

## Stand-Alone Coolers Fight Summer Heat

Stand-alone, portable evaporative coolers aren't new but sales have been picking up in recent years as farmers have discovered they're a relatively inexpensive way to keep livestock – and people – cool.

The wheeled units operate on standard 110-volt electricity and require only a standard garden hose to supply the water they use. A fan blows hot air through specially-designed "cooling pads", which use evaporation to cool the air off.

According to the manufacturers, the units run a lot cheaper than air conditioning and provide relief in places where air conditioning isn't practical, such as machine shops, barns, etc., and you can easily move them from place to place. What's more, they can also be used to cool people off at family reunions, picnics, or any other outdoor meeting. Here's a rundown on three different models.

### General Shelters

General Shelters says its Port-A-Cool evaporative cooler drops the air temperature as much as 20 degrees while only adding back an average of less than 2 percent humidity to the air. It has a 78 percent evaporative efficiency rate compared to a conventional "swamp cooler's" 30 percent efficiency rate.

Water is pumped to the top of the rig, where a spray bar soaks cooling pads made from a specially-treated corrugated cardboard material.

Comes with a 9 1/2-gal. water reservoir, or you can order an optional, wheeled Port-A-Filler tank to create a totally portable 50-gal. water supply. Available with 36, 24, or 16-in. dia. fans. A 36-in. belt-driven, 3-speed unit sells for \$3,712.25 (Canadian) plus S&H. The unit weighs only about 240 lbs. so you can haul it around in your pickup.

The Port-A-Filler tank sells for \$612.25 plus S&H (Canadian).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, General Shelters, Box 2108, Center, Texas 75935



**General Shelters' 36-in. fan weighs only about 240 lbs. so you can haul it around in your pickup.**

(ph 800 695-2942; Website: www.generalshelters.com) or Cool Shelters Corp., 1451 Erin St., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3E 2S9 (ph 204 975-2665; fax 204 783-8887; E-mail: cool@coolshelters.com; Website: www.coolshelters.com).

Quietaire Cooling, Inc., says its QuietCool portable evaporative cooler is equipped with a galvanized steel fan inside a polyethylene frame. It requires only a 110-volt outlet and a water source to fill its reservoir. The cooling media consists of a cardboard-like material treated with resin.

You simply roll the unit to the area you want to cool and turn on the switch. Discharged air is up to 20 degrees cooler than the incoming air.

Two different sizes are available – one with an 18-in. dia. fan and the other a 36-in. dia. fan. Models with a 36-in. dia. fan sell for \$1,700 to \$1,900 plus S&H while models with an 18-in. dia. fan sell for \$750 to \$800 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Quietaire Cooling, Inc., 505 North



**QuietCool is equipped with a galvanized steel fan inside a polyethylene frame.**

Hutcheson, Houston, Texas 77003 (ph 713 228-9421; fax 9425; E-mail: info@quietaire.com; Website: www.quietaire.com).

### Schaefer

The company says its WayCool portable evaporative cooler uses a two-speed, centrifugal blower that's quieter and capable of greater air distribution than the fan blades found in other portable coolers. They say you can feel cool air up to 100 ft. away.

The unit uses high efficiency evaporative cooling pads on all four sides for maximum efficiency in the smallest possible space. Special coatings give the pads long life and the ability to "self-clean". An in-line filter helps keep the pads clean, and an auto shut-off float adjusts the water flow. The unit is equipped with a 360 degree air spout that offers maximum versatility for spot cooling. There's a six-position recessed switch for high or low air speeds, with or without evaporation. A self-contained water tank is available for stand-alone operation.

