

Upright Fuel Tank Minimizes Fuel Loss

Robert Kominek of Chatham, Ontario, is a methodical person who puts a pencil to every part of his operation.

So when the Ontario government outlawed underground steel gas storage tanks, he started gathering information. Research from a petroleum lab indicated that above-ground tanks can lose as much as 8 gal. of fuel per month to evaporation, depending on location, color of tank, and other factors.

To avoid that problem, Kominek decided to build a storage tank that would keep fuel from evaporating.

"I realized that if I could find a way to cover the surface of the gas in the tank, I would be able to reduce the amount of evaporation. In order to do that, I had to design a vertical tank," says Kominek.

He set a 200-gal. tank on end, resting on a concrete pad. He made a floating cover out of wood covered with fiberglass-type resin. The "floater" covers the entire surface of the fuel except for a 1/4-in. wide band around the outer edge. A lightweight steel rod attaches to the top of the floater and extends up out of the top of the tank so Kominek can tell at a glance how much fuel is left in the tank.

The tank is painted white to reflect heat.

"The design dramatically reduces fuel loss. Evaporation only occurs in the 1/4-in. gap around the edge and in the 2-in. dia. fill pipe.

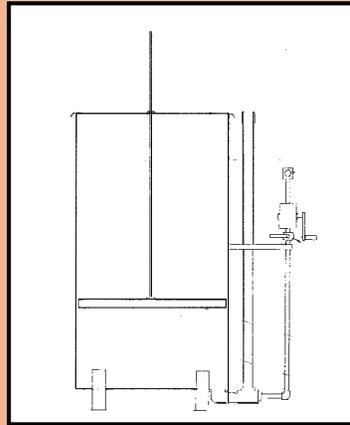
"The fuel savings from using this tank will save me a considerable amount over the years."

A hand-cranked pump mounts on the side of the tank. Legs were made from 2 by 2-in. sq. steel tubing. A 2-in. fill pipe on the side of the tank runs to a fitting at the bottom of the tank.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Kominek, RR 4, Chatham, Ont. N7M 5J4 Canada.



Kominek set this 200-gal. tank on end and made a floating cover out of wood covered with fibreglass-type resin. It covers the entire surface of the fuel to keep it from evaporating.



Hand-cranked pump mounts on side of tank. Gauge pole sticks up outside tank so Kominek can see at a glance how much fuel is left.



Roller mounts on front 3-pt. hitch and is available in 12 and 15-ft. widths.

Front-Mount Roller Flattens Tire Damaging Stubble

You can reduce tire damage with a new front-mount roller that's designed to flatten corn stalks as well as stubble from other crops, including soybeans, sunflowers, and cotton, ahead of the tractor.

T & P Machine says the 16-in. dia., 3/8-in. wall roller is available in 12 and 15-ft. widths and is built in two sections, allowing it to stay in contact with rolling terrain. Both sections can be filled with water to apply more downpressure.

"Tire damage caused by stalks is becoming more of an issue, especially on Bt corn borer resistant hybrids," says Peter Theis. "This roller works especially well when you

go diagonally across the field and you can use it with a tillage tool mounted on back. The roller can also be used in the spring to firm up the seedbed ahead of the planter.

"At the recent Farm Fest show we mounted the roller on a 3-pt. hitch made by Buckeye Tractor Co. in Columbus Grove, Ohio. However, any front-mount 3-pt. hitch could be used. A 12-ft. model sells for \$3,120 and a 15-ft. model for \$3,900. We also make pull-type rollers available in widths from 15 to 22 ft. A 19-ft. pull-type model sells for \$5,875."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, T & P Machine and Mfg., 11 West Second, Winthrop, Minn. 55396 (ph 507 647-5370).



To make the feed bin, the Dewitz's removed the mixing chamber from an old cement mixing truck and mounted it upright on four legs. Steel ladder rungs were welded to one side to get up to the hatch on top.

Bulk Feed Bin Built From Cement Mixer

An old cement mixing truck has found new life as a bulk feed bin on the farm of Jeff and Joel Dewitz near Steele, N. Dak.

The mixing chamber was removed from the truck and then mounted upright on 4 legs. Steel ladder rungs were welded to one side to get up to the hatch on top.

"It looks like a silver rocket. Our neighbors accuse us of having a spacecraft in our yard, but it was cheap to build and works as well as anything on the market," says Jeff. "We use it to store soybean meal and mineral concentrates for our cow-calf operation. We also use it sometimes to hold seed."

The men already had the junked out cement truck which they had originally bought for its running gear. The mixing tub had been left lying in the weeds. They removed all the flighting from inside the tub and installed a steel cone and trap door on the bottom end. A short "cross tube" was bolted to the bottom of the door. A 4-in. dia. auger can be slid

into the cross tube to deliver feed into a TMR mixer. Or, the tube can be replaced with an auger hopper in order to load grain into a truck. The roof hatch is spring-loaded and operated by a rope from the ground, making the tub easy to fill.

"It can hold about 250 bu. of feed. The only money we spent was on welding wire and welding gas. When we built it 2 years ago we priced 2,000 and 3,000 bu. commercial bins at about \$4,500, so one with the same capacity as ours would probably have sold for \$1,500 to \$3,000," says Jeff.

"The original opening on what is now the bottom of the bin was 42 in. in diameter, which was too big. We made a cone by welding together feed stanchions off an old hay feeder. This reduced the opening size to 16 in. in diameter."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joel Dewitz, Rt. 1, Box 60, Steele, N. Dak. 58482 (ph 701 475-2681).

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