

Windmill Ceiling Fan

It's difficult to miss the full-size windmill mounted on the ceiling of the Kenny Bush family farm museum in Milan, Ill. The Baker windmill has a 10-ft., 38-vane fan mounted on a 32-ft. tower complete with ladder and work platform.

Bush had fond memories from his boyhood of windmills that pumped water for cattle, hogs and horses, as well as their house. About 12 years ago he found a Chicago Aeromotor windmill with an 8-ft. fan on a 30-ft. tower similar to the one he grew up with, and he installed it on his farm. Two years later he installed one on his daughter and son-in-law's property.

Eight years ago, he spotted the Baker windmill while attending an Indiana windmill convention. "It caught my eye and I decided it would make a great ceiling fan for the meeting room at our family farm museum," he says.

Lifting the tower with a forklift and bolting it to the ceiling wasn't difficult. Bush's main concern was safety in mounting the several hundred pound fan over the dining area. He took a cone type variable speed friction drive honey extractor and powered it with a 3/4-hp gear motor to al-



A full-size windmill, with a 10-ft. dia., 38-vane fan and 32-ft. tower, is mounted on the ceiling in Kenny Bush's family farm museum.

low slippage for a smooth start, and when shut off allows it to coast to a stop. A lever controls the desirable speed.

Bush's entire three-story museum is a novelty. He started with a 40 by 32-ft. century-old cow barn with a haymow that had been converted to a hog farrowing house. In 1990, he remodeled it into a hobby barn and added a 40 by 60-ft. addition out of recycled metal from the Rock Island Arsenal lumber storage, which he got for tearing down and removal.

Bush started the museum to display his collections of farm equipment and memorabilia and to preserve the history of farming from the time his grandfather started in 1900 to the present day. He also wanted his 13 grandchildren to learn more about agriculture. Each year all of them stayed at the farm for several weeks and helped arrange and label items.

The building is used for family reunions, anniversaries and graduation parties. Historical groups, grain marketing groups,

antique tractor clubs, the "Red Hat Ladies" and other groups have also held meetings in the museum.

The museum is private, but Bush holds an open house every September. If you're interested, send him your name and address on a self-addressed envelope, and he'll send you an invite before that date.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kenny Bush, 6706 78th Ave. W, Milan, Ill. 61264 (ph 309 787-1926).

First Organization For Hay Tool Collectors

If you've got a fondness for antique hay tools, pulleys and other barn accessories, check out the newly formed National Hay Tool Collectors Association. Membership is free. Their newsletter promises a wagon load of information about hay tools, swap meets and other gatherings, and lists items for sale or trade.

"Lots of collectors are familiar with hay tools produced in their state or region, but have no access to information on hay tools from other areas. Designs varied from one region to another. The newsletter will help members learn about hay tools from other regions," says Doug de Shazer, a founding member.

He describes himself as an accidental collector. After he admired a pulley at a swap meet, a friend bought it for him. By

the end of the meet, he recalls carrying 13 pulleys to his car. Six years later, he has more than 200 pulleys, 130 carriers and many added accessories.

"The design and engineering of the pulleys and carriers is what attracts me," says de Shazer. "They were so ornate and detailed for something that sat in the peak of the barn most of the year and was rarely seen. The pride in workmanship was incredible."

He adds that observing how designs changed over time is equally interesting. He notes that carriers developed in the early 1800's were light and more delicate. By the early 1900's, they were much stronger and able to lift 1,000 lbs. or more.

"Research was all done in the field," he says. "When a model broke, the next genera-

tion would be heavier or reinforced. Thus, the early models will be harder to find because they tended to break."

He and Steve Weeber of Iowa City, Iowa, first conceived of an association a year ago. They have since sent out hundreds of letters to known collectors and are now broadening their search.

"We feel that members will be able to learn from each other, share information and find out about farm shows and events held in different areas of the country," says de Shazer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, National Hay Tool Collectors Association, 55005 897 Rd., Crofton, Neb. 68730 (ph 402 510-8845; haytoolcollector@yahoo.com; lepulleymuseum@yahoo.com).



Hay carriers and other such tools are highly valued by collectors in the new association.



Not wanting to waste the seats from an old bean bar, Brett Hundertmark decided to convert them into yard furniture. The umbrella is from a Deere tractor.

Redneck Lawn Furniture

After a long day, Brett Hundertmark relaxes in "redneck furniture" he built using the seats and other parts from an old bean bar.

"The seats seemed too nice to throw away when we stopped needing to spot-spray in beans, so the concept of making yard furniture out of them came up after several beverages," laughs Hundertmark.

He welded the seats to scrap pieces of square tubing welded to a disc blade on the base and a coultter blade on top that holds a manhole cover tabletop. To add stability,

Hundertmark bolted smaller square tubing with a flat steel base under each seat.

He welded foot pegs from the bean bar to the center beam and attached an old umbrella from a Deere tractor for shade.

"We use it for barbecues," Hundertmark says. "When I have consignment auctions, farmers sit on the chairs and I get a lot of comments on it."

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"It turned the tractor into a real show piece," says Robert Glanville, owner of this Deere 110 garden tractor that was converted into a two-seater.

Rare Attachment For Deere Tractor

For a few years back in the 1960's, Deere offered a fiberglass kit that would convert a Deere 110 garden tractor into a two-seater with a couple of seat cushions on back.

The kit was called the Sweepster and was made by Sweepster Jenkins Co. in Covington, Ohio. The kit was designed to bolt onto the tractor's rear axle after the owner removed the rear fenders and seat. The owner also had to turn the tractor's rear wheels inside out to make room for the Sweepster's mounting brackets.

"It turns the tractor into a real show piece," says Robert Glanville, Walton, Ontario, who recently sent FARM SHOW photos of his Sweepster-equipped Deere 110. "It's a pretty rare piece of equipment - I've only seen seven other models in North America. Over the years I've driven it in parades and shows and it always makes a great conversation piece."

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