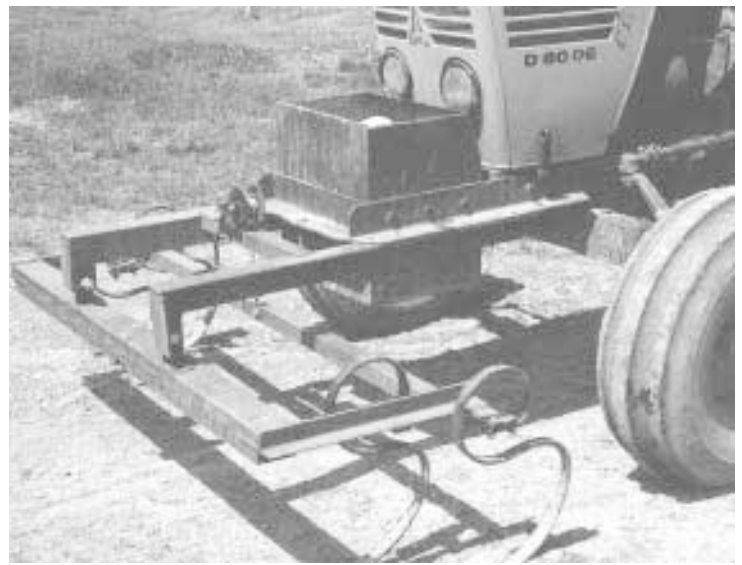
Two models are available, one with a 1 hp motor and the other with a 1/3 hp motor. The 1 hp model has an air velocity of 55 mph, is 52 in. high, weighs 155 lbs., and has a water



**Two WayCool models are available, one with a 1 hp motor and the other a 1/3 hp motor.**

capacity of 24 gal. It sells for up to \$2,500 plus S&H. The 1/3 hp model sells for up to \$1,400 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Schaefer Ventilation Equipment, Box 647, Waite Park, Minn. 56387 ph 800 779-3267 or 320 251-8696; Website: www.schaeferfan.com).



**There are two S-tines on each side. Frame is raised and lowered by a hand winch.**

## Simple Front-Mount "Track Scratcher"

"After bumping over plowed fields every spring, I finally decided there must be a better way," says Glen Woodside, Thorndale, Ontario.

"I mounted a hinged frame on the front of my Deutz tractor with two S-tines on each side. The tines are raised and lowered with a hand winch, although I plan to put a hydraulic cylinder on there. The mini toolbar

pivots on two bolts in support arms that bolt directly to the frame of the tractor.

"This simple system saves both the tractor and the rider a lot of abuse. I've wondered why some manufacturer hasn't come out with a similar piece of equipment."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Glen Woodside, RR3, Thorndale, Ontario N0M 2P0 Canada (ph 519 284-3509).

## Convert Cribs to Hold Shelled Corn

Hundreds of ear corn cribs dot the Corn Belt countryside, but since very little ear corn is harvested any more, many of these structures go unused, except, maybe, for the center driveway, which can be used to shelter wagons or small equipment.

With very little effort or expense, however, these cribs can hold shelled corn, beans or any other grain or oilseed crop, says Richard Siems, Bloomington, Illinois.

"My father converted his crib to hold shelled corn in 1970," Siems recalls. "Over the years, we've converted around 300 cribs for other people. If the crib has a good foundation, roof and studs, we can convert it."

The Siems use steel strapping 1-1/4 in. wide by .032 thick to reinforce crib corners and tie all the studs together so they can stand the pressure of shelled corn. "It's similar to the strapping used to fasten loads on semi-trailers or parts or equipment on pallets," he says.

Then the crib owner puts on siding of his choice. "Some use steel siding, so it looks like other newer buildings. But plywood or

even hardware cloth will do the job once the crib has been reinforced," he says.

Siems says it can take anywhere from 2 hours to a full day to install the reinforcing in a crib. "It depends on the size, condition and whether we have to work around siding that's already been installed," he says. Cost of converting a crib depends on the size and amount of time Siems estimates it will take. "Typically, a 40 ft. crib that's 8 or 9 ft. wide at the bottom can be reinforced for about \$350 per side," he says. Often, farmers convert one side of the crib to see how well it works and then convert the other side later.

Most of Siems' work has been within 100 miles of Bloomington, but he says he'd be happy to work outside the area as long as his additional expenses are reimbursed. Or he'll consult with people who'd like to convert their own cribs. Estimates are free.

A converted crib will hold about 1.5 times as many bushels of shelled corn as ear corn.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Siems, 2903 Wellington Way, Bloomington, Ill. 61704 (ph 309 664-5419).

## Swinging Ladder Always Stays Upright

To make sure the ladder on his grain truck was always straight up and down, Iowa farmer Raymond Obrecht attached the ladder with a single bolt that allows it to swing as the box is raised.

The bolt goes through the top rung and is mounted with spacers so it can swing freely.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Raymond Obrecht, 340 North 3rd St., McCallsburg, Iowa 50154 (ph 515 434-2017).



**Obrecht attached ladder with a single bolt that allows it to swing as box is raised.**