

Editor's Notebook



Mark Newhall

Editor &
Publisher



Photo courtesy The Landowner (www.landownermagazine.com)
Major Mark Tijssen (center front) surrounded by supporters before a court appearance last fall.

Put Your Hands Up And Drop That Pork

You might be a criminal and not even know it. That's what happened to Mark Tijssen, Brampton, Ontario, in November, 2009. He butchered a hog with a friend, who then took 40 lbs. of the meat home with him. Tijssen's farm was raided soon after by armed police officers in 6 vehicles with lights flashing. They searched the property thoroughly and carried off meat-handling equipment. Tijssen was charged with operating an unlicensed slaughterhouse – even though he butchered just the one hog.

It sounds crazy but that's exactly what happened. In Canada, it's perfectly legal to butcher your own hog and serve it to your immediate family in your own home. What's not legal is letting a friend or neighbor take butchered meat off your property, even if you're not selling it to them. That's due to a Food Safety law that quietly went into effect in 2005.

Tijssen and his neighbor had simply decided to butcher a hog together, as Tijssen's family has done for generations. A conservation officer got wind of the "plan" and staked out Tijssen's farm in a nearby treehouse for 5 days, taking photos of all comings and goings. After the raid on his property, Tijssen was offered the chance to settle the crime for a fine of \$100,000. When it became obvious that Tijssen, who is a major in the Canadian Armed Forces, was not going to just roll over and pay the fine, government prosecutors eventually lowered the fine to a nominal \$1,000. He still refused and, after two years and 15 court hearings, the government withdrew the charges on Dec. 6, 2011. They notified Tijssen in a letter dropped off on his doorstep, which included an apology. Tijssen was left holding the bag on legal expenses but he told FARM SHOW he had tremendous support from the Canadian Constitution Foundation, which aided him in his fight against the government regulators (www.canadianconstitutionfoundation.ca).

Beef Shop Lets Customers Choose How Cattle Die

An online German butcher shop (www.mycow.de) lets customers choose the breed of beef they want – from Angus to Herefords to Galloway – and how they want the animal slaughtered. Cows can be killed traditionally in a slaughter house or directly in the field, while grazing. The latter is considered more humane and supposedly makes the beef tastier because the animal isn't subjected to stress in the final moments of its life. Website operator Suzanne Marx told a local newspaper that with the more gentle method of slaughter, meat is more tender. Cows are shot on pasture and then taken directly to the shop for butchering. A 10-lb. package of pasture-killed beef starts at about \$100.

Subscription Scam Artists

A fake subscription company has been scamming FARM SHOW subscribers – and readers of many other magazines and newspapers – by sending out false renewal notices that look like this one. Publishers Billing Exchange is not connected to FARM SHOW in any way and has earned an "F" rating from the Better Business Bureau, which says the company is known for its fraudulent business practices. All FARM SHOW renewal notices come directly from us in Lakeville, Minn. If you get a subscription notice like this one from Nevada, Oregon, or anywhere else, just toss it.



Thieves Steal Bridge

Stories about stolen copper wiring, plumbing and even manhole covers are rampant across the country as the prices of raw materials rise. In Pennsylvania, thieves took things a step further when they cut up and removed a 50-ft. long steel bridge. The bridge was located on a little traveled road in an isolated area near New Castle.

Unfortunately for the thieves, the tremendous publicity surrounding the first-of-its-kind theft helped solve the case. A scrap yard that received chunks of metal from the bridge heard about the case and turned in the thieves, two brothers in their 20's. The bridge weighed in at 31,000 lbs. and had a scrap value of \$5,197, according to local news reports. However, the cost to replace the bridge with a newer concrete span has been estimated to be \$600,000.

