

1937 Allis Chalmers Has Rotobaler Top

Marion Klutzke of Lafayette, Ind., converted his 1937 Allis Chalmers WC tractor to a "runabout", previously featured in FARM SHOW (Vol. 30, No. 1). He has since added a cab with a top salvaged from an old Rotobaler. It's complete with a rollbar, big plexiglass windows, roll-up side curtains, and a big 2-person seat out of a Volkswagen van.

The tractor goes 40 mph because Klutzke took off its reduction gears and replaced the wheels with the front end off a 1959 Buick car. He added a pre-1940 Chevy truck 4-speed transmission to provide slow speeds.

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When Marion Klutzke converted his Allis Chalmers WC tractor, he added a cab with a top salvaged from an old Rotobaler.

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Allis Chalmers Golf Cart

A Minnesota farmer had the same idea, customizing his Cushman golf cart by equipping it with the top salvaged from an old Allis Chalmers Rotobaler. Four metal rods that bolt onto the golf cart's frame support the top.

The cart also has an Allis steering wheel, an Allis toolbox, and a pair of Allis tractor headlights that now serve as cup holders.

"It's fun to drive around at shows, and my wife uses it at home to haul garden tools," says LaVern Gawarecki, of Marshall. "Our grandchild, Benjamin, loves to have rides around our property when visiting. He's 6 years old so I don't think it'll be too long before he'll want to take it for a spin himself."

"I came up with the idea four years ago and every year I seem to add something. Last year, I replaced the



LaVern Gawarecki customized his Cushman golf cart by equipping it with the top salvaged from an old Allis Chalmers Rotobaler.

Cushman name on front with the Allis Chalmers logo. I also added a snap coupler on back of the golf cart and painted it orange."

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Black Angus calf was born with no hair but is still healthy.

Angus Calf Is Bald But Healthy

One calf in Billy Widener's herd of Black Angus cattle stands out, because of what it's missing – hair. The calf was born on May 17 totally bald. In the last couple months, however, some tufts of short hair have appeared.

Widener was drinking coffee on his deck when he noticed the cow in labor. When he walked over to her, he noticed right away something was different.

"All 11 of my cows are Black Angus," he told the local newspaper. "And I thought I was seeing red."

A veterinarian suggested keeping the bald calf in the shade, as it would sunburn easily.

"I tried to keep the mother and calf in a corral with shade but she wouldn't have it so I let them out," Widener says. He put them in a shaded area in the pasture with the other

cattle and the calf seemed to be doing just fine. She was healthy and growing as fast as the other calves. However, in July's extreme heat, Widener noticed some blistering on the calf's skin.

Nobody in the area had ever seen anything like it, he says, even at Auburn University. Someone at the university thought it could be related to a thyroid gland condition.

There's a genetic condition called Hypotrichosis that occasionally occurs in several breeds of cattle. Calves are born with no hair and grow a short curly coat of hair with age. They are prone to stress from cold and wet conditions and more prone to skin infections.

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Shell Casing Pens Made For Those Who Serve

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

If Charlie Thompson had his way, every military person serving in Iraq and Afghanistan would have one of his Freedom Pens tucked into their uniform. The pens are made by Thompson and other volunteers using shell casings saved from military target ranges. What started as a way to honor his son, Jacob, who was killed in 2007 while serving in Iraq, has turned into a much greater mission.

Thompson started making the pens in October 2007, and passed the 9,000 mark earlier this summer.

The North Mankato, Minn., man at first made pens out of purpleheart wood after Jacob was wounded and received a Purple Heart medal. After Jacob was killed, a friend showed him how to make a rifle shell pen and he sent them to Jacob's former team members.

The soldiers love them. They're symbolic of their service for freedom, and with each pen Thompson sends a note of gratitude for the soldier's personal sacrifice.

In the beginning, Thompson spent about \$4 per pen, buying .308 casings, 7 mm slimline pen kits. Now he gets the casings free from military bases and companies give him a break on the pen kits, which has reduced the cost to about \$3 per pen. He's never asked for money, but has been given about \$1,500 in donations over the years. Most

important to him is the volunteer help he started receiving from Operation Minnesota Nice groups when he had requests for large orders. Between Minnesota and Florida, he has 65 to 70 volunteer helpers. Thompson has made military contacts to get the pens to soldiers and will help anyone interested in the Freedom Pen project. He would love to see it go nationwide, and he will share his 17-step process.

Steps include: knocking out the primer, drilling 7 mm holes in the shells' bases, securing the brass tubes of the pen kits with rubber heat shrink tubing, gluing, turning the shells on the lathe to sand and polish and wax. The pens open and close by twisting the two shells in each pen.

At 70, Thompson has had surgery for arthritis and carpal tunnel syndrome. He admits the work is sometimes painful.

"Talking to the guys that go over there and fight for our freedom, that little pain is nothing compared to what they are going through," Thompson says.

He would love to talk to anyone interested in supporting Freedom Pens through contributions or by gearing up to make them.

"I encourage as many people to copy this design. I have no secrets," Thompson says.

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Charlie Thompson makes Freedom Pens using rifle shell casings saved from military target ranges. The pens are to say thanks for the soldier's personal sacrifice.

