

## Pickup Powers "Poorboy" Milker

With only a slight modification to the intake manifold vacuum line on his pickup, Jeff Hoard, Austin, Nevada, put together a milking machine that he now uses to milk goats.

Hoard's dairy goat herd numbers just 10, so he couldn't justify spending thousands of dollars on new equipment. There's also no electricity available where he keeps his goats so he had to search for another way to do the milking.

"I figured we could use a car or pickup engine to provide the little bit of vacuum needed for a small milking machine, but I spent several months thinking about just how we'd make it work," he says.

In the end, he cut the vacuum line on the engine, installed a "T" in it, and added a ball valve to that. A line from the valve to his milking machine creates just the right amount of vacuum.

His homemade milking machine features a pulsator he purchased from a farm supply store and a regulator he built from PVC pipe and a marble. Both are mounted on an 8-qt. pressure cooker. "I decided on a pressure pan because I figured it would be able to take the vacuum and hold the seal," he says.

He made teat cups from PVC pipe fitted

with regular milker inflations. The lines from the teat cups that run back to the pressure pan are clear vinyl. "This lets us watch the milk flow, so we don't leave the milkers on too long," he notes.

Hoard says once he figured out how he was going to make his milker, he put it together in less than 3 hours, and for a cost of less than \$200. That's about a tenth of what he would have spent for one milking unit, he estimates.

While his system is sized for goats, he says it could be pieced together for cows just as easily. He says an idling car or pickup engine creates enough vacuum to handle multiple claws, so you could milk two or more animals at once with it. He's considered using a larger pressure cooker, perhaps a 22-qt. model, to see if he can still maintain the proper vacuum. "That would let you collect about 5 gal. of milk before you'd have to empty the container," he says.

Hoard added a vacuum valve to all his vehicles, so he can milk no matter what he's driving. "Some of our goats are pastured quite a ways from the buildings, but with this, we can milk them anywhere," he says.

Hoard says several of the people who've



Engine vacuum provides the suction for Hoard's homemade milker.

seen his milker asked if he'd make them one like it. He says he can do that for \$360, and ship it postage paid. Or if you'd like a machine but want to make it yourself, he could put together plans and a materials list.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jeff Hoard, HM Ranch/Hoard Mfg. Co., HC 61, Box 6108, Austin, Nevada 89310 (ph or fax 775 217-9264).



A pressure cooker and PVC pipe were used to make the milking unit.

## When This Tractor Smokes, It's Really Cooking!

There's a restored antique tractor in Hazel Green, Alabama that does more than just look nice. The 1941 Farmall "H" fools some people into thinking it's a pulling tractor because it looks a bit customized, but they couldn't be further from the truth.

What's actually hidden under those mysterious sheet metal sides is a barbeque grill, says its owner Henry Carter. The original motor on the tractor was bad, so it was converted by Carter's friend, Charley Mason. The oil pan from a Cummings diesel engine slides out to put charcoal in, and a large grill sits above it.

"The grill is made from six standard size gas barbeque grills. The cooking area is 46 in. long, 44 in. wide and 24 in. deep," Carter says. "The grill metal is 3/8-in. plating so it will last 50 years. The tractor is standard size - we didn't stretch it out."

Dennis Donahue of Indiana saw the unique

rig when traveling through Alabama, and called FARM SHOW about it, he was so impressed.

"One of the gauges on the dash is actually a thermometer that tells you the temperature inside the barbeque," he says. "The smoke comes out through the muffler exhaust pipe. It looks very nice. The tires are on it and it looks like a running tractor."

In fact, the engineless tractor is rigged up with a half horsepower electric motor with a 30/1 gearbox to chain drive the original five-speed transmission. This lets Carter "drive" the tractor up onto a trailer for transport, or move it around the yard.

Carter says it took 100 man hours to build the tractor barbeque.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Henry Carter, Box 91, Hazel Green, Alabama 35750 (ph 256 828-3816; fax 256 828-6755; email: hjcarter@bellsouth.net).



No one suspects that this modified tractor is actually a state-of-the-art barbeque grill.

Since this grill mounts right to the receiver hitch, you don't ever need to worry about storing a hot grill inside your car or truck.



## "Tailgater" Barbeque Grill

If you do much barbeque grilling away from home - camping or at ball games - you'll be interested in this new tailgater barbeque grill that hooks into any standard receiver hitch.

The grill comes with fold-down legs for using it at home.

"It doesn't take up any space inside your vehicle, and when you're done grilling you can start driving even if the grill is not cooled off," says Dean Sawyer, American Railcar In-

dustries, Jackson, Mo. "It works great for tailgating at ball games, or feeding teams at weekend tournaments."

The grill sells for \$140; the rack for \$99.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ARI-IPG, 1305 Lenco Ave., Jackson, Mo. 63755 (ph 573 243-8170; fax 573 243-2688; email: dsawyer@americanrailcar.com; website: www.ari-jackson.com).



Six standard size grill sections mount above oil pan, which holds charcoal.

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