Liberty Quotes

"The difference between a welfare state and a totalitarian state is a matter of time." *Ayn Rand*

"The policy of American government is to leave its citizens free, neither restraining them nor aiding them in their pursuits." *Thomas Jefferson*

"No man has ever ruled other men for their own good." *George Herron*

"Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth." *Albert Einstein*

"The history of liberty is the history of limitation of government power, not the increase of it." *Woodrow Wilson*

"The greatest threat to our liberty is from well-meaning and almost imperceptible encroachments upon our personal freedom." *John Louis Coffey*

"Politicians need human misery. Government's a disease masquerading as its own cure." *L. Neil Smith*

"When small men begin to cast big shadows, it means that the sun is about to set." *Lin Yutang*

"What is common to many is least taken care of, for all men have greater regard for what is their own than what they possess in common with others." *Aristotle*

"Nothing is easier than spending public money. It does not appear to belong to anybody. The temptation is overwhelming to bestow it on somebody." *Calvin Coolidge*

"Truth: the most deadly weapon ever discovered by humanity. Capable of destroying entire perceptual sets, cultures and realities. Outlawed by all governments everywhere. Possession is normally punishable by death." *John Gilmore*

"Those in power need checks and restraints lest they come to identify the common good for their own tastes and desires, and their continuation in office as essential to the preservation of the nation." *Justice William O. Douglas*

What Happened To Diesel Cars?

Recent reports that GM and the government have spent as much as \$200,000 apiece on research and tax credits to get the electric-powered Chevy Volt on the market prompted FARM SHOW reader Gary Brown to contact us with a question: "Why can't we buy the turbo diesels sold by Ford and Chevy over in Europe?"



Chevy recently announced it will bring its 52 mpg Chevy Cruze to the U.S. in 2013.

Brown thinks the reason is that our congressmen and senators are addicted to oil company money and would only support the idea if millions of Americans demanded it. However, others think the reason is simply due

to the checkered past of diesel-powered cars in North America. GM developed V-6 and V-8 diesel engines in the late 1970's. More than 1 million diesel cars were sold from 1978 to 1985 and there were lots of problems. Some were due to the design and some to mechanics who were not used to working on diesel engines. In addition, diesel fuel at the time was often contaminated. Today's newer diesels are a different matter.

Chevy recently announced that it would be the first of the big three U.S. auto makers to reintroduce a diesel car. The Chevy Cruze will go on the market in 2013. And Ford announced last fall that it is considering bringing its diesel-powered Ford Focus to the U.S. The turbo-charged vehicles not only get great mileage but they also handle a lot better than the diesel auto engines folks remember from the past. One example already on the market here is Volkswagen's diesel Jetta, which sets high standards in the European market.

Many experts in the auto world think the new clean-burning, powerful diesel autos will provide tough competition for the more expensive and complicated hybrid vehicles that have been gathering all the headlines in recent years. Stay tuned.

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Shop Tools Explained

Skil Saw – A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

Pliers – Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blister.

Belt Sander – An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touchup jobs into major refinishing jobs.

Table Saw – A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

Pry Bar – A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you need to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

Hose Cutter – A tool used to make hoses too short.

Wire Wheel – Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere in the shop at the speed of light.

Drill Press – A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest.

Ole had a leak in the roof over his dining room so he called a repairman. "When did you first notice the leak?" the repairman asked.

Ole said, "Last night, when it took me two hours to finish my soup!"

Sven came running into the store and said to his buddy, "Ole, somebody yust stole your pickup truck from da parking lot."

Ole replied, "Did yew see who it vas?"

Sven answered, "I couldn't tell but I got da license plate

Sven and Ole got a job putting in telephone poles. After the first day, they were talking to the foreman. The foreman asked how many poles they had put in.

"Two," said Ole.

"Only two?!" exclaimed the foreman, "All the other crews put in 8 to 10."

"Yah!" answered Ole, "But did yew see how much dey left sticking out?!"

Ole was staggering home after a night in the tavern. A minister saw him and offered to help him get home safely. As they approached the house, Ole asked the minister to step inside for a moment. He explained, "I vant Lena tew see who I haf been out with."

Lena asked Ole one morning, "Did yew know dat women are smarter dan men?"

"No, I didn't," replied Ole.

"See what I mean?" Lena said.

Ole lay dying in his bedroom. He began to revive as he smelled the aroma of fresh lese wafting through the house. Ole managed to gather his strength and crawled out to the kitchen. As he pulled himself up to the table and reached for a sample of Lena's lese, she slapped his hand and said, "No, Ole, don't you know dat's for da funeral!"



Ford's diesel Focus reportedly gets 67 mpg in Europe.