

Sheeps Wool Lubricant Works Better Than Oil

A natural lubricant made from lanolin, the natural lubricant found in sheep's wool protects against corrosion and lubricates better than petrochemical lubricants, according to the New Zealand manufacturers of Prolan. Environmentally friendly, it's non-conductive, resistant to saltwater, acid and alkali and won't break down rubber or wiring. The heavy-grade liquid even handles extreme temperatures as low as 49 degrees below zero.

"It can be used directly on electrical connections to prevent moisture corrosion," says Hugh Carroll, North American distributor. "It creates an airtight barrier, preventing electrolysis between dissimilar metals, rusting and corrosion. You can use a cutting torch or welder on Prolan-treated surfaces without the spattering or burning you get with petroleum lubricants. It just melts away."

The lubricant qualities of lanolin are no surprise to anyone who has worked with sheep or their wool. Lanolin sheds rain and

moisture, yet keeps wool from drying out in the sun and heat. Prolan puts those qualities to work in an industrial grade quality and form, says Carroll.

"Prolan converts raw wool grease into environmentally friendly products that are safe and easy to apply," he adds.

Prolan products resist being washed off after the carrier has evaporated. Treated surfaces can even be pressure washed without loss of the protective surface.

"It frees up seized parts and is a great workshop lubricant," says Carroll. "It's even certified for the food industry."

Prolan is available in a broad range of container sizes of light, medium and heavy-grade liquid and as an anti-seize grease. Prices range from \$18 for a 10.5-oz. aerosol pack to \$414 for a 5.3-gal. container of heavy-grade oil.

Prolan can be sprayed on, wiped on with fingers or cloth, or the item to be protected can be dipped. Even with the excess wiped off, a protective coating remains. If left over-



Prolan is a natural lubricant made from sheep's wool that's said to work better than petroleum-based oil.

night before the treated surface or system is used, the carrier evaporates and less dust and dirt will collect.

"New Zealand farmers use it as a rust protectant under ATV's and UTV's on dairy farms," says Carroll. "One treatment generally lasts 9 to 12 months. Spraying it on fiberglass or plastic surfaces and rubbing it into the surface rejuvenates the color."

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His Kids Books Are Based On Real Farm Life

"I loved hearing stories at the dinner table and at family gatherings when I was a kid growing up on the farm," Gordon Fredrickson says, "and that story listening has turned into story telling."

In the past 11 years, Fredrickson has authored more than 10 children's books on farm life. He's also told hundreds of farm life stories to historical societies, to school classrooms, and at retirement homes. "I don't know the exact number of places I've spoken at," Fredrickson said, "but the total audience I've spoken to now numbers more than 19,000." He's now a regular on the calendar for several schools.

Fredrickson draws inspiration for his stories from real farm life. He grew up in the 1950's near the rural Minnesota community of New Prague, 40 miles southwest of Minneapolis. He and his siblings had regular "chores" and experienced the highs and lows of farm life. In high school, he realized that making a living on a small farm would be difficult, so he entered the military after graduation. After completing his tour, he graduated from the University of Minnesota and taught high school English for 16 years. When his parents retired, he moved back to his home farm and settled in to a new job. As urban areas devoured farms in the 1990's, including his parents', he saw a need to tell stories about farm life.

"A story untold is a story lost," Fredrick-

son says. "What will be remembered about small town and country life in the mid 20th century if those realistic stories aren't written down and told?" he asks. "Would the 'truth' as told by city folks be fractured and diluted?" The answer, of course, is that those stories could be incorrect or could be forgotten entirely.

Fredrickson set out to make sure that didn't happen. He began with a series of books titled "If I Were A Farmer", featuring a child and a pet. The child imagines himself or herself as a farmer having an adventure, in which he or she is the hero. Each page has the child's narration and a color illustration. The prose is aimed at pre-school to grade 3. The series has received numerous awards and has favorable reviews from many readers and organizations.

"I base the stories on situations and events that my family and I actually went through," Fredrickson says. "Kids love the stories because they relate to the age and gender of the characters and what those characters are imagining or going through."

Fredrickson's Farm Country Tales series appeals to adults and kids with stories about threshing, picnics, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve. He plans on 16 titles for this series. Originally, he published the books himself and his wife printed and bound them in their garage. He sold them at his presentations, at events and on his



Gordon Fredrickson has authored more than 10 award-winning children's books based on real farm life.

website. A contract from a publishing company in 2008 has provided much broader exposure.

"Writing kids books isn't a get rich scheme," Fredrickson says, "but that was never my intent in the first place. I enjoy telling stories, and my audiences are fascinated by recollections from a one-room school, machinery and animals we had on the farm, and the humor that I weave throughout. It's just a very satisfying and rewarding experience."

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