

His Inventions Finance Themselves

Kevin Poole is a self-professed idea guy with a propensity for solutions...and patents. To turn an idea into a patented product takes money, and he has invented a solution for that as well.

"I see a need, get an idea and create a solution," says Poole. "To cover the cost of patenting the idea, I sell an interest in it."

Poole uses his tools, and some are for sale. In other cases, he and his investors are looking for partnering companies to fabricate and market the solutions.

Here are a few of Poole's inventions:



Wonka Weaning Machine

The Wonka Weaning Machine helps reduce the stress on weaning calves and cows. It is

quickly installed in any pipe gate, allowing calves to cross into a neighboring paddock. Once it has been in use for a while, drop the cross bar in place.

"The cow and calf can still see each other and don't get excited," says Poole. "Out of hundreds weaned this way, I've had only a couple that bawled for a couple of days."



Pharm Huggy

Sometimes a partially filled, refrigerated animal medication has to be thrown out due to warming while in use. The Pharm Huggy is like a can koozie, but for medication bottles. A freezer cold pack in the base keeps

medications cool up to 8 hrs., while a cap keeps the bottle secure, yet accessible for a syringe. Four adapter inserts match common bottle sizes. Sized to fit standard cup holders to keep medicine secure in vehicles or tractors, Pharm Huggy has a built-in magnet for quickly attaching to metal surfaces.



Beef Box

Keeping home delivered beef frozen is a problem Poole solved with the Beef Box. Its graphite sides are large enough to hold a carcass worth of beef cuts. The combination lock keeps beef secure, while the 15 lbs. of dry ice will keep it frozen for up to 3 days. Poole delivers his Beef Box using the roll-back truck used to deliver hay, dropping it off in customers' driveways. He returns at a later date to pick up the empty box.



Chains N Things

Chains N Things slips over the arm of a loader to carry log chains and a chainsaw safely on a loader tractor. Four rare earth magnets and ratchet straps hold it in place. Chains wrap on 2 prongs, while 2 clevis fasteners can be pinned to the steel plate. A steel sleeve holds a chainsaw in place as well.

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New model forage cart from Art's Way are available in 18 and 20-ft. lengths.

Forage Box Unloads From The Front Or Rear, Controlled In-Cab

No more climbing in and out of the cab with the new 2100 series forage box from Art's Way Manufacturing. The independently-controlled hydraulic system puts the operator in full control of the box from his tractor seat. You can control front or rear unload, starting and stopping the cross conveyor, and adjusting apron chain speed all from the cab.

The new model is fast, too. "The box unloads from the front in 4 min. and in only 1 min. from the rear," says Art's Way engineer Izac Roberts, noting that you can also unload from the front and rear at the same time.

The 2100 series forage boxes are currently available in 18 and 20-ft. lengths. Additional sizes will be introduced later this year.

The boxes are built to withstand the challenges of forage handling. "Side material is 20-ga., type 1, aluminized steel, offering great corrosion resistance. Unlike galvanized steel, it is completely lead free," says Roberts. "The 20-ga. material is twice as thick as material used by other manufacturers and adds to side strength between the 2 by 5-in. uprights."

The CAN bus in-cab control system includes its own display/control box. It appeals to a wide customer base that may not have ISOBUS systems. Other control options

are being developed and will be released in the near future.

In addition to the new in-cab control system, the 2100 series underwent extensive redesign and streamlining. With the modular design, it is easier to add or remove a roof or extension box post purchase.

"Many common components are shared across different box lengths and unload configurations," says Roberts. "This makes it possible to maintain a large inventory of units that can be configured to customer needs and delivered faster."

Streamlining also eliminated a high number of complicated drive components. Open the shielding and a lot of blank space is now apparent. This has reduced the number of parts that need to be maintained, saving customers time and money.

List price for the sizes and configurations currently available ranges from \$43,839 to \$67,775. Roberts adds that additional sizes and configurations available later this year will provide a lower entry price point.

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The CalfRail feeder mixes a fresh ration for each calf and collects data which is stored for easy access.

Automatic Calf Feeder Catching On Fast

Canadian dairies are kicking the calf bucket habit in favor of CalfRail, an automatic feeder from Foerster-Technik. As a result, they are getting healthier calves with less labor. Introduced earlier this year in Europe, CalfRail is catching on fast with 25 already in place on 20 farms in Canada. One will soon be up and running in the U.S., according to Jan Ziemerink, Foerster-Technik North America.

"A Canadian dairy farmer bought the first one in the world when the company was just introducing it in Germany," says Ziemerink. "It keeps track of consumption, drinking speed, time of feeding, and will send an alert if the calf is not drinking."

The CalfRail is controlled and supplied by a VARIO automatic feeder. It mixes a fresh individual ration for each calf, collects data on the calf, and stores it in the cloud for easy access.

As the feeding unit travels down a rail, it delivers up to 2 1/2 liters per feeding and up to 12 liters per day for 8 to 9 weeks. The last 14 days calves are on the system, the feeder automatically begins to cut back on the volume per day, encouraging them to switch to water and solid rations.

Feeding times are preset, normally 5 times a day. However, the system calculates consumption, and if a calf has had enough, it can skip a feeding. Likewise, if a calf misses

a feeding, the feeding unit goes back to feed it again.

"When the CalfRail starts up in the morning, the boiler heats up and the system does a pre-rinse to warm the lines with hot water," says Ziemerink. "Hot water is constantly circulating around the milk line, so it is always at body temperature at the nipple."

Sanitation is simple with automatic self-cleaning after each feeding. In addition, there are 4 circulation cleanings each day. At the end of the day, the nipple is removed by hand and cleaned.

Originally introduced for single calf per pen feeding, the CalfRail DUO has been added for paired housing. A single configuration CalfRail can feed up to 50 calves and a DUO up to 100. Prices vary by the configuration and the number of calves that can be fed.

"A 32-meter CalfRail for 32 calves with the VARIO feeder and mixing unit and a hot water boiler will be about \$35,000, while a 64-calf unit will cost between \$52,000 and \$55,000," says Ziemerink.

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