

**Editor's
Notebook**



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Modified wheelchair helps Anthony Thiel keep busy on his New York farm.

Go-Anywhere Wheelchair

Anthony Thiel, who lives near Boston, N.Y., is a quadriplegic who stays as active as he can. He recently sent me a note about modifications he made to his battery-powered wheelchair.

"I got hurt in 1990 when the transport wheels kicked out from underneath a Deere hay elevator. I wanted to keep helping on the vegetable fields a quarter mile from our house. But the power chairs I tried couldn't handle the terrain.

"I finally bought an Invacare wheelchair. It was originally equipped with 8-in. high, 2 1/2-in. wide front wheels which bogged down on soft plowed ground. I had them replaced with larger 10-in. tall, 3-in. wide wheels which float easily over rough ground. I also removed the anti-tip wheels on back of the wheelchair because they were digging into the dirt, causing me to lose traction. A mechanic friend lowered the wheelchair seat and moved it forward. As a result the wheels are now farther back so I can go up steep inclines without tipping backward.

"I had four rings welded to my chair - two on each side - to use to tie the chair down while being transported. I also tow a wagon using a light chain hooked onto one of the rear rings. There's a cargo box and two buckets on the wagon to haul stuff. An aide is with me 24 hours a day and she hooks up the wagon and fills the buckets."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Anthony Thiel, 5563 Rice Road, Boston, N.Y. 14025 (ph 716 941-3827).

Using Acetone To Boost MPG

A hot topic on the internet lately is using acetone to boost gas or diesel mileage. There seems to be lots of evidence the idea works but there are a few things to watch out for. Here's what we've been able to find out.

Acetone is the main ingredient in paint thinner and fingernail polish remover. You want to make sure you use 100 percent pure acetone (available at drugstores). But you must be careful since it's very flammable if stored improperly, and it'll take the paint off your vehicle if you're not careful when pouring it into the tank. It's also very important to know your vehicle since acetone can wear away plastic components. Most fuel systems are made of higher quality components but some problems have been reported on a few vehicles.

Added to fuel in small amounts, acetone aids in the vaporization of gasoline or diesel, increasing fuel efficiency, engine longevity, and performance. Use 1 to 3 oz. of pure acetone per 10 gal. of gasoline. In a 10-gal. tank of diesel, use from 1 to 2 oz. of acetone. Reports of mileage increases of 25 percent or more are common.

For detailed information, and hundreds of reports on the effect of adding acetone to fuel, go to: http://www.pureenergysystems.com/news/2005/03/17/6900069_Acetone/. Or go to Google.com and search up "acetone as fuel additive" to find a number of websites and individual reports from people who have tried the idea over a long period of time.

Liberty Quotes

"If you want to be free, there is but one way; it is to guarantee an equally full measure of liberty to all your neighbors. There is no other." *Carl Schurz*

"If Tyranny and Oppression come to this land, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy." *James Madison*

"Of all tyrannies, a tyranny exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end, for they do so with the approval of their consciences."

C.S. Lewis

"A wholesome regard for the memory of the great men from long ago is the best assurance to a people of a continuation of great men to come, who shall be able to instruct, to lead, and to inspire. A people who worship at the shrine of true greatness will themselves be truly great." *Calvin Coolidge*

"One of the sad signs of our times is that we have demonized those who produce, subsidized those who refuse to produce, and canonized those who complain." *Thomas Sowell*

"We will all be better citizens when voting records of our Congressmen are followed as carefully as scores of pro football games." *Lou Erickson*

"When a man assumes a public trust, he should consider himself as public property." *Thomas Jefferson*

Giraffe For Sale

I spotted an ad in the back of a farm magazine recently: "Giraffe for sale. 2-year old male. Broke to lead. Gentle."

Since that was something you don't see every day, I decided to call the seller, Joe Hedrick, Nickerson, Kan. Turns out Joe runs an exotic animal farm with a bed & breakfast. He also sets up unique petting zoos across the country, and "rents" out his animals for promotional events.

"We have 8 giraffes, which is more than we need," says Hedrick. "When they're little, we use them in petting zoos. We raise them ourselves, gradually training them to halter and lead. The giraffe we're selling is named Tanzar. He stands 10 ft. tall and is still growing. He'll reach full maturity at about 5 years."

Tanzar won't come cheap. Hedrick is asking \$40,000. So far no takers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joe Hedrick, 7910 N. Roy L. Smith Rd., Nickerson, Kan. 67561 (ph 800 618-9577; www.hedricks.com).

