"I'VE SAVED MORE THAN $20,000 OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS"

Corn-Burning System Heats Home For $100

An Illinois farmer says he heats his house, office, and garage for only $100 per winter using discarded seed corn that he buys from local seed corn companies.

Don Magelitz, of Waverly, stores the corn in a pair of conventional bulk feed tanks and uses three flexible steel augers to deliver it into a pair of corn-burning furnaces - one to heat his detached garage and the other to heat his house and attached office. Each auger is powered by a 1/2-hp electric motor.

"It's a very flexible system that's clean, trouble-free, and about as convenient as you can get," says Magelitz. "I purchased the auger and other corn handling components from a local hog equipment dealer. All of the corn is moved either by electricity or by gravity. All I have to do is load it into the bigger of the two tanks.

"I pay 50 cents per bu. delivered or 35 cents per bu. if I pick it up. I find that with my system the economics of heating with corn are fantastic. Many people with houses like mine spend as much as $2,500 each winter for heat. I've used corn to heat my home for the past 10 years and, at $100 per winter, have saved at least $20,000."

Magelitz installed an "A-Maize-Ing Heat" corn-burning hot water furnace in the basement. Hot water flows from the boiler to baseboard heaters in the house.

The detached garage is heated by a Traeger corn-burning forced air furnace. Corn gravity-flows into it from a 1/2-ton hopper mounted in a room directly above the furnace.

Corn is stored in a 9 1/2-ton tank outside. From there it's augered to a 8 by 10-ft. metal building that houses a fan mill to clean the corn. From the fan mill, corn is augered either to a 3 1/2-ton tank that supplies corn to the boiler, or to the 1/2-ton hopper inside the garage.

Corn is augered from bulk bins to corn burner that heats house and office.

"Both tanks hold enough corn to last all winter," says Magelitz. "The flexibility of my system is unreal. Using a switch box, I can deliver corn to either hopper from the fan mill or go directly from the bulk bin to the hoppers. The A-Maize-ing Heat boiler burns up to 30 percent screenings and the Traeger furnace will handle 100 percent screenings. I use the fan because it removes fine screenings and cob chaff which makes the burners work better.

"I chose the A-Maize-ing Heat boiler because at the time I bought it, it was the only one with a self-cleaning pot. That way I don't have to clean it out every two or three days like with some other models. I liked it so much that I became a dealer. The forced air furnace is made by Traeger Co. of Waco, Neb."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Magelitz, 13967 Thayer Rd. W., Waverly, Ill. 62692 (ph 217 435-9796; fax 9781) or visit his Web site at: www.donmagelitz.cncoffice.com

One-Man "T-Post" Jack

This new lightweight "T-post" jack is as easy to use as a car jack, says George Williams, Goldendale, Wash.

The "Post Jack" has a 4-ft. long handle for leverage, a "bill" that hooks onto the wire lugs on the T-post, and a stand. One end of the handle has a slot that matches the "T" on the post.

The jack stays parallel to the post so the post is pulled straight up. When there's only 4 to 5 in. of post left in the ground you can slide the bill up and over the top of the post, then lift out the post by hand.

"It's built rugged and will last a lifetime," says Williams. "It weighs less than 15 lbs. The 4-ft. handle is made from 1-in. dia. pipe and provides a lot of leverage. If you have a bent post in the fence that you want to straighten out, you can simply remove the clips that hold the wire to the post and then jack the post out."

Sells for $39.95 plus S&H. A 19-lb. model equipped with a 1 1/4-in. dia. handle is also available at the same price.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, George Williams, 1500 S. Columbus Ave., Sp. # 43, Goldendale, Wash. 98620 (ph 509 773-4870).

Jack is designed to stay parallel to post so post is pulled out straight.

Bridges made from 40, 50, and 89-ft. long flat cars last as long as conventional bridges, says the company promoting the idea.

