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Wooden Combine Model Is Accurate To The Last Detail

By Bruce Derksen, Contributing Editor

Retiree Heinz Wunderlich, of Wilnsdorf in North Rhine-Westphalia, has a love of agricultural machinery he's maintained from his childhood. He credits his father, who was also enthusiastic about farm equipment, with passing on a passion for these intricate machines.

Today, Wunderlich delights both model-building and agricultural machinery fans with his unique wooden models.

"When the coronavirus hit in May 2021, I thought, 'What am I going to do now?'" he says. "I wanted to make something beautiful, but also practical."

The result was a massive 450 kg. (1,000 lbs.) wooden, fully functional, Claas Matador Gigant combine harvester, recreated to the finest detail at a scale of one to three.

Wunderlich spent 8 to 9 hours a day in his workshop, piecing together the model from wood over 3,000 hours, and creating and fitting together 10,000 individual, hand-crafted pieces of ash.

The Matador is larger than a car and built

complete with remote-controlled functions. "Wood is my favorite material," explains Wunderlich. "If I'd built the entire thing from metal, it probably wouldn't have turned out as perfect as it is now."

The unique harvester is more than just a showpiece. Equipped with 14 electric motors, 120 ball bearings and a remote control, it mimics all the actions of a real combine, including the cutting unit, wheels and auger.

Wunderlich exhibited the combine harvester at the Freudenberg Technology Museum, where it entertained visitors for four weeks.

The non-profit association preserves and presents the memory of the region's early industrial development, paying homage to its pioneers. They invite everyone to visit the Museum and enjoy what it has to offer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Technikmuseum Freudenberg, Olper Straße 5, 57258 Freudenberg, Germany (ph 02734 3248; info@technikmuseum-freudenberg.de; www.technikmuseum-freudenberg.de).

Waterfowl Festival Continues To Grow

The Maryland Waterfowl Festival is a three-day celebration held every fall in Easton, Md., to honor the culture of the Eastern Shore.

"Around 1970, a group of Eastern Shore sportsmen and women conceived an event that would ultimately grow into a regional tradition spanning generations—the Waterfowl Festival," says Deena Kilmon, Executive Director of the Waterfowl Festival. "These founders—Dr. Harry Walsh, Bill Perry and Susie Lipscomb—have grown a small group of volunteers to over 1,000, many of whom have volunteered for decades. We now have families in their fourth generation of volunteers."

The founders envisioned an event celebrating Eastern Shore heritage while raising funds to protect the wildlife habitat that supports it. The first Waterfowl Festival was staged in 1971, timed to coincide with the opening of goose hunting season.

"The first press release about the event notes that the organizers were trying to 'capture the true romance, the excitement engendered by the area's wild birds and the hunting sport they create,'" Kilmon says. "Just last year, over 25,000 people attended the festival."

Since its founding, the festival has raised more than \$6 million for conservation and education. Last year, youth volunteers received a combined \$24,000 in academic scholarships.

The festival features more than a dozen venues and a wide range of activities. These include art pavilions showcasing the region's finest wildlife artists and decoy carvers, with paintings, sculptures, carvings and photography. Dog lovers can enjoy dock dog competitions, field trial demonstrations and water retriever exhibitions.

"For kids, there's the Quackin' trail, a mix of arts, crafts and fun activities, including a fishing derby, duck calling clinic, and a decoy painting demonstration," Kilmon says.

"The World Live Goose Calling Contest, a crowd pleaser since 1976, is a well-respected competition known across the nation."



Photo courtesy of the festival's youth volunteer photographer Liam Swadley

Kilmon says, "Just last year, over 25,000 people attended the festival." The festival has raised over six million dollars for conservation and education.

There's also a sportsman's pavilion with outdoor vendors, including apparel, boats, equipment and more.

Meander downtown for tasting pavilions, live music, a food truck rodeo, and beer wetlands. New for 2025 is an immersive art experience featuring dozens of artists, artisans, and galleries across four blocks of Harrison Street.

First-time visitors might be overwhelmed with options, so Kilmon suggests visiting the festival website or stopping by the information booth for complete schedules.

"Expect to spend two days at the festival," she says. "You won't want to miss a thing."

Festival tickets cost just \$25 for the three days, and children ten and under are free with a paid adult. Transportation is simple, with complimentary bus transportation between venues and free parking at Easton Public School facilities.

"The 2025 dates are November 14-16," says Kilmon. "Be sure to follow updates on Facebook and Instagram."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Deena Kilmon, Executive Director, Waterfowl Festival Inc. (dkilmon@waterfowlfestival.org; www.waterfowlfestival.org).

