

Hot lunch!

Simple invention keeps food warm in field

By Sue Roesler

Lee Agri-Media

Sheldon Sivak of Bismarck, N.D., remembers when his mom used to bring out a warm plate of food while he was spending long days out in the fields with his dad in the tractor.

They looked forward to that hot lunch after a long morning of planting at their family farm in Fairfield, N.D.

When Sheldon grew up and started working in the mines, he missed that warm food at noon.

"I've spent 15 years eating cold food and leftovers," he said.

Last year, while still working at the mines, he started thinking about how he could have that warm lunch.

For workers on the go such as those in farming, working in the oilfield or mines, there wasn't the opportunity to use a microwave.

Sheldon ended up designing and creating what he calls "Lunch Solutions Pack 'n' Heat."

His wife, Katrina, got involved and started helping him.

All his kids — Kobe, Alexis and Brady — were excited, and did what they could.

They even took the box to school for invention day and showed the other students.

"Kobe has really been helping me market this box," Sheldon said.

HE SAID he figured anyone who drives a truck, combine, tractor or other big vehicle could attach this aluminum lunch box using magnets on a metal surface next to the exhaust manifold or turbo on the engine, and it would heat up the food inside the box.

Sheldon made several test runs before he came up with the perfect box.

"I have had a lot of people try it and like it. I delivered one to a



Sheldon Sivak

farmer in Mott (N.D.) who attaches it by the tractor engine and he loves having warm food to eat," Sheldon said.

The lunch box is specifically designed for those in the military who drive vehicles, farmers, mine workers, construction workers and oilfield workers.

THEY ARE all far from home at midday and need a warm lunch to keep them going, Sheldon said.

The box is made of lightweight die-cast aluminum and is the size of a regular lunch box.

It easily holds a can of soup, sandwich or macaroni and cheese from last night's dinner.

On the bottom are four large magnets that hold up to 35 pounds per magnet for a total of 140 pounds.

"It never falls off. While you are driving your truck, you can stop, hop out and attach the box, get back in the truck and keep driving," Sheldon said.

He has a long cable attached to the box that can be wrapped around an engine part for added protection.

Sheldon said he has driven over many bumpy roads and the lunch box has never fallen off.

Today, he is headed up to the oilfield in Williston, N.D., where

an oil company just purchased seven boxes and 200 food trays from him.

He said farmers can put their own food in the box by wrapping it in aluminum foil, or buy one of his food trays with lids.

"It is like a stove on the go," Sheldon said, adding the box heats up to about 350 degrees within a half-hour to an hour.

The food inside will be about 160 degrees, he said.

To remove the box from the heat source, he recommends using gloves or oven mitts.

Some of the features are:

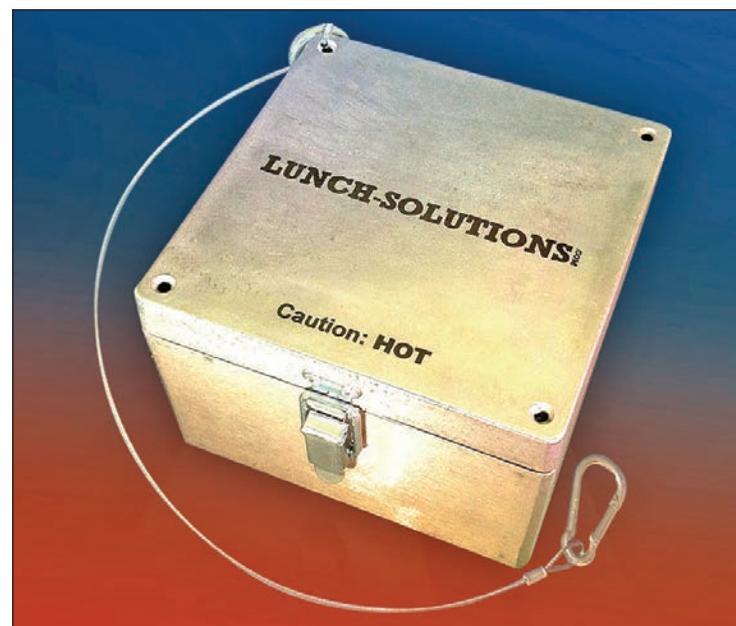
- It evenly heats a variety of foods.
- It has a tight seal to prevent leaks.
- It magnetically attaches to metal surfaces.
- It is portable and needs no electricity or power source.
- It has a safety cable to secure the box to equipment.
- It provides years of reliable service.

Sheldon said his nephew, Seth, uses it on the farm. Many others in the mines have tried it and love having warm food when they are working. A custom combine company wants to try it this year when combining in North Dakota, Sheldon said.

He is continuing to invent new items that go with the lunch box. The newest — two trays with indentations for potatoes — is coming soon. "You put the potatoes in one side and cover it with onions and butter, or whatever you want. Then, you put the other side on to cover, wait 30 minutes and flip the box with the food try in it over.

"When it is done, you will have baked potatoes with all the toppings ready to go," he said.

More information about Lunch Solutions Pack 'n' Heat, is available at <http://lunch-solutions.com> or call Sheldon at 701-527-0845.



Photos courtesy Sheldon Sivak

A safety cable helps secure the box to equipment.



ABOVE: The box fits into the engine compartment of a tractor. BELOW: Food stays warm inside the box while the person operating the equipment is working.

