

**Publisher's
Notebook**



Harold Johnson
Publisher and
Editorial
Director

**Couple Offers To Give
Their Farm Away**

A childless Wisconsin couple is offering to give their modern 200-acre farm to the son or daughter they never had. Norband Grace Hein, of Black Creek in Shawano County, have had more than 200 calls and letters since their search for "Mr. and Mrs. Right" to take over the grade A dairy farm they've built up and operated for the past 38 years was first announced in *The Country Today* newspaper, published in Eau Claire, and *Farming* magazine, published in Ft. Atkinson.

Initially, the Heins will rent the farm buildings, equipment and two-bedroom house to the new operators who, in turn, must provide the dairy cattle. After the Heins pass away, the farm would then pass on to the couple outright.

"So far, only a few couples out of the 200 or more we've heard from have the resources to buy a herd of dairy cows," Grace told FARM SHOW. "A couple from South Dakota had beef cattle and wanted to move them in. But, because of our group health insurance, we have to stick with dairy cattle."

The Heinses, who sold the farm in 1980 on contract but got it back, are finding it isn't easy to give a farm away. "It's harder to get rid of than it was to work for it," says Grace. "We've attended several seminars on farm transfers. One thing we've learned is that the government won't let you give a farm away without paying a sizeable gift tax."

Norb and Grace are still accepting applications as they themselves continue to explore the tax and legal options of giving a farm away.

They note that several out-state applicants drove to see them "without even phoning ahead to make sure we'd be home. One applicant wondered if we'd gift him the farm, then let him put a hired man on the place to run it. Another couple with no money or backing whatsoever offered to buy the farm over time if only they could get the financial help they need to get started in farming."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Norb and Grace Heins, W5258 State Road 55, Black Creek, Wis. 54922 (ph 414 525-4923).

**FARM SHOW Salutes
Heroic "Super Mom"**

Claire Luteyn's amazing solution to an ice storm emergency has made her an international celebrity. Newspaper and television reporters from as far away as Australia and England have covered the story on how she turned herself into a human incubator to hatch out 15 large emu eggs that weigh 1.5 lbs. each and are as big as a softball.

For the past five years, Claire and her husband Donald have raised emus on their exotic animal farm near Marion, N.Y. Early last March, a severe ice storm wiped out all electric power to their place, shutting down everything, including their furnace and a small incubator that was hatching 15 emu eggs. The Luteyns borrowed a generator for two days but had to return it before power was restored.

"Now what do we do with the eggs?"
"I was determined to keep those eggs alive," says Claire who, with the help of her husband, decided right then and

there to incubate them herself until electric power was restored. She used her own body to keep the eggs toasty warm (at 97°) for three days and two nights in the unheated house.

"I put on a nightgown, placed the 15 eggs on my chest and stomach, then put on a warm jump suit to cover them up."

Except for a 5 minute bathroom break every so often, Claire spent three days and two nights lying on the couch "incubating". Meanwhile, Donald waited dutifully on his "human incubator" and helped turn the eggs every 2-1/2 hours.

The surrogate parents "saved the day." Thanks to their heroic efforts, the 15 eggs produced 12 healthy emu chicks, which the Luteyns hope to sell at five weeks of age for \$1,000 to \$1,500 each.

For more information on their emus, rheas, miniature donkeys and other exotics, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donald and Claire Luteyn, 5330 Eddy Ridge Rd., Marion, N.Y. 14505 (ph 315 926-4325).

The "No Excuse" Sunday

There's both truth and humor in the following item (author unknown) which you may want to submit for your church's Sunday bulletin or newsletter:

In order to make it possible for everyone to attend church next week, we are planning a special "no excuse" Sunday.

•Cots will be placed in the vestibule for those who say, "Sunday is my only day for sleeping in."

•Eye drops will be available for those whose eyes are tired from watching TV too late on Saturday night.

•Blankets will be furnished for those who complain that the church is too cold; fans for those who feel the church is too hot.

•We will have hearing aids for parishioners who say, "The pastor doesn't talk loud enough." There will be cotton for those who feel the pastor talks too loud.

•Score cards will be available for those who wish to count the hypocrites.

•There will be TV dinners available for those who claim they can't go to church and cook dinner, too.

•One section of church will have some trees and grass for those who see God in nature, especially on the golf course.

•The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies to create a familiar environment for those who have never seen the church without them.

See you in church!



**You'll Like This New
"All-Family" Game**

Do your family, friends and relatives a favor — introduce them to "Bean Bag Horseshoe," a new backyard game that's fun and challenging for "kids" of all ages.

