

RAISED FLOOR IS A SOLID, CLEAN SLEEPING PLATFORM

"Two Story" Hog Pen Boosts Productivity

Canadian animal scientists have come up with a two-level hog pen that lets animals walk up a ramp to get to an upper sleep platform that always stays clean and dry.

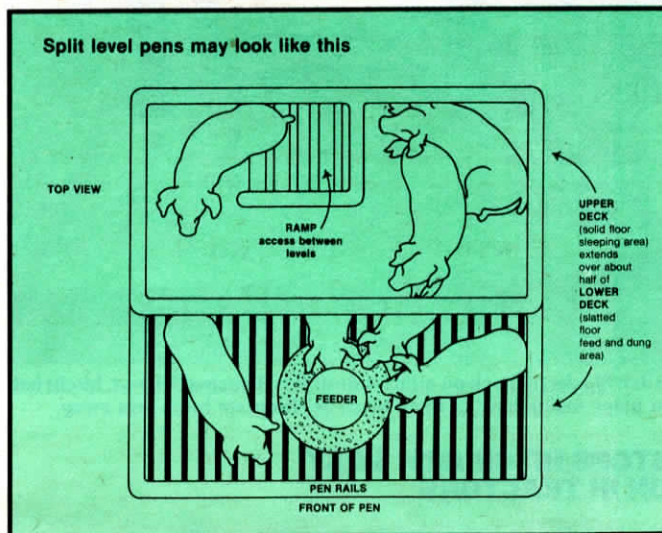
One of the main advantages of the design is that it lets you put 50% more pigs in a barn without expanding facilities. Animals dung in the lower area and sleep in the upper area, which they keep neat and clean. Increased exercise also benefits the animals, especially with breeding stock because lameness is greatly reduced.

Dr. David Fraser at the government's Animal Research Center near Ottawa says that although the new split-level pen is still in testing, it's clear that it produces happier and healthier pigs. "Some buildings are cold, wet, and damp and seem to have continual problems. This pen can turn them around by providing a warmer, cleaner environment, and the variety and exercise this design provides is also beneficial," says Fraser.

The prototype double-level pen, which Fraser says can be retrofitted to existing buildings, is 8 ft. wide and 16 ft. long with a slatted floor on the bottom level. The second level is reached by a ramp made from angle iron treads and consists of a solid floor made from 2-ft. wide reinforced concrete panels. The second level covers about 60% of the area covered by the lower level, and can be easily accessed by workers standing on the bottom level. It's 36 in. above the bottom level.

"A critical factor is the angle of the ramp. It should be between 20 and 25°, otherwise you'll have trouble training pigs to use it. The ramp is hinged so you can raise it up and 'lock' pigs in the upper level when you first put them in so they get used to the idea," he notes, adding that pigs move up and down the ramp several times a day.

Although no manufacturer has yet expressed an interest in producing the design commercially, several farmers have already put the idea to



Drawing courtesy Pork 86.

use on their own farms.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, D. Fraser,

Animal Research Center, Agriculture Canada, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C6 (ph 613 993-6002).

PROVIDE BETTER RIDE AND INCREASED LOAD CAPACITY

Add-On Dual Wheels For 4-WD Pickups

"Your pickup rides better and carries more," says Gary Cowdrey, sales manager for Dakota Coach, Inc., Cooperstown, N. Dak., a van and truck conversion company that specializes in adding dual wheels to pickups.

Cowdrey says the company works on any model pickup but that 4-WD Fords are the most common because dual wheels are not available from the factory. "We have lots of interest from farmers pulling heavy wagons

who are looking for better stability and easier steering" he says.

Installation involves the mounting of a dual wheel hub spacer—you can use the truck's standard wheels—and the addition of an outer wheel. The spacer simply bolts into place. The company then installs a ready-made wide body fender over the add-on tires, putting lights and a new gas filler neck into the new fender, if necessary.

A dual-wheel conversion costs



Kit consists of dual wheel spacer, outer wheel, and wide flare fender.

about \$1,700. The company also does custom interiors and paint designs. Cowdrey notes that other custom truck shops around the country also do dual wheel conversions. Dakota Coach buys their dual wheel kits from

a company in Oklahoma.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Cowdrey, Dakota Coach, Inc., P.O. Box 514, 7th and Lenham, Cooperstown, N. Dak. 58425 (ph 701 797-3200).

ATTRACTIVE, STRONG AND ECONOMICAL

Use Steel Posts To Build Wood Fence

Now you can build a wooden fence around your pasture or farmyard using existing steel posts, thanks to "Fence Clips" from Fox Valley Draft Horse Farms, Cary, Ill.

"Using clips and steel posts to build the fence takes about 1/5th the time that it would take using wood posts," says the manufacturer. "The fence lasts longer and is attractive, strong and economical."

The 18 ga. galvanized steel clips slide over the top of the "T" posts and are held in place on the post by two locking tabs that fit against the post teeth.

The end of one board slides into the clip. About six inches of the second board overlaps the first board and the two are nailed together through a hole in the clip. Because the boards overlap, you need to space posts about 6 in. closer together than normal. Also, steel posts must be positioned with the teeth on the side that you want the boards. If desired, a board can be installed vertically over the steel posts for a neater appearance. The number of clips on each post must equal the number of rails in your fence plan.

Three sizes of clips are available



Bracket, upper left, lets you fasten wood rails to steel posts.

and they're sold by the case — 80 clips per case. Sizes and case prices are: clips for 1 by 6-in. finished boards — \$79.95; for 1 by 6-in. rough cut boards — \$99.95; and for 2 by

6-in. finished boards — \$149.95.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fox Valley Draft Horse Farms, 640 Industrial Dr., Cary, Ill. 60013 (ph 312 639-7137).