Cheap Way To Build Your Own Bridge

"You'll can't find a lower cost bridge with this much capacity," says John Stolsig who sells "bridges" made of salvaged railroad flat cars.

The idea is catching on so fast, the Lebanon, Ore.-based RFC company sells 50 to 60 flat cars a year for use as bridges, Stolsig says.

"They're ideal for farms, ranches, golf courses, logging, irrigation districts, and much more," he says.

The company strips used rail cars down to the frame, selling off parts such as wheel assemblies and air brakes. In most cases, cars are taken apart down to the steel superstructure which is then used for the bridge frame.

RFC then delivers the superstructure, which can weigh as much as 50,000 lbs., to the customer either by flatbed or logging truck.

The superstructures are then lifted onto new or existing abutments by a crane. Decks up to 14 ft. wide are built out of whatever material the customer chooses, such as pressure treated timbers.

"Railroad car superstructures will last as long as nearly any conventional bridge," says Stolsig.

Flat car bridges come in 40, 50, 60 and 89-ft. lengths. All have load capacities of well over 100,000 lbs.

They sell for $5,000, $8,000, $9,000 and $15,000, respectively.

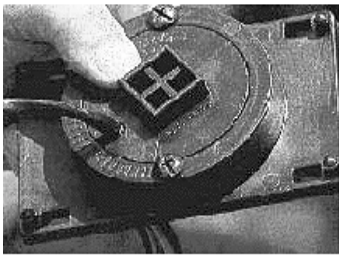
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, RFC, P.O. Box 365, 101 Industrial Way, Lebanon, Ore. 97355 (ph 541 451-1275; fax 258-6444).

"Spray Controller" Eliminates Waste On End Rows

A new "sprayer controller" automatically shuts off the spray flow whenever you raise the 3-pt. hitch.

Invented by Mississippi farmers Neil Payne and Richard Harding, the "Spray Saver" consists of a mercury switch that mounts on the rocker arm of your tractor's 3-pt. It's held in place by two plastic "cinch" straps. You wire the device to the sprayer's electronic solenoid control valve. Raising the 3-pt. interrupts the connection and automatically shuts off the spray flow. The controller is overriden by using a toggle switch in the cab.

"It eliminates the possibility that you'll forget to turn the sprayer on and off whenever you turn at the end of the field," says Payne. "Having the Spray Saver control your solenoid valve for you saves chemicals, prevents crop injury, prevents skips, and reduces pollution. It can be used with any implement including disks, harrows, field cultivators, planters, etc. You can adjust it to spray all the way to the top of the 3-pt.'s stroke when you pick up or let it turn off right at the bottom, or anywhere in between. A pair of screws on the housing can be adjusted to change the angle of the mercury switch.



"Spray Saver" shuts off sprayer automatically when 3-pt hitch is raised.

"One controller will run up to three solenoid control valves as long as you don't exceed 10 amps. It takes only 10 to 15 minutes to install."

Sells for $99.50.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Spray Saver Corp., Box 54150, Pearl, Miss. 39288 (ph 800 840-8054 or 601 939-2650; fax 601 939-2702).

Simple Tie-Down System For Pickups

You can secure heavy loads anywhere in your pickup bed by installing a pair of aluminum rails along the inside edge of the pickup's side rails and hooking straps up to sliding hooks, says In-Co Cargo Securing System, Inc., Indianapolis, Ind.

The slides lock in place anywhere along the rails.

"It has a 1,000-lb. load rating so you can use it to secure barrels and other heavy objects. It can also be used on flatbed trucks, horse and utility trailers, vans, recreational vehicles, and boat docks. The rails are available in 67, 90, and 95-in. lengths so it'll fit any pickup model. Bolts easily to the sides of box." Sells for $125 to $155 depending on length.

System has a 1,000-lb. load rating.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, In-Co Cargo Securing System, Inc., Box 51186, Indianapolis, Ind. 46251 (ph 317 486-5820; fax 317 241-6669).