

Editor's Notebook



Mark Newhall

Editor & Publisher

New! A 37-Year Subscription!

We're excited to announce that for the first time ever your subscription now includes FREE access to all 37 years of FARM SHOW! Every story we've ever published - with photos - is available at our website. That's more than 25,000 "made it myself" farm inventions and ideas. If you're looking for an old story, trying to solve a tough mechanical problem, or just looking for a new idea to get your creative juices flowing, you'll love it! Just register at the site with your FARM SHOW account number to get started.



Overlap the ends of the twine and tie a single overhand knot on each side, then pull the two knots together.

Do You Know This Twine Tie Knot?

Garry Brown would like to rewrite the section about baling twine knots in the manuals that come with balers.

"All the baler manufacturers tell you to tie square knots when adding a new roll of twine," he says. "Unless you really cinch it tight, it bounces in the baler a long time and often comes undone. What I suggest is using a tapered overhand knot."

The Genola, Utah, farmer has had plenty of practice since he puts up 3,000 big 3 by 3 square bales a year.

Brown overlaps the ends of the twine strings and ties them to each other with a single overhand knot.

"You pull the two knots together and you rotate them so they nest nicely together," he explains. "It makes a beautiful knot sloped on the ends. It won't come undone, and it'll go through the baler smoothly."

Remote Dowser Found Water Over The Phone

Contributing editor Jim Ruen recently bought a small farm property in southern Minnesota. First order of business was to put in a well. He had heard through the grapevine about an unusual water dowser named Bob Dahse who claims to be able to find water over the phone. Being a curious fellow, Jim decided to check it out.

Although Dahse will do on-site dowsing, much of what he does today is remote. Using a miniature version of the traditional dowser's Y-rod, he says he can find veins of water, stray voltage and more just by studying a map, photo or drawing.

"I use a single wire strand bent in two and twisted at the end," he explains. "I simply dowse over a map or drawing, printed large enough to give me some precision in locating details, the same way I would do on site."

He charges \$50 for detailed results. Jim paid the fee and sent along a Google map image, the property address, and a description of where he plans to build a house and dig a pond.

Within a few days, an email arrived with a color-coded sketch of what Dahse found. He had drawn in a number of water veins indicating the shallowest places to find water, which he said were from 45 to 65 ft. below the surface.

Jim was immediately impressed because, in fact, the property has an old well located on one of the veins Dahse marked. When the old submersible pump on that well was pulled, it was right at 60 ft. deep.

Dahse also marked a number of stray voltage lines in blue emanating from the farm's old barn. He suggested they were likely a result of poor wiring. When Jim looked closer at the wiring in the barn he could see it had been patched "poorly" many times. "It's not hard to believe that wiring could cause problems," Jim says, noting that he hasn't yet sunk his new well but that he would likely follow Dahse's advice since it coincides with what he already knows about the property.

We're not endorsing the idea one way or another. But if you want more info, contact: Bob Dahse, Geopathfinder, 30319 Wiscoy Ridge Rd., Winona, Minn. 55987 (bobdowser@gmail.com; www.geopathfinder.com).



This rare 1949 Deere pedal tractor sold for \$70,000 at a recent auction while an experimental Deere 101 tractor went for \$240,000. This dealer sign, still in the box, sold for \$42,000.

Record Auction Prices

Aumann Auctions set two new world records recently. A 1949 John Deere A "coffin block" pedal tractor, one of only 8 known to exist, sold for \$70,000. And a rare John Deere Experimental 101, one of only 5 built, sold for \$240,000.

Both tractors were in the Barb and Ron Koogler John Deere Collection, Yellow Springs, Ohio. They were part of a large collection of literature, memorabilia, toys, pedal tractors and antique tractors auctioned this past summer. Among other high price sales at the auction was a John Deere Farm Implement Sign that sold for \$42,000. It was still in its original case.

The pedal tractor was made by the Eska Company without the approval of Deere. The tractors were nicknamed "coffin block" for their incorrect, long rectangular engines. They were painted red with no Deere markings. The next year the company came out with a Deere-approved pedal tractor with the proper 2-cylinder engine shape.

The Experimental 101 was designed to let the operator see the crop row being cultivated. Designed in the 1940's as the "Full Vision" tractor, prototypes were field-tested in 1944 with introduction planned for 1946. It was outfitted with an experimental hydraulic system and tested with a plow and cultivator. Unfortunately, the Experimental 101 never made it into production. However, a similar style tractor was later introduced by Allis Chalmers as the "G".

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Aumann Auctions, Inc., 20114 Illinois Route 16, Nokomis, Ill. 62075 (ph 888 282-8648; www.aumannauctions.com).

