

New "Drive Over" Reservoirs Catch Chemical Spills



Portable Port-A-Pad can be positioned anywhere. Fits in pickup bed for transport.

The "Port-A-Pad"

New portable drive-over "pads" offered by Mountain Hi-Tech, Walla Walla, Wash., let you catch spilled chemicals, fuel, liquid fertilizer, etc., and pump them back into the original container or a nearby holding tank.

"Port-A-Pad" consists of a chemically resistant polyethylene liner surrounded by four 1-ft. wide inflated walls. The walls can be filled with either air or water from 6 to 12 in. high. Spilled material drains toward the middle where it collects in a sump hole.

"It's an economical way to keep chemicals from contaminating groundwater," says Don Parker, owner. "It's good insurance in case a hose breaks or you have any other kind of accidental spillage. The thick, heavy-duty liner is built to withstand 6,000 psi so it's almost tear-proof. A two-way valve lets you partially fill the walls with water to hold the pad down in windy weather or you can use tie-down flaps to secure it to the ground. We offer the Port-A-Pad in 14 different sizes ranging from 7 by 3 ft. to 50 by 17 ft. to fit tractor-towed, truck-mounted, or self-propelled sprayers. Spill-holding capacity ranges from 155 to 6,000 gallons. It's light enough when empty that you can fold it up

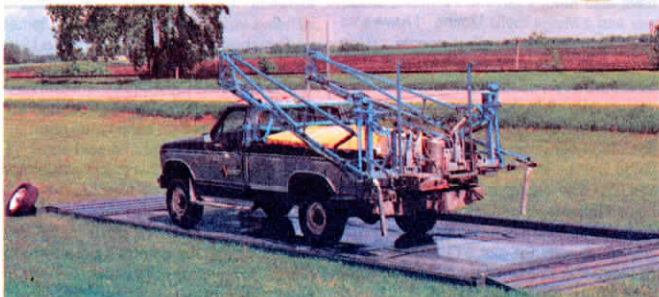
and store it in your pickup bed for transport. It also makes a handy portable water reservoir for rural fire departments."

A 7 by 3 ft. Port-A-Pad sells for \$650 and a 50 by 17 ft. model sells for \$3,990.

The company also offers a permanent "spill restrainer" container designed for above-ground fuel tanks and large chemical and fertilizer storage tanks. It consists of a liner enclosed by four concrete walls, with a sump in the middle. "Recent changes in EPA regulations require owners of underground fuel storage tanks to have them tested for leaks," says Parker, so some farmers are installing above-ground tanks. Our concrete wall and liner costs only about half as much as solid concrete spill pads and it can't crack or leak."

Also available is a portable 3-ft. high square steel tank and liner that contains 2,500 gal. Sells for less than \$2,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Parker, Mountain Hi-Tech Tanks & Liners, Rt. 4, Box 185-C, City County Airport, Walla Walla, Wash. 99362 (ph 509 529-3578).



The 12 by 34 ft. platform has a 2 in. dia. discharge port built into one corner.

The "Tug Dike"

"It's portable and designed to lay flat on most any dirt, gravel, tar or concrete surface," says Stoen Farm Supply, Lowry, Minn., of its new rinse-loading Tug Dike for catching chemical, fertilizer or petroleum spills.

The 12 by 34 ft. platform with a 5 in. lip along all four sides resembles a giant metal cookie tray made of 7 ga. steel. It holds 1,275 gals. and is equipped with a 2 in. dia. discharge port built into one corner. "For complete drainage of any spilled material, the end opposite the discharge outlet can be

raised a foot or two with a tractor loader or forklift," notes Ron Stoen, manufacturer.

Twin 38 in. deep loading ramps (one placed outside the pad and one inside) allow tractors, trucks and sprayers to drive over the raised lip and onto the platform for rinsing or loading.

Tug Dike can be equipped with wheels and a tongue for down-the-road towing by truck or tractor. Sells for right at \$3,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stoen Farm supply, Box 155, Lowry, Minn. 56349 (ph 612 283-5283).



Powered parachute, built and sold in the U.S., steers with simple foot controls.

INDIANA FARMER SAYS THEY CAN BE A VALUABLE FARM TOOL

Powered Parachutes Catching On Fast

"After reading in your last issue (Vol. 15, No. 3) about the way powered parachutes are catching on with farmers in Australia and England, I wanted to let you know that I've been selling them in the U.S. since 1984. In the past couple years they've been catching on fast with farmers both as a farm tool and as an exciting new hobby," says Wyman Hochstetler, farmer and powered parachute dealer near Walkerton, Ind.

Hochstetler sells two models of power parachutes - the "Paraplane", manufactured by ParaPlane Corp., in Pennsauken, N.J., and the "Buckeye", made by Coldfire Systems, Inc., in Simi Valley, Calif. Although the two have some slightly different features, they both have essentially the same design consisting of a propeller-equipped go-cart type buggy that hangs from a conventional parachute. To take off, the buggy drags the chute behind it until it fills with air. If there's ever a mechanical problem in the air, the buggy and pilot simply float safely back down to earth.

"Unlike conventional ultralight planes, there's never been a fatality in a powered parachute due to an equipment failure," says Hochstetler, who stopped selling ul-

tralight planes due to safety concerns. He's had a lot of interest in powered chutes from farmers all over the country who use them to check crops, livestock, fencing as well as for pleasure rides. "Because of its usefulness, the IRS allows farmers to write it off as a tax deductible business expense."

No pilot's license is required to fly a powered chute. Takes about an hour to learn to fly. They steer with simple foot levers. To go higher, you just increase the throttle. To take off, you spread the chute out behind you on the ground. It'll lift off in as little as 25 ft. of travel.

Once in the air, they travel at a constant airspeed of about 26 mph. A 5-gal. tank keeps the chutes aloft for about 2 hrs. Maximum pilot weight on heavy-duty models is 250 lbs.

Paraplane comes completely assembled and folds up to fit in the trunk of a car. Buckeye requires about 20 hrs. to assemble. Both units weigh less than 200 lbs.

They sell for under \$7,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hop's Powered Parachutes, Inc., 20451 N. County Line Rd./Tyler, Walkerton, Ind. 46574 (ph 219 586-3580).

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