

Here's A Roping "Dummy" You Can Run By Yourself

For fun, the Unruh family of Cimarron, Kan., enjoys practicing roping with a "robot" steer. The problem is that most roping machines require a second person to run controls and that's not always easy to arrange. The only unit on the market that didn't require a second person was a robotic steer named "Buford".

"He's the only dummy on the market you can rope by yourself," says Deanne Unruh. When she and her husband, Bobby, decided to buy one, they discovered the business was no longer active. So on August 1, 2011, the Unruhs, along with Bobby's parents, purchased the defunct business.

Buford has been around a couple decades or more, Unruh says, and has gone through a few upgrades.

Today Buford is an all-electric, variable-speed heading and heeling machine with head and heel sensors that automatically shut off Buford so you can take the rope off and get your horse ready to go again. He works well for anyone that needs to work a young horse, eliminate bad habits of an older horse or for anyone who ropes just for fun, like the Unruhs, who installed lights so they can rope in the evening after work.

They've sold to a variety of people across North America and overseas.

"Most every customer says, 'We have a sled, but my wife is tired of driving the four wheeler,'" Unruh notes.

Many are retired and want it for themselves or their grandkids. Because of the variable speed, it fits everyone's skill level. It's simple to hook up to 20-amp service, and the heavy-duty, steel frame on a center pivot only requires a 65 by 65-ft. area.

Cost of the stationary model is \$4,500 (including shipping).

The Unruhs also sell Jakesteer, a plastic dummy.

"Instead of carrying hay, it's a plastic body with three sets of horn," Unruh says. "It's easy to carry around. We take it camping. When we get bored, we get out the dummy and rope."

It sells for \$325 plus \$50 shipping.

Dealer inquiries are welcome.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rope-O-Matic, P.O. Box 516, Cimarron, Kan. 67835 (ph 800 828-3895; www.rope-o-matic.com).



"He's the only dummy on the market that you can rope by yourself," says Deanne Unruh about this electric-operated, variable speed robotic steer.

Mini Greenhouses Start Plants Early

Gary and Carol Wood of Westlock, Alta., start their dahlia bulbs after winter in a set of mini greenhouses.

He made them with 4-ft. long by 10-in. sections of glass he salvaged from old schoolbus doors. He started the project by constructing a wooden planter box, approximately 4 ft. long by 1 ft. wide by 10 in. high. He cut a 1/4-in. groove along the top edges of the long sides, and fastened a narrow wooden strip on the outside edge of the 2 long sides. Wood added plywood triangles (approximately 11 in. wide by 14 in. high) to the planter box's short side top edges.

One side of each box can easily be removed when needed. The other side is fixed in place. A spacer holds the loose side open as needed

for ventilation.

For ease of lifting or dragging the units, Wood made rope handles by drilling two holes in each short wooden end, and stringing sections of rope through them.

"I built several of these greenhouses and I transport them to sunny areas of the yard using my lawn tractor and a 4 by 8-ft. mini hayrack," Wood says. "Because they stay on the wagon wherever I unhook it, it's easy to re-hook and bring them inside the shop at night to avoid frost."

Contact: FARMSHOW Followup, Garry and Carol Wood, RR 1, Site 9, Box 3, Westlock, Alta., Canada T7P 2N9 (ph 780-349-2104).



Gary Wood uses a pair of homemade, 4-ft. long mini greenhouses to start dahlia bulbs after winter. "I transport them on a hay rack to sunny areas of our yard," he says.

50,000-Year-Old New Zealand Wood For Sale In Wisconsin

Ancient Kauri wood is the oldest workable timber on earth, says Robert Teisberg, owner of Ancientwood, Ltd., in Wisconsin, the company with exclusive rights to sell the wood in the U.S. and Canada. The trees grew for more than 1,000 years before they fell over and were preserved in ancient bogs in New Zealand.

Those trees are now being unearthed and sold. "Part of the attraction is Kauri's natural history story – that it was around when no humans were on the North American continent," Teisberg says. "Another attraction is the beauty of the wood itself with a deep, iridescent feature – a strong shimmer in the grain of the wood. When you sand it and put a finish on it, it's almost like a three-dimensional hologram – like a tiger's eye."

The third amazing aspect is the wood's size. In 2009, Teisberg had the world's largest board shipped from New Zealand. It was 40 ft. long, 5 ft. wide and 4 1/2 in. thick. It was purchased by an individual who made it into a table for a ranch in Colorado.

Though there have been other large tabletops made from Kauri, most of the wood is sold in smaller pieces for furniture, countertops, sculptures, knife handles, rings, etc. With its unique grains, shimmer and resonance, Kauri wood also makes great musical instruments.

The wood is milled in New Zealand and kiln dried in Wisconsin. Teisberg sells 1, 2 and 3-in. thick slabs and will cut custom



A single slab of Kauri wood was made into this table measuring 40 ft. long, 5 ft. wide, and 4 1/2 in. thick.

orders including thin veneer. They also sell stump sections and wet wood for those who turn wood.

Teisberg says he works with customers to get the wood with the right grain – everything from random, to flamed to curly/burly. With the density of basswood or mahogany and color tones similar to cherry, Kauri is surprisingly light, and can be worked with normal woodworking tools.

"One thing people say is how an awareness comes out when they work on the wood. That (history) has an affect on how you work. You get humble and get respect for the wood," Teisberg says.

Pieces run from between \$25 to \$300 per board ft.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ancientwood, LTD, 160 Madeline Island, La Pointe, Wis. 54850 (ph 888 201-7544; www.ancientwood.com).



Giant trees grew for more than 1,000 years before they fell over and were preserved in ancient bogs. They are now being unearthed and sold.