

**Editor's
Notebook**



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Chicken "Tractor" Controversy

After 35 years at FARM SHOW, I'm often still surprised by what turns into a "controversial" topic.

Our last issue featured a "pig tractor" which is basically a mobile pen for raising pigs on pasture. I received calls from two readers upset with the use of the word "tractors" to describe the mobile livestock pens, whether for pigs or chickens. Part of the problem, said one angry fellow, is that when you go online searching for a farm tractor, you end up looking at a bunch of chickens. "Please don't call these mobile pens 'tractors'. Just call them chicken or pig pens," he said.

The other reader who called said use of the term just plain irritated him. He wanted to know how such a peculiar term got its start. Contributing editor Jim Ruen informed me that the term tractor is used because the chickens dig up the ground wherever they're parked the way a tractor and light tillage equipment would do.

Anybody else offended by something we've published? That's okay. We can take it. Just send me an email at mark@farmshow.com or give me a ring at 800-834-9665.

Daughters Turn Skills Into "Weekend Cash"

FARM SHOW Contributing Editor Lorn Manthey is proud of the way his two adult daughters have found ways to make a little extra cash during their free time. He recently told me how they developed their money-making sidelines.

Weekend Wedding Stylists

Kelli Manthey and her friend, Rachel Gore, started R & K Chicago Bride, a sideline business doing hair styling and makeup for weddings. "There's a big demand for unique hairstyles and makeup for brides and bridal parties," Kelli says. "Rachel and I started by styling for a few friends. We realized there was potential so we wrote a business plan and started networking and looking for ways to get our name out there."



Kelli, right, and Rachel "style" a bride before a recent weekend wedding.

The girls established a website with a gallery of wedding photos, descriptions of their services, background experience and a blog. They connected with a national organization called "The Knot" that has a wedding website, produces an annual publication and does special events for brides-to-be. "I think someone could set up a business like this anywhere and probably do several weddings a year," says Kelli.

Today, Kelli and Rachel do more than 20 weddings each year. "We want to make our clients look and feel spectacular on their special day," says Rachel.

About 4 to 6 mos. before a wedding the girls do a styling trial with the bride and her attendants and collect a down payment. The day of the wedding, Kelli and Rachel travel to the wedding location to do hair and makeup for the bride, her attendants and sometimes flower girls, mothers and grandmothers. "Our pricing is somewhat less than a full wedding party would pay to have the work done at

a salon," says Kelli. (kelli.manthey@gmail.com; www.randkchicagobride.com)

Greeting Cards & Knitted Caps

Katie Manthey Prose is an energetic stay-at-home-mom who puts her artistic skills to good use making handcrafted greeting cards and hand-knitted infant hats and headbands. She started making all 3 items as a hobby and now sells them through home parties.

What happened is that Katie used to make her own cards for birthdays, showers and thank you notes. "One of my friends said I should put together a collection of note cards and sell them at a party,"



Handmade greeting cards sell for \$2.50 to \$4.



Hats and headbands are popular for infants.

Katie says. Her first "handcrafted card party" put a couple hundred dollars in her pocket. Over the next two years she and her friends have hosted about a dozen parties where she's sold several hundred of her handcrafted cards. "It's a fun hobby for me, and a great way to make extra money," says Katie. "Card prices range from \$2.50 to \$4 apiece and they sell in sets or individually."

After her daughter was born, Katie began also making infant headbands and crocheted baby hats of cotton and wool. "I tried selling all my handmade items through craft stores and at art fairs, but there was little or no income after paying a commission or spending a day sitting at a show," says Katie. Home parties are better because it's a social atmosphere where women can visit, have a light snack and they tend to buy more. Handcrafted hats sell for \$16 to \$24 and infant headbands are \$9. ([Contact: klprose3@yahoo.com](mailto:klprose3@yahoo.com); www.etsy.com/shop/DragonflyDezigns)

Liberty Quotes

"The majority of us are for free speech when it deals with subjects concerning which we have no intense feelings." *Edmund B. Chaffee*

"Selfishness is not living as one wishes to live, it is asking others to live as one wishes to live." *Oscar Wilde*

"Truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a time, but it ain't goin' away." *Elvis Presley*

"The truth is the only thing worth having, and in a civilized life, like ours, where so many risks are removed, facing it is almost the only courageous thing left to do." *E. V. Lucas*

"Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide." *John Adams*

"You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him." *James D. Miles*

"To be nobody but yourself - in a world which is doing its best night and day to make you like everybody else - means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight." *e.e. cummings*

"Nearly all men can withstand adversity; if you want to test a man's character, give him power." *Abraham Lincoln*

"I have no reason to suppose that he who would take away my liberty would not, when he had me in his power, take away everything else." *John Locke*

"Government is, and always has been, the greatest criminal threat to the peaceful members of society." *Richard M. Ebeling*

Supreme Court Gets Monsanto Case

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear an Indiana farmer's appeal that challenges the scope of Monsanto's patent rights on its Roundup Ready seeds.

