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Grain Cart-Mounted Fire Fighter

Mounting a water tank/pump on a grain cart may be the best protection for expensive combines and equipment during harvest season when dry conditions create a fire hazard.

The Guardian Grain Cart Fire Fighter, built by F/S Manufacturing in West Fargo, offers that insurance, says Bryan Gefroh, general manager for the company. If equipment or a field catches on fire, the grain cart is typically nearby. Mounted on the side or back of the cart, the 5.5-hp Honda engine and transfer pump pumps water from the 150-gal. tank for 13 min. through a 100-ft. hose that sprays up to 40 ft.

The Fire Fighter is easy to operate, Gefroh says. Just turn on the switch and pull the cord. Use the quick-release hose wrap to access the kink-resistant PVC hose. At the end of the season, empty out the water through the tank drain.

Retail price is \$2,800 (not including



Fire Fighter is easy to operate and features a quick release hose wrap.

optional rear and side mount kits). The Grain Cart Fire Fighter and fire control units for other types of equipment are available through dealers listed on the F/S Manufacturing website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, F/S Manufacturing, 1102 Center St., West Fargo, N.D. 58078 (ph 800-333-2314, sales@fsmfg.com; www.fsmfg.com).

110-year-old portable 6-hp. engine is on loan to the Daneville Heritage Museum in Viborg, S.D.



Heirloom Engine On Display At South Dakota Museum

A completely restored 110-year-old 6-hp. International Harvester gas engine, now on display at the Daneville Heritage Museum in Viborg, S.D., is just a few miles from where it provided mechanical power for three generations of the Rist family. The engine is on loan to the museum by Mary Rist, whose late husband Don inherited the engine when he started farming the land that his grandfather had settled in 1878.

Mary's son-in-law Tim Locken says the Rist family had many old tractors and implements on their farm over the years. He remembers two IH engines, 6 and 8-hp. models, which were abandoned behind the barn and exposed to the weather. The 8-hp. engine was in pieces, and the 6-hp. engine was still in decent condition. Wayne Schmidt, a family friend, agreed to restore the 6-hp. engine and, in return, keep the pieces for the 8-hp. model.

Locken says Schmidt sandblasted the 6-hp. engine down to bare metal before painting it Oxblood red and Brewster green, very similar to the engine's original colors. The engine was running and in "like new" condition when he delivered it back. It's identified by serial number JE245E, indicating that it's a 1912 model.

The Famous engine line, which included 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 15-hp. models, was produced from 1905 to 1918. The engines were mounted on a platform with steel wheels so they could be pulled by horses. An IH brochure from 1912 states that the engines "can successfully be used for threshing, filling silos, grinding feed, sawing, pumping, irrigating, operating grain elevators, grist and feed mills, hoisting plants, pumping stations, and for all power purposes to which an engine of this size is adapted." Some historians have suggested this type of engine clearly demonstrated the value of "machine power" over human muscle power and thereby paved the way for rapid adoption of tractors and automobiles in the decades that followed.

Locken says the Rist family decided to loan their restored engine to the museum so visitors can see and appreciate its workmanship. The museum has the Rist engine in a comprehensive display that celebrates the local culture of Daneville and Viborg, two neighboring Danish communities in southeast South Dakota.

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Walthes has restored a 1900 horse-drawn vet wagon, a fire wagon, and even a wooden corn planter built around 1875.

Young Collector Has Impressive Antique Ag Equipment & Tools

At 35, Kenny Walthes already has more than 20 years of experience collecting farm tools and equipment. Touring the three sheds and the basement of his rural Illinois home is like stepping into agriculture's past.

"I go after unusual and rare items from the 1860's to 1930's, especially horse-drawn equipment and anything corn-related," Walthes says, noting he is influenced by his dad, who worked with draft horses in his youth.

Many items are small, like fanning mills, wrenches, walking plows, cast iron toolbox lids and equipment seats, and corn jobbers (mechanical hand planters) that fill the shelves in his 50-by-100-ft. shed.

"I can tell you where everything is and when and where I bought it. I take pictures of everything," he says.

He cleans each item, then coats it with an equal mix of mineral spirits, boiled linseed oil, and turpentine to preserve it and accentuate the color and lettering. He rarely repaints the antiques.

But there are exceptions such as the 1900 horse-drawn veterinary wagon in poor condition that he purchased because it had local significance. With the help of an Amish craftsman, he restored it from the wheels up.

"Now I'm working on a fire wagon with a dual-stage pump. It's rotted out, and I had the wheels redone and rebuilt the pump from 1890," Walthes says, noting he does about 75 percent of the restoration work.

His oldest items are 1815 corn scrubbers, early versions of a corn sheller. One of his favorite pieces of equipment is a Keystone

Mfg. Co. 2-row wooden corn planter, built around 1875. It's a dropper planter that requires a person to move a lever to plant every seed. Stored in an Iowa corncrib, it's in excellent shape, even the stenciled ears of corn are still visible.

Walthes has purchased antique equipment from many states. He finds most items at auctions listed in magazines and through collector groups. Besides fulfilling his passion for collecting and preserving the past there are other benefits.

"It's a good way to get your whole family involved," he says. He and his wife and three children (11, 8 and 5) attend events together, and the children like the activities that show how life was 100 or 200 years ago.

Walthes shares pieces from his collection at eight shows annually and gives people tours of his treasure-filled sheds by appointment. In the future, there will be a new attraction; he's building a general store for the antiques that fill his basement.

"I think if you're looking to get into a hobby with people willing to teach you, there's not a better hobby. People are always willing to help," he says, adding that if you can afford it, now is a good time to buy while some collectors are selling their collections.

As a collector, he adds that he's always looking for items, including 2-row wooden dropper corn planters, cast iron corn planter lids, cast-iron toolbox lids, and unique hand jobber corn planters.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kenny Walthes, Illinois (ph 618-407-2428; kwalthes@taylorroof.com).

Tool Safely Removes Chemical Seals

Removing the seal on chemical containers is easier and safer with EZ-Cut, a patent-pending product developed by Country Enterprises, which makes a variety of useful agricultural products.

"It was built out of frustration," says Cory Jensen, owner of the Minnesota business.

As a farmer, he disliked the job of opening jugs of chemicals to pour into the sprayer. Protective gloves make the task nearly impossible; it's hard to remove the seal in one piece, and where do you safely put the seal that likely has chemical on it?

The Country Enterprises team created about 20 prototypes before coming up with the EZ-Cut. Part of the challenge was making it work on different kinds of seals such as foil, paper, and foam.

The final injection molded plastic design works with them all. Just place EZ-Cut over the seal and twist it. Two blades cut the seal, which is held within the EZ-Cut.

"It will hold 20 to 30 seals, depending on the type," Jensen says. Later you push them out with the ejection tool that comes with EZ-Cut.

Production began this spring, and EZ-Cut



New EZ-Cut works on different types of seals and can store them for easy disposal.

seals for \$37.50. It comes in red, orange, and yellow and is available through Country Enterprises and its distributors.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Country Enterprises, Inc., 410 North St., Lucan, Minn. 56255 (ph 800-349-8752 or 507-747-2574; justint@countryent.net; www.countryent.net).