

Smörgåsbord



Harold Johnson
Editor

Cow Magnet Craze — If you've tried to buy any cow magnets lately you know what's happened. They've more than tripled in price and are scarcer than hen's teeth, no thanks to the "cow magnet craze" that's sweeping the country. Seems the word has been getting around that if you tape a couple of the 3 in. magnets on your gas line — real close to the carburetor, with positive and negative poles together — you can increase gas mileage "up to 5 or 7 miles per gal.," says some enthusiasts.

Because of the "cow magnet craze", city folks have been buying up cow magnets anywhere they

Dealer Wins "Wrongful Termination" Suit Against Deere — Deere and Co. reportedly does not intend to appeal a judgement found against it by a U.S. District Court jury in Greenville, S.C., in the amount of \$84,000 plus interest and costs of action.

The judgment was the outcome of a suit filed by Ridge Tractor Co., formerly a John Deere dealership at Johnston, S.C., which alleged a wrongful termination of the franchise. Ridge Tractor alleged that Deere made "increasingly unreasonable and arbitrary demands that: (a) the plaintiff purchase land and put up a new building which Ridge Tractor claimed was neither necessary nor part of the franchise agreement; (b) the plaintiff paint his trucks green and yellow, also not required by contract or necessary to enhance the business; and (c) that the plaintiff employ a parts manager, which he claimed was not necessary since he employed a person with a different title who performed the parts manager function effectively. A Deere and Co. spokesman reports that while the company had denied the allegations of wrongful conduct in the course of the trial, it will have no further comment on the matter. (Implement and Tractor Magazine).

Farmer Thwarts Foreclosure: Arthur Heim, Bushnell, Neb., was being foreclosed on by his bank. He had \$99,000 in short term debts that he could not pay. Creditors were hounding him. Then, Heim found out through his attorney that, under Chapter 11 of Federal Bankruptcy Laws, he could stop the foreclosure, reorganize his debts and continue farming. Although few attorneys are familiar with Chapter 11, Heims said it is a simple procedure and one sheet of paper filed in Federal Court handles it.

Chapter 11 was designed for corporations. It required \$100,000 in assets. Nebraska adopted the provision October 1, 1979. At this time it is unclear if all states abide by it, but it is a Federal law.

Another Nebraska farmer, who is unidentified for reasons of privacy, also used Chapter 11 to stop foreclosure. In this farmer's case, they already had his livestock in the sale barn and already had his equipment. He got it all back and is operating his farm again. Heim advises that any farmer facing foreclosure find an attorney who is familiar with Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Laws, or find one who is willing to dig into it, and consider it. Heim has also volunteered to talk with farmers in this situation. His phone number is 308 673-3233 in Bushnell, Neb. (American Agriculture News)

Record Wheat Yield — Indiana farmer James Reinhard, of Bluffton, may not be in the World Book of Records but his recent harvest of 112.3 bu. of wheat per acre is one for the books. Reinhard achieved his phenomenal yield on a measured 3 acres of plowed-down alfalfa which he seeded with Callahan Seeds 188 wheat. During planting in late September, he incorporated 300 lbs. of 6-26-26 at seeding. Then in early in April, after the spring growth, he top dressed with 200 lbs. of urea. But, despite the potential his crop was showing, Reinhard said he was still surprised at the bumper harvest. "I've never cut wheat like this before. Looking down from my combine, I couldn't see the ground. I was surprised to see how fast the hopper filled up." (The Farmers' Advance).

Wet Bales for Heat? "Has anyone tried this?" asks Marvin Clark, an agricultural consultant from Paola, Kan., who suggests that big bales or other crop residue can be used for heat in ways other than burning.

"When I was a kid, we used to stack silage along fencelines in the winter. When we shoved sticks in there, they came out hot. Why not place big bales of hay or straw in a pit, wet them down and run pipes through them to draw off warmth to heat barns or other buildings?" he asks.

Clark has no idea how hot the bale pit heater could get but speculates that bacteria, which pro-

duce the heat, could possible bring the temperature up to 200°.

"I was at a barn fire once that started spontaneously," he recalls. "The hay was wet and had probably been heating up for months before it finally burst into flames. The bales were so hot that when they were pulled out, they burst into flames.