The company prohibits farmers from saving the "second-generation" seeds from the harvest. At issue, however, are the unusual planting tactics of Indiana farmer Vernon Bowman.

For several years, Bowman purchased Monsanto-licensed seed for his first seasonal soybean crop and abided by the agreement not to save second-generation seeds. But for his late season "second crop" of soybeans, Mr. Bowman tried a different approach: he bought and planted "commodity seeds" from a grain elevator. Those soybean seeds were a mix and included some that contained Monsanto's technology. He would spray the crop with Roundup and then save seeds from the plants that survived to use the next year.

Monsanto argued that Bowman's action infringed upon its patents and lower federal courts agreed.

In a petition to the Supreme Court, Mr. Bowman argued that the lower court rulings gave Monsanto an unfair and unprecedented level of patent protection for its seeds, after they had already been sold into commerce.

Monsanto said Mr. Bowman's position would eviscerate its patent rights. The Supreme Court agreed to hear the case over the objections of the Obama administration, which had urged the justices to leave the lower court rulings in place. *Wall Street Journal*

Race To The Patent Office

A new patent law goes into effect in March. Patent rights will shift from the current "first-to-invent" system to a "first-to-file" method, which is used in most other countries. It means, basically, that if you want to own your invention you need to be the first to show up at the patent office. Many experts fear the change will be harder on individual inventors than big companies, which are more likely to have better access to patent lawyers. They fear some smaller inventors might lose rights to their ideas.

However, the hope is that the change will prompt companies and individuals to get their inventions into the patent office sooner rather than sitting on an idea until the "time is right" to patent. Other inventors or companies won't have to guess whether someone has already patented an idea. And individual inventors will have to determine as soon as possible whether an idea has enough commercial potential to warrant the expense of a patent filing.



New "airless" tires from Polaris can never go flat.

Flat-Free "Honeycomb" Tires

Polaris recently unveiled its new "never-flat" tire that's made up of a web of plastic honeycombs surrounded by a thick band of rubber tread. To prove the durability of the tires, Polaris shot a .50-caliber bullet through a tire and then drove it for 5,000 miles. The plan is to first offer the new tires on military ATV's, and then make them available to farmers and recreational users.

Lena went to the doctor for her yearly physical. The nurse started with the basics. "How much do you weigh?" she asked.

"About 135," said Lena.

The nurse put her on the scale and it turned out her weight was 180. The nurse then asked, "Your height?"

Lena said, "I'm 5 foot 4." The nurse checked and saw she was only 5 ft., 2 in.

She then took Lena's blood pressure and told her it was very high. "Of course it's high," said Lena. "When I came in here I was tall and slender. Now I'm short and fat!"

A doctor examining Lena, who was rushed to the emergency room, took her husband, Ole, aside and said, "I don't like the looks of your wife at all."

"Vell, me either, Doc," said Ole. "But she's a great cook and really good vit da kids."

One day a mailman was greeted by Little Ole and a huge dog. The mailman said to Little Ole, "Does your dog bite?"

"No," replied little Ole. Just then the dog bit the mailman. He yelled, "I thought your dog doesn't bite!"

"He doesn't," replied Little Ole. "Dat's not my dog."

Ole drove into a lumber yard in his pickup. "I would like a bunch of 4 by 2's," he told the lumberman.

"Do you mean 2 by 4's?" asked the man.

"Yes," said Ole.

"How long do you need them?" asked the lumberman.

"Vell, for a long time," replied Ole. "I'm building a house!"

Ole asked Lena, "Whenever I get mad at yew, yew never seem tew get upset. How dew yew manage tew control your temper?"

"I jyst go and clean da toilet," responded Lena.

"And yust how does dat help?" asked Ole

"Vell, I use your toothbrush," answered Lena.