somerset, England. His Dirty Cattle Cleaner looks like a garden hoe with the blade reversed so it works from its inner edge. To use, you simply pull it over the animal's coat. The blade is slightly convex and has a serrated edge which cuts through dung and matted hair.

Priscott says the slightly curved blade will not damage the animal.



Machine is totally open in front to allow operator to drive right up to machinery and work on it.

Wheelchair ATV

A special-built ATV designed for disabled or elderly farmers started as an invention entered in a contest at a British farm show. But it received so much attention, a manufacturer picked it up and put it on the market.

Stanley and Martin Prince built the mobile ATV from scratch. When they started on the

project, they considered reworking an existing ATV but decided they could not build what they wanted that way.

The ATV wheelchair has a rollup ramp to accommodate a wheelchair. All functions on the heavy-built machine can be controlled with a single joy stick. The machine is totally open in front to allow the operator to drive right up to machinery and work on it. It also makes it easier to hunt and fish from the chair.

The 4-WD rig is powered by a 13 hp gas engine that powers a hydrostatic drive system. Stanley Prince says the hardest part of the whole design was to position the deck low enough to make it easy to roll a wheelchair onto the machine, and also to keep the center of gravity low. They also wanted a soft ride and gentle turns, so that ruled out a skid steer system. What the two men finally did was to build an articulated frame, putting the power unit on back and the wheel chair up front with a separate hydraulic motor on each wheel.

It took three years to perfect the original prototype but the men say the resulting rig is unlike anything ever built. They designed a pivot point between the two platforms on the unit that bends back and forth for steering and also twists for smooth maneuvering over rough ground.

The rig – now called a Rural Pursuits Vehicle – is now on the market from a British company called TJ Frazier, which went into production earlier this past June.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, T.J. Frazier Ltd, The Airfield Seaton Ross, York North Yorkshire YO42 4NF England (ph 011 44 1759 318703).



Saw digs rapidly through the earth, leaving a clean, narrow trench.

Trench-Digger For Chainsaws

A special trench-digging chain for chainsaws makes it easy to dig narrow slots for waterlines and wire, says Keith Gordon, about his chainsaw attachment that was first dreamed up by his father 15 years ago. Gordon has now put the new saw chain on the market in New Zealand.

Attached to a heavy-duty chain are a series of hardened steel blades which enable the saw to dig rapidly through the earth, leaving a clean, narrow trench. The Gordon's use the saw to run water and irrigation lines out

to pastures.

The special chain cuts a trench about 1 1/2 in. wide and as deep as 25 in., depending on the saw.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Doug McFarlane Ltd., 33 Lincoln St., Hamilton New Zealand (ph 011 64 7 8476734).



Single strand of wide, flat tape comes out of a roll (above). Multi-strand, retractable fencing is also available (below).

Electric Expander Fence

This patent-pending “expandable” electric fence won first prize in an inventions contest sponsored by the British magazine *Farmer's Weekly*. It's now on the market.

There are two versions. One is a net-type fence with 8 strands of nylon line embedded with electric wire. The other is a single strand of wide, flat tape that comes out of a roll. The base units can be mounted on a wall, gate opening, or in corrals. It can be used continuously as an easy-open gate, or temporarily to form a holding pen or to direct livestock for loading for other work.

The two systems simply tie into an existing fence charger. They're available in lengths up to 60 ft. wide. Once in place, the fence can be pulled out in any direction so you can set up different configurations.

A 60-ft. tape-type unit sells for right at \$275. A 35-ft. net-type unit sells for \$250.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Electric Expander Fences, 18 Cheshire Street, Audlem, Crewe, Cheshire CW3 0AH (ph & fax: 011 44 1270811150).



Brushes pull weeds out by roots and lay them on the surface without uplifting and moving soil, like a conventional cultivator.

Brush-Type Cultivator Is Gentle On Crops

You can “brush” weeds out from between narrow-row crops with this new brush-type cultivator that made its debut at the Royal Show in England.

The manufacturer of the new unit, which originates in Switzerland, says it's geared for high-value vegetable or nursery crops. It can work through seedlings spaced as narrow as 4 1/2 in. without doing damage. The brushes

pull weeds out by the roots and lays them on the surface without uplifting and moving soil, like a conventional cultivator.

The bristles are made of a highly wear-resistant nylon material. Brushes are easily adjustable to fit different row widths. There's a model for seedlings (20-in. dia. brushes) and a model for tall-growing crops (30-in. dia. brushes). They're available as either pot or hydraulic-driven.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bartschi-Fobro Ag, P.O. Box 1, CH-6152 Switzerland (ph 011 41 41 988 2121; fax 011 41 41 988 2286; Web site: www.fobro.com; E-mail: info@fobro.com).



Andy Weenink uses exhaust air from his pickup to fill flat tires.

Exhaust-Powered Air Compressor

Rather than carry a bulky air compressor around to jobs, field service mechanic Andy Weenink came up with a way to use exhaust air from his pickup as compressed air.

Weenink does a lot of work on baler knotters and needed a way to keep them dust-free. He also wanted to be able to blow out clogged radiators and clean off other equipment. In addition, he wanted a portable source of air to fill flat tires.

He made a coupling device that goes between a garden hose and the exhaust pipe on his pickup. He started out using regular air hose but it was too restrictive, causing too much back pressure to the engine.

When he first tried using the exhaust-powered hose to blow up tires, he had a problem. The engine kept stalling out. He solved the problem by installing a valve at the end of the hose that lets him release some of the exhaust while filling the tire. He can now blow up an average auto tire to 30 psi in about 30 seconds. If he closes the top at that point, he can pump a tire up to 37 psi before the engine stalls out.

Andy has been using his exhaust air hose for 10 years and says it hasn't hurt his pickup engine at all.

He sells the exhaust coupling for about \$10 and the complete unit with tap and tire valve for about \$30.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Andy J. Weenink, 412 Corcoran Rd., RD 5, Hamilton, New Zealand (ph 011 64 7 8259896).