

1/4-Scale Sawmill Works Like The Real Thing

"My 1/4-scale circular sawmill works just like the real thing but is powered by the flat belt off an old tractor. I often take it to shows where people really get a kick out of watching me cut logs into boards," says Louie Job, Anoka, Minn.

FARM SHOW recently caught up with Job at an antique power show. He was using a Deere 2-cyl. tractor for power.

The sawmill is built almost entirely out of wood and is equipped with a 12-in. dia. circular blade. It measures 7 ft. long by 3 ft. wide and has an overhead sun shelter. It weighs about 400 lbs., which is light enough that Job can haul it in his pickup.

The log to be cut is held secure to the sawmill's carriage by three head blocks equipped with "top dogs". The flat belt drives a pulley that operates a set of opposing pulleys, one on each side of the mill. The fric-

tion drive system uses one pulley to move the log forward on the carriage and the other to move it backward. Job uses a lever to start or stop each belt. A gear operates a moveable platform that carries sawdust out of the way and drops it onto the ground.

"People marvel at the mechanical operation of it and at how straight and thin it cuts," says Job. "I can cut boards 1/8 in. thick that are accurate from one end to the other. It'll handle logs up to 8 in. dia. and 36 in. long. Sometimes I saw red cedar logs into boards which I give away. I've used my 1/4-scale sawmill some for shop projects, but it's more of a toy than a working sawmill.

"I take it to antique tractor shows every year. Someone is always willing to let me borrow their tractor to operate the mill. I've even used a 1/2-scale steam engine tractor to operate it."



"It'll handle 8-in. dia. logs up to 36 in. long," says Louie Job about his 1/4-scale sawmill. It's powered by a Deere 2-cyl. tractor.

Job says he bought the mill about 20 years ago from a woman in Iowa whose husband had built it and then died. Several pieces were missing, which he replaced. He also geared the blade down. "At first I staked the sawmill down to the ground to make sure the flat

belt wouldn't twist, but I've found that isn't necessary."

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Superior Wool Pays Off For Cormo Sheep Producers

Careful genetic selection resulted in the development of the "Cormo," a "dual" sheep breed that produces both high quality wool and good quality meat. The breed's super-soft Merino-type fiber is sought out by felters, hand spinners, lace and baby clothes makers.

According to Dr. Elizabeth Ferraro of Apple Rose Farm at Wrightstown, New Jersey, the medium-sized breed is fast becoming one of the best wool producing breeds in the industry today.

Cormos are always white and do not have horns. Adult ewes average 130 lbs. while rams and wethers average 230 lbs.

Apple Rose Farm has one of the largest flocks of registered Cormos in the U.S. Ferraro says each of her 65 sheep produce 10 pounds of well-skirted fleece that sells right off the sheep (if it's clean) for \$15 per pound. Cormo sheep bred for the "artist market" are usually kept covered with a "sheep coat" to protect the fleece.

"These animals produce a tremendous amount of revenue. A ram can give you ten pounds of top quality fleece in addition to at least three to five pounds of high quality skirting, which is the secondary quality wool from the belly and legs," Ferraro says. "This skirting

sells for \$9 per pound for felting, so that one ram can bring you as much as \$195 just for the fleece every year."

Ferraro sells breeding stock as well, and says Cormos are popular with people raising other breeds such as meat or dairy sheep. These people often cross with Cormos to improve their fleece quality so they have a second product to sell.

Cormo ewe lambs and unbred ewes sell for about \$325, bred ewes for \$350, and rams for \$250 to \$300, according to Ferraro.

Cormo sheep are easy to handle, have strong flocking instincts, peaceful dispositions, and adapt well to a variety of environmental conditions. They do well in high mountain areas out west, and pastures. Cormos lamb without assistance and often produce twins. They also have a high musclet-to-bone ratio.

The Cormo breed was developed in Tasmania, Australia. Carefully selected Saxon Merino ewes and Corriedale rams formed the breeding foundation. A computer system matched the highest quality rams and ewes. Requirements included high-weight, clean fleece, a fiber diameter of 17 to 23 microns, a fast body growth rate, and a high fertility rate.



A single Cormo sheep can produce up to \$195 worth of fleece per year. They can also be cross-bred with meat or dairy sheep to produce sheep that can be raised for their fleece as well.

The first Cormos were imported into the U.S. in 1976.

The Cormo Sheep Conservation Registry, Inc., is a non-profit registry for the breed and is dedicated to preserving the breed standard.

The American Cormo Sheep Breeders Association is another group that exists. It follows a different standard and registers Cormo

sheep with horns.

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Weathervanes And Cupolas Coming Back In Style

Old fashioned weathervanes and cupolas are coming back into style, says Annapolis Weathervanes, a company that manufactures and sells more than 100 different styles of handmade weathervanes and several styles of cupolas.

The company's weathervanes are all made from copper (shiny or antique finish) and are available in three different sizes.

There are so many styles that the company divided them into categories such as: wildlife, Americana, seafaring, barnyard animals, and special interest (which includes such things as motorcycles, golf and airplanes). They also fill custom orders.

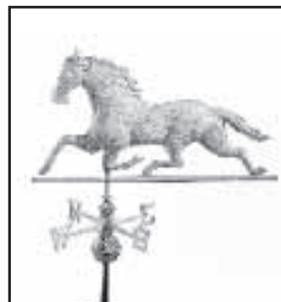
The company's decorative cupolas have copper roofs and are made from a variety of

materials.

The company also supplies "finials," a pointed copper object (usually a ball and a cone) used to accent roof peaks. In addition, they sell copper "roofcaps," which protect peaks.

Weathervane prices range from \$199 to \$799, plus shipping. The company's "old fashioned guarantee" means a 100 percent refund if a customer isn't satisfied.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Annapolis Weathervanes, 107 Summers Run, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (ph 888 899-8493 or 610 617-9941; fax 610 668-2472; email: beverlytrivane@comcast.net); website: www.weathervaneandcupola.com).



These all-copper weathervanes come in over 100 different styles. Mounting equipment is also available.

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