"Big bales in a pit would probably oxidize into little piles of ash if you were able to keep feeding it oxygen. I think there's just as much heat in a ton of hay as a ton of wood," he speculates.

"This is an idea that would take some work, but I think that if we get really hard up for energy, there are many things we can do to solve our problems," says Clark.

Farmer's Prayer -- As farmers and ranchers, Dear God, give us wisdom and patience to understand why a pound of T-bone steak at \$1.80 is high, but a 3-ounce cocktail at \$2.20 is not.

And a 50¢ Coke at the ball game is cheap, but the 20¢ glass of milk for breakfast is inflationary.

And Lord, help me to understand why \$5 for a ticket to the picture show is a bargain, but \$3 for a bushel of wheat is unthinkable.

Cotton is too high at 65¢ a pound, but a \$20 shirt is on sale for \$18.95.

And corn is too steep at 3¢ worth in a box of flakes, but the flakes are just right at 50¢ a serving.

And also, Lord, help me understand why I have to give an easement to the gas company so they can cross my property with their gas lines, and then double my price of gas.

And also, Dear God, help me to understand the consumer, who drives by my field and scoffs at me for driving a \$30,000 tractor that he built, so he could make money and drive down that right-of-way they took from me to build a road on so he could go hunting and skiing.

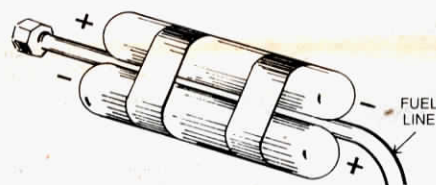
Thank you, God, for your past guidance and help. And please help me make sense of it all.

American Agriculture News

Inflation fighter. Canadian L. J. Plamondon, St. Front, Sask., writing in a recent issue of Grainews magazine, offers the following suggestion "to reduce the price of machinery, increase production, lower inflation and put more money in the worker's pocket":

"Let's say I am in the manufacturing business, regardless of what I manufacture; example — it is costing me \$1000 worth of iron to produce one unit. I am paying my workers \$10 per hour and it takes five men eight hours to produce one unit, therefore labor costs are \$400 per unit; total cost thus far \$1400. Then I add another \$600 for my general expenses and profit which means I can sell the machine for \$2000 final cost to consumer. But, if I rush orders and I have to pay time and one half or double time on overtime to build the same machine the price of the machine will go up accordingly.

Solution? Pay the workers going wages, in this case \$10 per hour straight through, charge income tax on the first eight hours and none on the overtime, so if a worker makes two hours overtime he ends up with \$20 more in his pocket, income tax free, and the unit price of the machine does not increase. It would give the worker more incentive to work overtime and everyone would benefit as it would not increase the price of production, the worker would have \$20 more, the manufacturer would produce more and the cost to the consumer would remain the same."



can get them — so many, in fact, that there aren't many left for cattlemen who need them for their cows.

A Colorado firm which specializes in magnets (but doesn't make cow magnets) has boarded the bandwagon with a "Gas Saver Magnet Kit" made up of 2 magnets said to be "twice as strong as cow magnets and much longer lasting". The kits sell for \$11, including postage. "Contrary to some reports, magnets do not heat the gas," explains Tom Nellesen, president of the Ten-Gam Corp., 6075 S. Gilbert, Castle Rock, Col. "The magnets magnetize molecules of fuel all to one pole, making them repel each other when they aren't under pressure. Between the carburetor and fuel pump, they are under pressure. When they reach the firing chamber, the magnetized, vaporized molecules repel against each other. This spreads them out evenly for more efficient, uniform firing in the chamber."

Meanwhile, FARM SHOW checked with Dr. Edward Fletcher, professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Minnesota who specializes in thermodynamics and combustion: "I don't know of any intrinsic way in which magnets mounted on the fuel line will increase the capability of an engine for getting increased mileage. However, when people do almost anything which they think will increase mileage, they become more conscious of their driving habits. This improvement in their driving habits — and not the magnets — is why they are getting improved mileage." Gas mileage can be increased by up to 20% from improved driving habits alone.