Dairy Specializes In Nutrient-Rich Yogurt

A Tioga County, Pa., dairy aims to help customers rediscover a love for dairy and small American farms.

"Painterland Sisters was born out of both necessity and purpose," says Julieta Virgili, company representative. "Growing up on a fourth-generation, regenerative, organic dairy farm, sisters Stephanie and Hayley Painter saw firsthand how volatile milk prices threatened their family's livelihood and the future of small American farms."

The sisters left home for college but soon discovered just how special their farm was and returned to run the 400-cow dairy operation. In 2022, they began making yogurt.

All Painterland Sisters yogurt comes from USDA-certified organic milk, almost entirely from their own cows.

"The secret to our extra creamy, defiantly dreamy yogurt is a process called ultra-filtration," Virgili says. "Many brands use harsh processing and fill in the nutrition gaps with protein powders. In contrast, we gently heat and minimally process the milk to keep proteins and nutrients intact. This creates an all-natural, extra-creamy yogurt packed with up to 21g of protein per serving."

It's also lactose-free, loaded with probiotics, and free of gums and artificial sweeteners.

Even so, Virgili shares that yogurt can be a tough sell for some customers.

"It's a big challenge to shift perceptions around dairy. With the rise of plant-based alternatives and dietary restrictions, dairy products are often misunderstood. Education is key. When consumers understand our Skyr yogurt is lactose-free, nutrient-rich and sustainably produced, they're eager to try it."

Painterland Sisters quickly became a national brand. Within 18 mos. of operation, they had retail sales in 47 of the lower 48 states.

"On the operations side, scaling a values-driven brand has meant staying deeply committed to local sourcing, sustainability and transparency, even as distribution and demand grow," Virgili says. "Not easy."



Painterland Sisters' Skyr yogurt is lactose-free, nutrient-rich and sustainably produced.

Looking forward, the company aims to expand its reach while staying true to its roots.

"We plan to grow our presence in grocery stores across the country while innovating with nutritious, sustainable products," Virgili says.

But the vision goes beyond profitability. "We're on a mission to revitalize rural America through regenerative farming. We'll continue investing in community engagement, from school visits to food transparency initiatives, to inspire the next generation of female entrepreneurs in agriculture."

The company was a recent recipient of the Dairy Marketing & Branding Services Grant, which awarded \$46,000 to collaborate with a digital agency to develop a new e-commerce site aimed at growing sales, increasing brand loyalty, and improving demand for Northeast organic dairy.

"Painterland Sisters is more than a yogurt brand; it's a movement to change the food system and connect consumers with the roots of their food—the American farmer," Virgili says. "Every cup supports over two dozen local organic farms. We're proving that powerful change can start on one farm and ripple across the country. We've set out to make dairy cool, one spoonful at a time."

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Portable Buildings Ideal For Farmyards

Smaller, portable buildings provide versatility and efficiency for the oil and gas, agriculture and telecommunication industries. Easily transported and rapidly deployed, they serve diverse purposes, housing equipment, mobile offices or worker accommodations.

Fiberglass Specialties, a locally owned family business in Minot, N.D., is the leader in designing and building high-quality, insulated fiberglass buildings for these industries and more. Operating since 1987, they boast a highly trained and experienced team producing quality products.

All buildings are fabricated at the Minot facility and are portable and ready for installation as they leave the lot.

"Our insulated and portable buildings are perfect for water pump houses and wells, tool sheds, electric motor drive equipment, weigh scales, offices, lockers and a variety of other uses," says a company spokesperson.

Available options and additions include windows, interior or exterior flanges, and double or single doors.

Fiberglass Specialties also designs insulated buildings for railroad facilities and fiberglass, corrosion-proof storage tanks for a wide range of liquid and chemical storage needs.

Nine building sizes and models for farm-



Nine building sizes and models for farmyards and agricultural operations range from a minimum of 6 by 6 ft. to a maximum of 10 by 16 ft.

yards and agricultural operations range from a minimum of 6 by 6 ft. to a maximum of 10 by 16 ft.

"Fiberglass Specialties can provide any farm or ranch with maintenance-free fiberglass solutions. They're cost-efficient, made to the highest quality, and partnered with exceptional customer service."

Interested parties are encouraged to contact the company through its website for pricing and availability.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fiberglass Specialties, 7600 Highway 2 E, Minot, N.D. 58701 (ph 701-839-4856; office@fiberglassnd.com; www.fiberglassspecialtiesnd.com).