

"Now there's a worthwhile invention.'

That was my enthusiastic reaction to a recently-published news release noting the development of — joy, oh joy! — selfcleaning windows.

Well, at least they're reported to be self-cleaning on the outside. Which is the place where they're the hardest to wash, anyway, especially for those of us with upper floors possessing numerous windows.

Most of our upper-story windows, frankly, never see cleaning except for what gets done by rainstorms. (Remember rainstorms? You know, water falling from the sky?) (The few unreachable-from-the-ground windows, which I do cave in and clean with a ladder, are key ones to our main floor — like at the kitchen

stove - and which we actually look out of multiple times daily. The upstairs and attic floor windows stay clean enough on their own to let light through, which is all that's really necessary.

My philosophy about windows is that any which can only be cleaned by rappelling down from the chimney can just stay dirty. And the first person to complain about them will be handed a spray bottle, cleaning rag, and climbing rope.

More detailed information about the self-cleaning windows notes that they are manufactured by a special process which causes the dirt to sheet off when it rains against the glass.

According to the news release, a coating of titanium oxide is applied to the glass during the window manufacturing process. Ul-

traviolet light chemically reacts with the coating to loosen dirt which collects and allows it to "sheet" off when a spray of water or rain hits the glass.

You could probably stand back from the windows with a hose, turn a stream of water on the glass and get the same end results. Bingo! Clean windows.

What a stunning breakthrough in one of those most dreaded household chores. It would also be an ideal solution to our couple-dozen dairy barn windows which are perpetually cleanliness-challenged by windblown bedding sawdust, scattered silage bits from feeding, hay dust, etcet-

Perhaps we can look forward to someone figuring out how to expand this fascinating selfcleaning technology to some other thankless tidy-up tasks. Like self-cleaning shower walls, kitchen sinks, maybe even mir-

Or even dirty cars. In an effort to keep my car somewhat presentable, I run it periodically through a local car wash. During pleasant weather, the milkhouse pressure washer is even handier. And, except on rare occasions, my car, when not on the road, is kept parked in the garage, with the garage door closed.

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No matter. That car is still perpetually dirty, thanks to the fact that the garage is located. Just feet away from the sawdust storage area where they remove a dusty skid-loader-full every day for bedding cows; and adjacent to the road, which is perpetually stirred with dust from feeding equipment passing by several times daily.

Add to that the cat tracks which appear across the hood and roof of the car on a regular basis, but most dependably right after it has been washed. A selfcleaning finish would absolutely be a boon against my perpetual frustration over dusty, cattracked "wheels."

Self-cleaning finishes on farm equipment would be equally welcomed — for similar reasons. Except that cat tracks aren't usually a problem on tractors, though an occasional squirrel is spotted sprinting through the machinery

Even if the self-cleaning technology never moves beyond this particular application to window glass, it's sure to be eagerly adapted by new home builders and remodelers.

We predict it to be a welcomed breakthrough product from which both inventor and user can "clean up.'

OSU Student Wins Dairy Goat **Scholarship**

SPINDALE, N.C. American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) recently awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to ADGA member, Amy E. Plummer of Columbus, Ohio, who is enrolled as a student at the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Winners are determined by a panel of judges on the basis of leadership skills, academic ability, and interest in dairy goats.

The ADGA, a national registry organized in 1904, serves a membership of 13,000 and maintains records for six breeds of dairy goats, including Alpine, LaMancha, Nubian, Oberhasli, Saanen, and Toggenburg.





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