Liberty Quotes

"In war, truth is the first casualty." *Aeschylus*

"No protracted war can fail to endanger the freedom of a democratic society." *Alexis de Tocqueville*

"Democracy in itself does not define or guarantee a free society. History has told many stories of democratic societies that have degenerated into corruption, plunder, and tyranny." *Richard M. Ebeling*

"Creation comes before distribution or there will be nothing to distribute. The needs of the creator come before the needs of any possible beneficiary." *Ayn Rand*

"Do not be merciful, but be just. For mercy is bestowed upon the guilty criminal, while justice is all that the innocent man requires." *Khalil Gibran*

"Interpreted as it ought to be interpreted, the Constitution is a glorious liberty document!" *Frederick Douglass*

"The central premise of Constitutional governance is that 'We the people have the power and the right to alter or abolish the form of government under which we live.'" *Raymond Ku*

"The best weapon of a dictatorship is secrecy, but the best weapon of a democracy should be the weapon of openness." *Niels Bohr*

"If we could just pass a few more laws, we could all be criminals!" *Vinnie Moscaritolo*

"Freedom is risky. Nature makes no promises." *Eric Schaub*

Great Christmas Gift Idea!

Many readers who gave FARM SHOW for Christmas last year wrote to tell us they've never given a gift which generated so much response from appreciative recipients. You can give bargain rate gift subscriptions to friends, relatives, and business associates. Each recipient will receive a year of FARM SHOW plus a copy of our new 168-page "More Great Shop Ideas" book filled with hundreds of shop tips, maintenance shortcuts, and money-saving repairs. What's more, all gift recipients will receive free access to all 37 years of FARM SHOW at our website.



To really appreciate what a great idea Frank Brankin has with this drill-powered engine starter, check out the video at our website.

See It In Action To Really "Get" It!

An idea came into FARM SHOW the other day that I didn't quite "get" until I saw the video. Frank Brankin is a FARM SHOW fan who lives near Belfast in Northern Ireland. He had a bunch of pull-start motors around his place that he was tired of starting. So he made a little gadget—powered by an electric drill—that gives the pull-start cord several pulls in quick succession until it starts. Virtually no effort is required by the operator.

The problem with this great little idea is that it's almost impossible to do an adequate job describing how amazing it is. Fortunately, Frank sent along a brief video showing it in action—and we've got an easy way to show it to you. Frank's video is on display at www.farmshow.com, along with videos of other inventions we've featured. If you don't have a computer, go to a friend's house or stop by the library. It's worth a trip.

By the way, Frank told us he's applied for a patent on his pull-starter and is looking for a manufacturer. He's also considering making them himself. Here's how to contact him: Frank Brankin, 4 Carnkilly Road, Glenavy, Crumlin, Co. Antrim, BT29 4NW Northern Ireland (frank.brankin@btinternet.com).

Small Town News - Everyone knows all the news before it's published. Residents read the hometown paper just to see whether the publisher got it right!

So I was lying in bed the other night pondering the problems of the world. I realized that at my age I don't really give a hoot about working out or staying fit. It's the tortoise life for me!

1. If walking were good for your health, the postman would be immortal.
2. A whale swims all day, only eats fish and drinks water but is still fat.
3. A rabbit runs and hops all day long but only lives, at most, 15 years.
4. A tortoise doesn't run and does mostly nothing, yet it lives for 150 years.

And you tell me to exercise? I don't think so. I'm retired. Go around me.

An Arab sheik was admitted to the Mayo Clinic for heart surgery. The doctors wanted to have a supply of blood on hand in case the need arose. The sheik had a rare type of blood that couldn't be found locally, so the call went out for donors.

A Minnesota Norwegian named Ole had the right blood type and was willing to donate blood. After the successful surgery, the Arab sent Ole a new BMW, a pile of diamonds and several million dollars.

A couple of days later, the Arab had to go back into surgery. Ole once again happily donated blood. After the second surgery, the Arab sent Ole a thank-you card and five pounds of lutefisk.

Ole was shocked at the small size of the gift from the billionaire. So he phoned the Arab and said, "I thought dat you would be generous again, and dat you would give me anudder car and jewells and money. But you yust gave me a tank-you card and some lutefisk. What's up with dat?"

The Arab replied: "Ya, I'm sorry, but now I haf Norwegian blood in my veins so I gotta tink twice before I spend my money."

Ole and Sven were discussing a frightening statistic they heard on the news the other day.

The story stated that 25 percent of the women in this country are on medication for mental illness.

"Dat is yust scary," said Sven.

"Yah," agreed Ole. "Dat means dere are 75 percent of dem running around untreated!"