

Latest New Products, Ideas From New Zealand

Hugh Stringleman, a leading independent journalist in New Zealand (Stringleman@internet.co.nz), recently covered the New Zealand National Fielddays for FARM SHOW. The annual show has a famous inventions contest. Here are a few of the new ideas that caught Hugh's eye.

Portable Feed Troughs Hook Together In 200-Ft. "Trains"

Stackable, mobile feedbunks that can be hooked together in "trains" up to 200 ft. long won an award for dairy farmer Ivan Marriott of Matamata, New Zealand.

Permanently placed feedbunks cause pasture damage and result in lots of mud in winter, says Marriott, who decided to eliminate the problem by making mobile bunks out of steel pipe fitted with long poly bins.

The bunks had to be narrow to fit through farm gates when pulled behind a tractor or ATV. Marriott devised a system to link them together one after the other. Or they can be stacked on top of each other and hauled on trailers.

Ten 15-ft. bins are enough to accommodate 100 head. Marriott is looking for a



manufacturer. He thinks the portable troughs could be molded as a one-piece plastic unit.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ivan Marriott, 541 Mangatutu Rd., RD3, Matamata, New Zealand (ph 64 7 872 2699).

Pivot Head Shovel Makes A Handy Post Hole Digger

Inventor Mike Cameron says his new pivot head shovel works better than any other tool on the market for digging small holes and post holes.

The square-bladed shovel has a lever system that runs from the handle down to the blade. When the handle is pulled, it pivots the blade up 90° to lift dirt out of the hole. It eliminates the need to tip the shovel back to lift out dirt, meaning less dirt has to be removed and greatly reducing the effort required to dig a hole.

Cameron notes that when the blade is folded up, the shovel can also be used as a

packer for tamping dirt back into holes.

Cameron is talking to several manufacturers about putting the new-style shovel on the market.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike Cameron, 2 Shadbolt Dr., Cambridge, New Zealand (ph 64 7 823 0950).



Pressure-Operated Farm Gate

Aircraft engineer Theo Stubbe invented this first-of-its-kind pressure-operated mechanism for opening farm gates.

A "wire rope" runs from the gate post to a sunken pressure pad. The wheel of a vehicle – or a person walking – puts pressure on the pad, activating a mechanism in the post that rotates a lever at the top of the post, opening the gate. Once open, a solar-powered electromagnet holds the gate open for an adjustable amount of time before turning off and allowing the gate to slowly close.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Theo Stubbe, Bay of Islands, New Zealand (ph 64 9 403 7877).



New-Style Spring-Loaded Log Hook

Log rolling and handling is a lot easier with this spring-loaded log hook invented by Jacob Peterson, who works at a family sawmill and sawmill exporting business near Rotorua.

The hook is engaged and disengaged by a spring-loaded lever. Once you grab onto a log and roll it backwards, it's held 6 in. off the ground by a small foot that keeps your chainsaw from digging into the ground.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jacob Peterson, 152 View

Rd., Box 98, Rotorua, New Zealand (ph 64 7 347 0847; E-mail: sales@petersonsawmills.com).



Phone-Activated Power Switches

You can turn motors and other electric-powered machinery on and off from anywhere with these phone-activated power switches invented by Gerald Pemberton.

You simply plug them into a socket and then plug the electric device you want to power into the back of the unit. To turn the power on or off, you simply use a pager network to send a coded signal.

A small circuit board and signal receiver are encased inside the device, which will work from any phone. Each "Smitch", as Pemberton calls them, has its own pager number and pin number, followed by a "1" or a "0" for on or off.

You can use the Smitch to control irrigation systems, electric fences, and other farm equipment, or to turn on lights, appliances or security systems in a home. It can be used anywhere there is a pager network. Pemberton points out that pager fees are generally much lower than cell phone fees.



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerald Pemberton, P.O. Box 72, Timaru, New Zealand (ph 64 0800 764-824; Email: stephen@smitch.co.nz).

Nighttime Insect Trap Fitted With Solar Light

This new water trap draws in night-flying insects with a solar-powered light that charges up during the day and shines all night.

Yoko Beard of Palmerston North, says it lets you catch insects without the need for bait. You simply put 2 in. of water in the bottom of the trap and hang it from a pole or tree. Moths and other flying insects enter through holes in the sides and bottom only to drown inside.

Beard says the trap is ideal for protecting fruit trees.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Yoko



Beard, RD 10, Palmerston North New Zealand.

Portable Tub Rescues Down Cows

Inventor Bruce Cameron came up with this portable bath to rescue cows that go down with various disorders.

A cow that is unable to stand is placed in the center of a large piece of heavy-gauge plastic liner. The tub is assembled around it using plywood sides supported by a tube steel frame. Once the tub is up and ready, it's filled with water, floating the downed animal to its feet.

One end off the "Cow Pool" has a slotted gate which can be lowered to drop the liner to let water out.

Cameron says this method does away with cow slings and hip clamps which can bruise animals.



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bruce Cameron, RD 5, Tuakau, New Zealand (ph 64 9 233 3045).

Floating Lid Keeps Water Tank Clean

Here's a new way to keep drinking water clean, even out on pasture. The TroffTop is a molded plastic lid that floats on the surface of the water. It has several depressions in it with holes that allow water to come up through from below. Animals drink from the water on top of the lid without contaminating the clean water down below.

Invented and patented by Peter Bunker, the new TroffTop keeps out debris, small animals and keeps cattle from stepping into the tank and it also helps prevent the growth of algae.

Animals will drink more when the water is clean, says Bunker. And if the lid gets dirty, you can just lift it off to clean it off.

TroffTops can be made in virtually any size and shape to fit different tanks.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Peter Bunker, TroffTop Products, P.O. Box 1010,



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