

Editor's Notebook



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Looking For A Farm Show?

If you're looking for a farm show to visit this fall, just go to our web site at www.farmshow.com for a comprehensive listing of shows around North America. (Suggestion: If you're not on the Internet, you can usually log on at your local library.).

Go to the "links" section of our website and click on "Farm Shows". There you'll find a list of all the major farm equipment shows throughout the year along with dates, location, number of exhibitors, and information on who to contact.

And if you're planning an overseas trip, we've got a list of foreign shows, too.

Do Deer Repellents Work?

It seems like every week there's a new deer repellent product on the market with exotic ingredients like hot pepper spray or tiger urine.

The question is: Do they really work?

A recent story in the Wall Street Journal concluded that many of the products work, but only for a while. Then the deer get used to them. The article quoted a landscape designer named Howland Green, West Kingston, R.I., who was almost bankrupted by deer who went after his expensive landscaping plantings. He started mixing an existing repellent called Deer Away, which is made from putrefied egg-white solids, with other bitter ingredients like chili peppers, garlic juice, chlorine and a product called Bitterguard that's used to keep children from biting their nails.

During the first year, Green thought he had come up with a fantastic new formula. The next year, deer started eating the stuff the day he sprayed it on.

After several more years of testing, Green came up with a method he calls North American Deer & Rabbit Proofing. It's not foolproof but he feels he can do as well or better than any method on the market. "No matter how strong a product is, deer will eventually get used to the taste," he says.

Under Green's program, gardens or landscaping are sprayed three times a year, each time with a different concoction. Business is booming as Green and his network of custom applicators have some 8,000 customers in just their second year of operation.

Green's products are available direct from his nursery, or through his network of dealer applicators.

For more information, contact: Howland Green, Holly Ridge Nursery, 895 Liberty Lane, West Kingston, RI 02892 (ph toll-free 877 782-1270; Website: www.nadp.com).

Lawyer Stuff

Here's a list of real-life warnings on product packages:

- "Warning: Use of this device does not enable wearer to fly." *From a Superman Halloween costume*
- "Do not change belts while the engine is running." *On the packaging for a fan belt*
- "Do not lick the lid." *From the label on a bottle of radiator sealant*
- "Do not operate vehicle with screen in place." *Printed on the back of a cardboard window shade*

On-Line Classifieds

Classified ads in farm magazines and newspapers are great but Internet classifieds make it possible to search electronically through ads from all over the country without ever leaving your easy chair. Here's a list of our favorite online classifieds. Just go to the web addresses listed and look for the link to classified ads. If you don't have a computer, you can access any of these sites at most public libraries.

- www.farmshow.com
- www.agdeal.com
- www.cattletoday.com
- www.farmworldonline.com
- www.farmandranchguide.com
- www.agrinews.com/classified
- www.farmersadvance.com
- www.greathorse.com
- www.producer.com
- www.capitalpress.com
- www.agrnews-pubs.com
- www.tristateneighbor.com
- www.ontariofarmer.com
- www.hpj.com
- www.aglink.com
- www.thefencepost.com
- www.americanfarm.com
- www.farmforum.net
- www.farms.com
- www.agriculture.com



Back side of wave-powered electric generating station is fitted with a turbine. It's driven by air that's compressed by incoming waves.

Generator Produces Power From Waves

If you've ever sat by an ocean and watched the surf pounding a beach, you might have wondered why no one's ever found a good way to harness all that power.

Researcher Alan Wells wondered too, and then decided to pull together a team of scientists and engineers to come up with ways to harness ocean wave energy. Called Wavegen, the Scottish-based group has been working on the idea since 1992.

Wavegen says that converting just 0.1 percent of world wide wave energy into electricity would satisfy total world demand for energy more than five times over.

The group has designed several wave-driven pumps and power generators, based on two elements: a collector to capture wave energy and a turbine that transforms the wave energy into power to drive pumps or generators. Wells himself designed the Wells Turbine, an air-powered turbine that continues rotating in the same direction no matter which direction air flows through it.

Wavegen's wave energy collector is a partially submerged shell, open at the bottom and closed at the top. As waves rise, the pressure inside the closed shell compresses the air inside. When compressed air from the collection chamber is forced out through a check valve, a vacuum is created when the wave falls. Air rushing back into the chamber to fill the vacuum flows through the turbine, providing power to turn a generator.

If this system is built in an area where wave action is fairly constant, the turbine puts out a consistent and uninterrupted flow of electricity.

Wavegen designed their wave power collection system to work on shores or anchored in the ocean near coastlines. They've also designed combination wave and wind generating stations.

In addition, Wavegen is developing an offshore floating wave station to be used to collect power for use by the offshore oil industry. Called the PowerBuoy, Wavegen expects it to



Unlike other wave generators attempted in the past, which were designed to direct-drive turbines by wave action, the new system uses wave energy to compress air.

be important in development of marginal offshore oilfields where development of a major production platform could not now be justified.

They're also studying desalination of seawater using wave-generated power and using excess electricity to power greenhouses where high value crops can be produced, eliminating the high cost of bringing fresh food into remote areas. And, too, they're looking at wave-generated electricity to electrolyze water to produce hydrogen gas which could be used in a number of ways, including fuel cells.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wavegen, 50 Seafield Road, Longman Industrial Estate, Inverness IV1 1LZ, United Kingdom (ph 011 44 01463 238094; fax: 011 44 01463 238096; Website: <http://www.wavegen.co.uk>). (By Mick Lane, Contributing Editor)

Great Way To Amaze Your Friends

The following tidbit first appeared in FARM SHOW 22 years ago. We're reprinting it at the request of a reader:

Harold Noren of DeKalb Seed has long mystified friends with his ability to tell how many rows there are on any ear of corn without having to count them. Finally, we got him to share his secret.

First you must keep in mind that all ears of corn have an even number of rows, never an odd number. All average ears have between 12 and 20 rows. Still, it's difficult to tell at a glance whether an ear has 14, 16, 18, or 20 rows.

But Harold can. His years in the business have taught him that another rule applies. It's this: No one seems to know why, but if the rows on an ear are straight, the total number of rows is always divisible by 4 - thereby yielding either 16 or 20 rows per ear on most corn varieties.

But if the rows twist around the ear, Harold knows the number of rows on that ear can never be divided by 4 - the twisted row ear will always have 14 or 18 rows. Once you know those two things, the rest just becomes a matter of experience, says Harold. And he continues to amaze experts by hefting an ear, then quickly announcing the correct number of rows.

What he does is first check to see if the rows are straight or twisted. Then, he simply notes whether the ear is big enough to contain the upper or lower limit of rows and announces the number of rows. Got it?

Words Of Wisdom

All the gold in the world cannot buy a dying man one more breath. So what does that make today worth? Og Mandino

When we long for life without difficulties, we should be reminded that oaks grow stronger in contrary winds and diamonds can only be created under pressure. Peter Marshall

Excuses

The following are actual excuse notes from parents received by school personnel:

- Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.
- John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.
- Dear School: Please excuse Tom being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and also 33.
- Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.
- Please excuse Ray from school Friday. He has very loose bowels.
- Please excuse Ronny for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea and his boots leak.
- Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.
- Sally won't be in school a week from Friday. We have to attend her funeral.
- Megan could not come to school today because she has been bothered by very close veins.