

## Editor's Notebook



**Mark Newhall**

**Editor & Publisher**



**Plywood or Steel Temp Storage (Vol. 26, No. 4)** - Willwood Industries sells temporary grain storage kits that use either plywood or steel (<http://www.willwood.ca>; ph 306-537-9560).



**Underground Storage (Vol. 23, No. 4)** - Wally Thorn dug this 79-ft. long, 14-ft. wide pit to store 5,500 bu. of grain.



**Straw Bale Grain Bins (Vol. 10, No. 5)** - "They seal themselves so grain doesn't leak out," says Francis Kinze about the straw bale "bins" he erected to store a bumper crop of barley and oats.



**Round Bale Grain Bunker (Vol. 34, No. 3)** - Rex Gogery dumps grain into bunker made with round bales for short-term storage.



**Bin Ring Storage (Vol. 27, No. 4)** - Bob Schuler used three 30-ft. dia. bin rings to store a total of 13,500 bu. of corn. He cut holes in the bottom of each ring to insert aeration tubes.



**Plywood Grain Bin (Vol. 3, No. 5)** - Curtis Hemstad bolted 14 sheets of plywood together in a circle to hold 4,000 bu. of grain. A 5/16-in. steel cable wraps around the outside for support.



**Low-Cost Temporary Bin (Vol. 23, No. 4)** - Jim Noram spent \$600 to put up a bin with no floor or roof. It measured 36 ft. in dia. and held 13,000 bu.

## Cheap Ways To Store Crops

Although USDA crop forecasts at the beginning of September said the U.S. corn and bean crop would be about about the same size as last year, we've had calls lately from readers in some parts of the Midwest expecting bumper crops. They were looking for low-cost crop storage ideas.

FARM SHOW has featured numerous ideas for temporary grain storage over the years. We dug back into the archives to pull out a few (see above). If you'd like the full story on any or all of these ideas, just email me at [mark@farmshow.com](mailto:mark@farmshow.com) or call us at 800-834-9665. We'll email, fax or mail a packet of all the stories shown here to you immediately at no charge. Or, if you have a copy of our CD-Rom of past issues, just look under the category "Crop Storage" and you'll find all of these stories plus many others.

There's been more interest in recent years in storing dry grain in plastic bags, and one idea that seemed to be drawing a crowd at the Farm Progress Show was a new Polyfastener Zip Tool that's designed to give an airtight seal to the ends of big grain bags. Made by Curry Industries ([www.curryindustries.com](http://www.curryindustries.com); ph 204-661-1729) it's a nifty tool that uses zipper-like plastic strips to give an airtight seal to the end of big bags. The company points out that up to now there hasn't been a good way to tightly seal the end of big ag bags. The Zip Tool strips can be reused from year to year. Sells for \$799.



**Zip Tool bag sealer being demonstrated at the recent Farm Progress Show.**

## What's New At AGCO?

AGCO impressed reporters at a recent news conference where the company introduced new machines and talked about hot new products in development. Gary Ball, senior vice president of engineering, made the point that AGCO is now the only major ag equipment company that's solely focused on agriculture. No research and development money goes into construction equipment or trucking.

Here are some new products the company recently introduced, and a few that are still in development:

- A 7-cylinder, 462 hp engine from AGCO's Sisu Power division. Added to an existing 6-cylinder engine, the 7th cylinder offers 20 percent more displacement and a corresponding power increase. Uses the same gear train, flywheel housing and flywheel.
- 12-cylinder, V-block engine that produces 700 hp.
- The just-introduced Gleaner S7 Series transverse rotor combine with a newly enlarged 30-in. rotor for heavyweight capacity in row crops as well as grain. New fuel technology offers up to 15 percent greater fuel efficiency over conventional combines.
- Prototype 6-wheel drive, triple axle tractor, shown two years ago in Europe (Vol. 32, No. 1). It has twin CVT transmissions and is equipped with ABS brakes, which will soon start showing up on the company's other models. The innovative tractor also features on-the-go tire pressure control, which will also soon be integrated into other models.
- Sunflower 1550 Series 5-section, 50-ft. disk harrow features duplex wing hinge designed to better follow terrain. The walking triple tandems offer 50 percent more weight-carrying capacity to slice through heavy residue.
- Other technologies being evaluated by AGCO include new ag tires that stand up better to crop stubble, engines that can use ethanol-diesel mixes being developed in South America, and increased use of electric power on tractors and other equipment, such as the prototype electric drive wheel on the company's RoGator. (**Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor**)

## Charity Idea Catches On Fast

Anna Chan is waging a one-woman crusade against hunger, thanks to a simple idea she came up with to get fresh fruits and vegetables to local food shelves.

