

Get Old Manuals ASAP From "Farm Manuals Fast"

If you need an old tractor manual fast, you may be able to get it in minutes thanks to Tyler Finchum. The college freshman's Farm Manuals Fast website is already well established with an ever-growing number of farm equipment manuals in electronic form. He only carries older manuals that are off copyright so they can be legally reproduced.

"I have around 600 now, most of the popular models, scanned in and available for download," says Finchum. "About 75 percent are operator manuals with the rest parts and service manuals. If there's a lot of demand, I try to purchase a service manual to go with the operator manual."

Visitors to Finchum's website pay a fee to download them immediately. If internet service is slow, manuals can also be ordered on CD's or flash drives.

Most manuals are priced at less than \$20; however, larger manuals are more expensive. For example, the complete 1,900-page, technical manual for Deere's 6620, Sidehill 6620, 7720 and 8820 combines is priced at \$99.99.

Paper versions are not available. Eventually he hopes to be able to add that option. At this time, printing copies of manuals would be too time consuming and costly for his one-man company. Anyone who wants a hard copy manual can print their own after buying the electronic version.

"The majority of our customers just download to their computers," says Finchum. "Usually they need it as soon as possible."

Finchum got the idea for his website listening to his father and uncle describe the need for a manual for an older tractor. When he found one online, it cost \$87. Then a high school junior, he figured there had to be a better way to get a manual.

After buying a used book scanning system, he got busy collecting and scanning older farm equipment manuals. Initially he focused on IH and Deere and not that much on Massey Ferguson or Allis Chalmers.

"Most manuals can be scanned and converted to the right format in about an hour," says Finchum. "Service manuals take longer, as ones for larger equipment like combines can run 1,200 pages. Implement manuals are



Finchum uses a book scanner to scan older farm equipment manuals (left). Visitors to his website pay a fee to download manuals, or can order them on CD's or flash drives.



more popular than tractor manuals. Baler manuals are really popular, and I'm always looking for them."

Finchum has sold manuals to customers in 25 countries and every state in the U.S.

He recently set up a foundation to provide manuals free to farmers in Third World countries. While that effort hasn't been as success-

ful as he had hoped, he is still building awareness. He encourages FARM SHOW readers with manuals they would like to donate for use by his foundation to contact him directly via his website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, (tylerfinchum@tylerfinchum.com; www.farmmanualsfast.com).

On-Farm Fuel-Cleaning Service

"When people complain about dirty fuel, it's usually a dirty storage tank that is the problem," says Jack "Buck" Benner, owner of a fuel-cleaning service that comes to the farm. "Cleaning the fuel, and the tank, go hand in hand. It's the best way to remove all the sludge, slime, buildup and water in the tank."

Benner had seen a need for equipment to clean fuel when he learned about the Algae-X Fuel Polishing System. The system had mainly been marketed for maritime use, large transportation fleets and mining equipment.

Benner put the system to work for Idaho farmers, ranchers and others, anyone with bulk fuel storage tanks. He also is a dealer for Algae-X products and equipment.

Benner started with a small portable unit that can process about 480 gallons of fuel per hour and since has added two more, including a 1,560 gph model. He is now adding a fourth and larger model that will process 4,500 gph.

Before arriving to clean a tank, Benner encourages customers to fill the tank, if not full, at least to their normal fill mark. That ensures that sludge that has built up on the sides will be removed as well.

Fuel polishing is a three-stage process. He first removes easily drained water and particulates. He then adds Algae-X Fuel Conditioner as a catalyst to condition and stabilize the fuel in the tank. To get at the sludge and other materials, he inserts an intake hose through a pvc pipe down to the bottom of the tank and begins to pump the fuel through the filtration equipment. It removes water and fine solids down to three microns.

"The best analogy is kidney dialysis," says Benner. "The fuel conditioner dissolves tank sludge, slime and build-up on the walls, and the filtration system removes it. The fuel is cycled back through the tank and the filter until it and the tank are clean."

The catalyst serves double duty, says Benner. "It helps clean the tank, but as long as it's in the fuel, it also cleans the



Jack Benner operates a fuel-cleaning service that comes to farms. Photo shows fuel before and after it has been cleaned.

fuel system of the vehicle or equipment using the fuel, from its tank to the tip of the exhaust pipe," he says.

To maintain a clean fuel storage tank, he advises adding catalyst with each fill. It can also be added to the fuel tanks of cars, trucks, tractors or other engines whenever commercial fuel is purchased. Half an ounce per 20 gal. will do it, he says.

"I get an extra 2 1/2 mpg with my pickup truck," says Benner. "At \$3.65 per gal. for diesel and \$32.71 for an 8-oz. bottle of catalyst, I save 59¢ per gal. with the extra mileage. Plus it starts better and runs better and smoother."

The fuel catalyst also helps with ethanol separation. While it won't reblend separated fuel, it will help stop further separation. Adding it with fuel fills to storage tanks helps prevent separation and can preserve fuel integrity for up to 12 months.

Fuel filtration systems are also available for on-engine installations. Benner says he also can help individuals outside his trade area establish their own fuel cleaning and fuel conditioning service.

"I started out with the small unit," says Benner. It came complete with hoses and catalyst for about \$7,000."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, High Desert Fuel Services, LLC, P.O. Box 564, Albion, Idaho 83311 (ph 208 308-0527; www.highdesertfuelservices.com).

On-Farm Poultry Plant Is Big Hit

Looking for a rural business to start? Rachel and Matt Munsell hit a home run when they decided to open a poultry processing facility near the Munsell family's dairy farm. Munsell's Poultry Processing, LLC, was just an idea in December. Within 6 months, they were open and they've been busy ever since.

"Business has been awesome," recalls Rachel, the day-to-day manager. "Our goal was to process about a thousand birds a day. We've been fully booked from that first day."

The Munsells had the advantage of knowing there was demand for a poultry processor. Rachel, her parents and several of her 12 employees, previously worked at a local poultry processing plant that closed last year.

"There was a void that needed filling," said Rachel. "People want to buy local or raise their own food. Our nearest competitor is 35 miles away."

While demand for the service was there, financing for the \$175,000 building and equipment could not be found. Local businesses and others in the community invested in the enterprise.

Matt and Rachel purchased four acres of land with an old hay storage building on it from his parents. After getting local and state permits, they hired a construction company to remodel and update the building. The young couple helped nearly every day and had a hand in the entire process.

State and local permits and approvals went smoothly. "You hear horror stories, but it was just the opposite," recalls Rachel. "The state was wonderful to work with, and the Department of Environmental Quality was awesome. Everyone was so helpful."

The plant processes every Wednesday and Thursday and some Saturdays. Unlike some plants, the Munsells have no minimum. They will handle a single bird or a thousand. They are set up to handle all types of poultry as well as rabbits.

Prices start at \$3 for a chicken and go up to \$7.50 for ducks and geese. For another dollar, they will cut up the birds. Feet, neck and giblets can be included at an added cost. Processed birds are vacuum-packed to ensure quality.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



This tub-type chicken plucker is part of Rachel and Matt Munsell's successful poultry processing facility.



Facility's processing line can handle about a thousand birds a day.

Munsell's Poultry Processing, 6131 Mason Rd., Fowlerville, Mich. 48836 (ph 517 375-9908; rachel@munsellspoultryprocessing.com; www.munsellspoultryprocessing.com).