We first learned about the new game at a neighborhood pig roast, hosted by Ardyce Potter who works in FARM SHOW's circulation department, and her husband Wally. Guests stood in line, waiting to play the new game. Everybody played — men against men, women against women, wives against husbands, and sons and daughters against parents and grandparents.

"Bean Bag Horseshoe" is a lot like regular horseshoes, except that players toss bean bags instead of steel horseshoes, and the target, instead of a stake, is a slanted wooden box with a hole in the top.

First step is to build two wooden slant-top boxes (one for each end of the court) like the one pictured. You can use most any scrap lumber but 3/4 in. plywood works best. Make each box 2 ft. wide, 4 ft. long, 4 in. high in front, and 12 in. high in back.

Cut a 6.5 in. dia. hole in the slanted top, positioning it so its center is 12 in. from the back or "high" end, and 12 in.

from either side of the box. Sand and then varnish the slanted top surface of the box to make it smooth and slippery. No need to put a bottom in the box.

Next step is to make eight bean-filled bags. Make them out of two 9 in. square pieces of denim sewed together and filled with 1-3/4 lbs. of soybeans. Seal the beans inside a plastic "baggie" to keep them dry when playing on wet grass. (If the beans get wet they'll sprout and swell up.) Make four bags of one color, and four of another so they can be easily identified for scoring.

You're now set to play the game. Place the boxes about 35 ft. apart (for adults) and test your skill at tossing the bags so they land in the hole, or stop on top of the box. Score 3 points for each "ringer" (entire bag in the hole) and 1 pt. for each "hanger" (bag stops on the box surface but doesn't drop into the hole). If you and your opponent each throw a ringer, and no hangers, the points cancel and nobody scores. If you throw one or more hangers and your opponent scores a ringer, his ringer cancels your hangers. Chalk up 3 for him, none for you. If you throw one ringer and two hangers, and your opponent scores a ringer only, the ringers cancel and you get two points for the hangers. The first player or team to score 21 points wins.

With a bit of practice, you'll soon discover ways to put "English" on the bag to keep it from sliding off the slippery box surface. You'll also discover early on that wives tend to get the hang of the game faster than husbands, and teenagers generally beat parents but not grandparents.

This is what makes the game exciting. Everybody, regardless of age can play and win — without a lot of practice or throwing experience. What's more, the game is safe to play with toddlers around. If it rains, you can play the game in the machinery shed, or down in the basement. Make the boxes "collapsible" and you can put them in the car trunk to take along on vacation, or to the next family reunion or picnic.

Save Your Money!

Oregon State University agronomists conducted a 3 year study of several widely promoted "crop yield enhancers" to see if they do what they're advertised to do.

Products tested were YEA!, containing chitosan, a crabshell derivative; Amplify-D, containing adenosine monophosphate (AMP) with sodium phosphate buffers; Car-Dak, a super absorbent starch graft polymer with graphite; and Golden-X, containing *Aspergillus oryzae* in a carrier of sand washing. Researchers also evaluated seed treated with a Bio-Mag magnetic seed treader, and seed treated with a commercial "moisturizing" machine manufactured in Canada.

"There were no indications of beneficial effects from treating wheat seed with these purported yield-enhancing agents," says agronomist Don Grabe. "When yields were averaged over three wheat varieties, two locations, three years, and four replications, yields from all treatments were within plus or minus 1 bu./acre of the untreated check plot."

Worth Repeating

FFA members spoke out about our nation's environmental problems in a recent writing contest conducted by "FFA New Horizons" magazine and sponsored by Garst Seed Co. Here is the first place national entry, submitted by Timothy Steele, from Barnes, Kan.:

There are many white faded barns scattered throughout the countryside. However, one owned by my uncle is very unique. Painted on the door in red is a saying: "The earth and her resources are not a gift from our ancestors, but a loan from our children."

For years, man's goal has been to tame the environment. In the process it was unintentionally abused. It is time that the men and women in agriculture set the standards by working with nature, not against it. Yes, the earth is a gift, but it is a precious gift that must be passed on.

Catching Up On What You've Missed

Many new subscribers have asked if they can obtain back issues of FARM SHOW (published bimonthly six times a year). The answer is yes.

We have the Jan.-Feb. and March-April issues for 1991, all six 1990 issues, and Jan.-Feb., July-Aug., Sept.-Oct. Nov.-Dec. for 1989. Five of the six issues for 1988 are available (Vol. 12, No. 1,2,3,4,5) and all six issues for 1987. We can supply copies of most but not all issues published prior to 1987.

Send your check for \$3 per issue to: Back Issues, FARM SHOW Magazine, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, MN 55044 (ph 612 469-5572). Make your check payable to "FARM SHOW".