Massey's Biggest Tractor Ever

Massey Ferguson plans to start selling its most powerful tractor ever in 2009. Built at AGCO's factory in Beauvais, France, the big tractor will have a 365 hp 6-cyl. engine, a stepless transmission, integrated front linkage and pto, and a new 4-pillar cab. Sixteen test units are in the field this year.

The tractor was introduced at an event held recently to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Massey Ferguson name. Massey-Harris bought out Harry Ferguson in 1953 but the name "Massey Ferguson" wasn't used until 1958.

Pigeon King Goes Belly Up

Pigeon King International, the Canadian outfit that promoted pigeon breeding to hundreds of investors across North America, declared bankruptcy in June, according to *Better Farming* magazine, the publication that first exposed the business as a classic Ponzi scheme. At one point, Pigeon King was selling breeding pairs for as much as \$500. More than 1,000 farmers got involved, with some investing as much as \$1 million. For more info, go to www.Betterfarming.com.

Hypermilers Get 100 Mpg - Or More!

Wayne Gerdes is the Lance Armstrong of gas mileage. He's one of a growing number of "hypermilers", drivers dedicated to extracting the maximum mpg possible from every tank of gas. Gerdes gained notoriety in 2006 when he and his team traveled 2,254 miles on a single 13.7-gal. tank of gas. They were driving a hybrid Honda Insight at a competition in

Tonkawa, Oklahoma. That was an average of 165 mpg in a vehicle with an EPA rating of 66 mpg highway. For the competition, Gerdes used techniques that might be illegal on the street - such as removing power steering pumps, cutting away side mirrors, and shutting off the engine while coasting - but he says many of the fuel-saving techniques he and other hypermilers have come up with could boost mileage in any vehicle - often as high as 100 mpg. He started a website called www.CleanMpg.com which is a forum for fuel-saving pennypinchers. Another mileage-saving website worth checking out is www.GasSavers.org.

Remember Lurch?

If you thought the horns on Lurch the Watusi steer were big when he first got into the Guinness Book of World records (Vol. 27, No. 6), take a look at him now! Lurch is owned by Janis Wolf of Gassville, Ark.



With 38-in. dia. horns, Lurch has now beaten his own world record.

Watusi cattle, which originated in Africa, are known for their big horns. Lurch was born in 1995 and it soon became evident his horns were going to be big even for a Watusi. Wolf thought they had stopped growing in 2003 when she submitted Lurch's measurements to the Guinness people. At 37 1/2 in. dia., he easily beat the previous record. However, in the past 5 years, the horns have continued to grow. Today they measure 38 in. around and 7 ft., 6 in. from tip to tip.

Quotable Quotes

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit." *Aristotle*

"My grandmother wanted me to have an education, so she kept me out of school." *Margaret Mead*

"I have never let my schooling interfere with my education." *Mark Twain*

"Intelligence appears to be the thing that enables a man to get along without education. Education enables a man to get along without the use of his intelligence." *Albert Edward Wiggin*

"Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of eighty and gradually approach eighteen." *Mark Twain*

On the last day of kindergarten, all the children brought presents for their teacher. The florist's son handed the teacher a gift. She shook it, held it up and said, "I bet it's some flowers."

"That's right!" shouted the little boy. Then the candy store owner's daughter handed the teacher a gift. She held it up, shook it and said, "I bet I know what it is. It's a box of candy."

"That's right!" shouted the little girl. The next gift was from the liquor store owner's son. The teacher held it up and saw that it was leaking. She touched a drop with her finger and tasted it.

"Is it wine?" she asked. "No," the boy answered. The teacher touched another drop to her tongue.

"Is it champagne?" she asked. "No," the boy answered. "What is it?" she said. "A puppy!" shouted the boy.

A rancher needed a bull to service his cows so he borrowed the money from a bank. The banker who lent the money came by a week later to see how his investment was doing. The farmer complained that the bull just ate grass and wouldn't even look at the cows. The banker suggested that a veterinarian take a look at the bull.

The next week the banker returned to see if the vet helped. The farmer looked very pleased: "The bull serviced all my cows, then broke through the fence and serviced all my neighbor's cows."

"Wow," said the banker, "what did the vet do to that bull?" "Just gave him some pills," replied the farmer. "What kind of pills?" asked the banker. "I don't know," said the farmer, "but they sort of tasted like peppermint."

A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats, and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically, "Relatives of yours?" "Yep," the wife replied, "in-laws."