In 2009 Chan started asking neighbors for permission to harvest unpicked fruit from trees in local backyards. She then donated the produce. "I collected more than 2,000 lbs. of fruit the first 30 days I started picking," says Chan, who lives in Contra Costa County in California. In all, she harvested 8 tons of produce, which would otherwise have gone to waste, during her first year. She hauled it all to local food shelves, who were thrilled because they rarely receive fresh produce.



**Chan picks fruit that would otherwise go to waste.**

This year Chan has been working about 30 hours a week on the project. She says one idea that helped her get started was printing up a flyer with her name, address and an explanation of what she was doing. Another idea she had this year that's paying off is collecting unsold produce at local farmers' markets.

Chan's idea is catching on fast in California and other parts

of the country as people hear about the idea. She also writes about her efforts at her blog, [www.thelemonlady.blogspot.com](http://www.thelemonlady.blogspot.com).

## Liberty Quotes

"In matter of conscience, the law of majority has no place."  
*Mahatma Mohandas K. Gandhi*

"I have always believed that government had a limited capacity to do good and a virtually infinite capacity to do harm."  
*Neil Hamilton*

"The smallest minority on earth is the individual. Those who deny individual rights cannot claim to be defenders of minorities."  
*Ayn Rand*

"If everyone is thinking alike, then someone isn't thinking."  
*George S. Patton*

"If government could create jobs and raise children, socialism would have worked."  
*Gerald Gilder*

"Government machinery has been described as a marvelous labor saving device which enables ten men to do the work of one."  
*John Maynard Keynes*

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."  
*Margaret Mead*

"Liberty is not a cruise ship full of pampered passengers. Liberty is a man-of-war, and we are all crew."  
*Kenneth W. Royce*

**After a mild disagreement with my wife** the other day, she ended the discussion by saying, "If I agreed with you then we would both be wrong!"

**Lena got on a bus and was holding her baby.** The bus driver said, "That's the ugliest baby I've ever seen."

In a huff, Lena slammed her fare into the fare box and took an aisle seat near the rear of the bus.

The man seated next to her sensed that she was agitated and asked her what was wrong. "Da bus driver insulted me," Lena fumed.

The man sympathized and said, "Why, he's a public servant and shouldn't say things to insult passengers."

"Yew're right," Lena said. "I tink I'll go back up dere and give him a piece ov my mind."

"That's a good idea," the man said. "Here, let me hold your monkey."

**After finishing his examination,** the doctor looked at his patient and said, "I can't find the exact cause of your trouble, Mr. Smith, but it's probably due to drinking too much."

The patient looked at the doctor and replied, "Gee I'm sorry to hear that, Doc. I'll come back when you're sober."

**A very successful businessman had a meeting** with his new son-in-law. "I love my daughter and welcome you into the family," said the man. "To show you how much we care for you, I'm making you a 50-50 partner in my business. All you have to do is go to the factory every day and learn the operations."

The son-in-law interrupted, "I hate factories. I can't stand the noise."

"I see," replied the father-in-law. "Then you'll work in the office and take charge of some of the operations."

"I hate office work," said the son-in-law. "I can't stand being stuck behind a desk all day."

"Wait a minute," said the father-in-law. "I just made you half-owner of a money-making organization, but you don't like factories and won't work in an office. What am I going to do with you?"

"Easy," said the young man, "Buy me out."

## My Son, The Inventor

**By Janis Schole, Contributing Editor**

All my years of writing about inventors for FARM SHOW must have rubbed off on my son, Kyle. He's a 17-year-old high school student who recently achieved a measure of national and international fame for a scientific discovery he entered in a science fair. The Discovery Channel sent a film crew to our farm, to Kyle's school, and to the local lab where Kyle did much of his research. Other TV news programs have also done stories. Newspapers and scientific magazines have published stories about his ideas, including the European Rubber Journal in London, England. Kyle has also been awarded scholarships, prize money, and trips to international science fairs in Europe and Australia. His dad and I are very proud!

Every year since Kyle was about 10 years old, he has entered science fair projects in local and regional competitions. For the past 4 years, he has done so well that he advanced to the national level.

His most recent project involved isolating two strains of bacteria that "eat" ground-up rubber from old tires. If that weren't good enough, he discovered a way to harness



**Kyle Schole's science fair invention has earned him national and even international acclaim.**

the energy produced during the breakdown of the tires by creating a microbial fuel cell that produces electricity. One key to success of the invention is that he uses LED's that produce light of varying wavelengths to enhance the growth of the microbes and speed the whole process.

The discovery of the effect of light on bacteria came about in part from a FARM SHOW article that I wrote about LED light therapy being used on horses to speed the healing of injuries (Vol. 31, No. 2).