

Center Pivot Pipe Used To Build Two Farm Buildings

When Harry Haythorn, Maxwell, Nebraska, decided to discontinue use of a center pivot irrigation system on some pasture ground, he found nobody wanted the old pivot if it meant they had to dismantle it.

When he later decided to put up a couple of new farm buildings, Haythorn was glad he had kept the old pivot.

"I'd seen articles in past issues of FARM SHOW about buildings made of old irrigation pipe. I decided I could use the pivot pipe to frame up my buildings and construct them for less than I could have them put up for me," he says. He put up a 40 by 60-ft. horse barn and a 50 by 100-ft. storage shed.

He built them like pole barns, setting the 6 5/8-in. dia. pipe uprights in concrete.

"I squared up the end posts, and then chalk-lined them at the top. Then I cut saddles in the tops and welded a pipe the full length of

the building," he says. Finally, he welded more pipe into triangles to make rafters.

"Setting the rafters was the most difficult part of making the frame," he says. "I have a small loader and lifting them into place and holding them there while getting them squared up and then welding took some doing."

Haythorn says if the pipe had been galvanized, grinding off the zinc coating before welding would have added a lot of time and effort to the project.

The stud barn is still under construction. "I have 8-in. steel purlins, just like those used in commercially built steel buildings, that I'll weld to the posts and the roof. The posts are spaced 20 ft. apart, so each purlin span is 20 ft. I'll finish it off by screwing on steel siding and roofing," he says. "On the inside, I'll add some wood partitions and siding to keep



"I built them to save money," says Harry Haythorn, who used old center pivot pipe to put up a 40 by 60-ft. horse barn and a 50 by 100-ft. storage shed.

the horses away from the exterior siding."

He says the storage building, with its open sides, is just right for storing his stock trailers, motor home, and other trailers, equipment and vehicles. "It has four 25 ft. wide bays on each side and is 14 ft. high at the eave. I may put siding on the ends of it, and

I've thought about using roll-down tarp for the sides, but it's really handy for getting in an out as it is," he says.

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New Post Driver "Vibrates" Posts Into The Ground

"It's 40 percent faster than conventional post drivers because you don't have to wait for the hammer to go back up each time," says inventor Richard Murray about his new "vibrating" post driver that uses steady down pressure and quick taps to install posts. It can be used with any kind of post whether it's made of steel or wood, and can reach up to 19 ft. high.

The Post-Vibe machine was introduced at the recent Western Canada Farm Progress Show in Regina, Sask. It's driven by a hydraulic motor that operates off the skid loader's hydraulics. A steel cup lowers over the top of the post so that it can't move or deflect sideways.

Various cup sizes are available to match the type and size of post. The cup can be replaced by a variety of bolt-on attachments, including a T bar attachment, weights, carrying basket, and wood splitter.

"It works as well on T-posts as it does on wooden posts," say inventors Richard Murray and Rob McPhee. "It's safer to use because there's no overhead impact system. Once the vibrator is lowered down onto the post, the operator of the skid loader has full control. I'm a fencing contractor and came up with the idea after I got tired of spending a lot of time lining the pounder up with the posts all the time. Now I just drive up to a post and place the cup over it.

"One big advantage of the design is that you can use it in hard ground without worrying about shattering the post. Another advantage is that it mounts right on a skid loader and isn't as wide as a pull-type model. As a result, you can build a fence without having to cut down as many trees."

Sells for \$11,900 (Canadian). Another model that goes up to 16 ft. high is also available and sells for \$11,400. Prices are expected to come down in the near future due to expected reductions in material costs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Post-Vibe, Inc., Box 800, Red Deer, Alberta,



"Vibrating" post driver uses steady down pressure and quick taps to install posts.



Unit is driven by a hydraulic motor that operates off skid loader's hydraulics. Steel cup lowers over top of post so it can't move or deflect sideways.

Canada (ph 403 845-9200 or 403 391-2027; email: info@postvibe.com; website: www.postvibe.com).



Krenzel cut off the front part of an old push mower, then replaced the original blade with a flat one fitted with sickle mower knife sections.

Home-Built Brush Mower Cuts With Sickle Sections

When he needed a really tough power mower for cutting brush and weeds, Daniel Krenzel, Cullman, Alabama, went to the shop, not the store.

He started with an old push rotary mower with a 3 1/2-hp gas engine. The first step was to cut off the front of the deck with a Sawz-All, so the front inch of the blade runs in the open.

Then he replaced the contoured mower blade with a flat one of his own making that relies on sickle mower knife sections to do the cutting.

To make the blade, he started with a 2 1/2-in.-wide by 5/16-in. thick bar of cold rolled steel. He drilled holes at each end of the bar to match holes in sickle sections, so he could bolt, not rivet, the sections to the bar.

"I used 1/4-in. bolts to mount the sections," he says. "On the leading edge of the section, I used a no. 8 hardness bolt and on the other side, I used a softer no. 2 bolt. That way, if I hit something hard there's a shear bolt that allows it to give, but the harder bolt will keep the section from flying off."

At one end he put the sickle section on top of the blade and at the other end he put it on the bottom. Once he had the sections mounted, he sharpened them and balanced the blade. He says it weighs about the same



Holes were drilled at each end of bar to match holes in sickle sections, allowing him to bolt sections to bar.

as the original mower blade.

"With the front of the deck cut off, I can push the blade right into tall grass, weeds or small brush without bending it over. I used serrated sickle sections because they cut more aggressively. It cuts off cleaner and quicker than if I had to push the mower over the top," he says. "Because the blade is flat, there's no extra air movement to throw the material, nor does it create a vacuum that pulls material up."

Krenzel says safety with a machine like this could be a problem. He only runs the engine at about 1/3 of top rpm's and has never needed more speed to cut even the toughest brush.

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