

ELIMINATES NEED FOR INSIDE PIT

New Slatted Floor Has Built-In Sewer

They're calling it "the greatest improvement in hog confinement buildings since farrowing crates." It's a new-style slatted floor from Am-Con, Chillicothe, Mo., with a built-in sewer system.

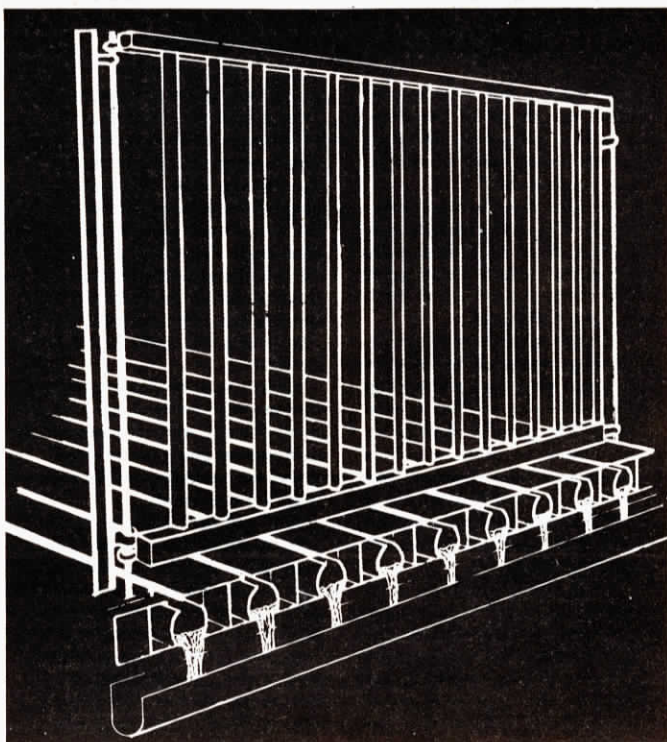
"This system eliminates the need for an inside pit, and all the gas, odor and moisture problems that go with it," Don Parks, president, told FARM SHOW.

As shown in the drawing, water flows through the slats, carrying fresh hog manure into an outside lagoon or holding tank and is then recycled through the system.

"You can use it to modernize manure handling and disposal in an existing system, or install it in your brand new confinement facility," explains Parks.

The system requires a slope of 1 in. per 12 ft. of length. "Slightly more slope can be tolerated, but if too much, water will run too fast, causing manure solids to separate out and stay behind," Parks points out. The amount of water flowing through individual slats can be regulated by hand-adjust valves. A 1½ hp. centrifugal pump, costing 6¢ per hr. to operate, will circulate the entire amount of water required to flush a 600-hog operation.

Cost of the system, which the manufacturer says is designed for do-it-yourself installation, is in the neighborhood of \$13 per sq. ft. For growing and finishing hogs, 5-in. wide slats are teamed with 2½ in. dia. pipe. Slats for nurseries (2¼ in. wide) are equipped 2 in. dia. pipe. All



Water flowing through the slats flushes fresh manure out of the building. A similar slatted system is under development for cattle.

REBUILT, THEY MAKE EXCELLENT, LOW-COST MANURE STORAGE TANKS

New Use For Old Stave Silos

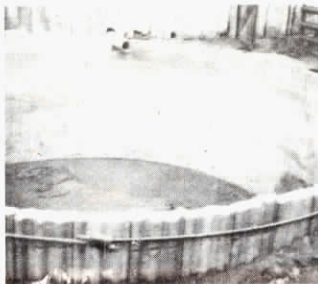
An Iowa firm is doing a booming business turning old, unused concrete stave silos into underground tanks for manure storage.

"We can save you a lot of money if you already own an old, concrete stave silo, or know where you can buy one within a 10 mile radius of your farm," says Ray Bilyeu, Mason City, Iowa.

A 16 by 50 ft. silo, for example, converts into a manure pit measuring about 40 ft. in dia. and 10 ft. high. "We use a chart to determine how many gallons of manure storage capacity are needed to handle a full year's accumulation from a given number of livestock," Bilyeu points out.

Height is generally limited to 10 ft. "If we go deeper into the ground, there is danger of underground water pressure heaving the concrete floor. And, we like to keep the walls below ground for sidewall support," Bilyeu explains. "Generally, the farmer takes care of digging the pit, making it about 6 ft. wider all the way around to give the construction crew plenty of elbow room. Then, when the manure storage tank is built — and hooped every 4 to 6 in. using hoops salvaged from the silo — dirt is filled in all the way around."

Generally, cost of turning an old silo into a watertight 40 ft. dia. manure pit (10 ft. high), runs from \$2,500 to \$3,000, including a cement floor,



A 16 by 50 ft. silo converts into a 10 by 40 ft. manure storage tank.

cement top, plastering the inside and installing a chain link fence around the facility to keep out children and animals.

Bilyeu says the practical range for sending out his own crews for silo conversions is a 100 mile radius of Mason City in northern Iowa. Beyond this radius, he suggests checking with your nearest concrete stave silo builder. "Most any company that regularly puts up concrete stave silos would be able to give you a price on tearing down an old stave silo and rebuilding it into a manure storage tank, similar to what we're doing for livestock producers in this area," Bilyeu told FARM SHOW.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roy Bilyeu, 20 9th Street, Box 363, Mason City, Iowa 50401 (ph 515 424-4611).

slats are 20 ft. long. Special clips keep them aligned and in place.

A similar type slatted flooring system for beef cattle, with the built-in water flushing system, is under development and will be on the market soon.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Am-Con, Route 4, Chillicothe, Mo. 64601 (ph 816 646-2448).

DO-IT-YOURSELF KIT FOR 55 GAL. DRUMS

Build Yourself A Barrel Feeder

You'll like this new do-it-yourself kit that turns an ordinary 55-gal. drum into a universal pig and hog feeder.

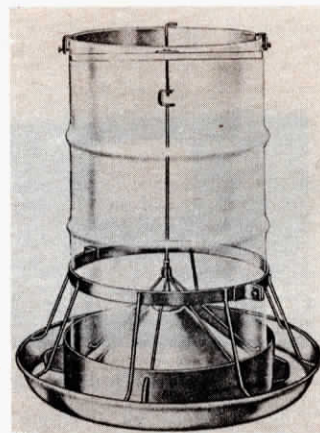
The kit includes a base, flow adjustment controls, and a patented agitator that rotates the entire barrel so even the stickiest feeds can be used.

"Works as well for baby pigs as full-grown hogs because of the 5-in. high trough and easy moving agitator. Even with the low sides, the agitator design guarantees less waste," says Harold Stump, sales representative for R & D Equipment, Sioux City, Iowa. Flow rate is adjustable on top of the barrel.

"The key is being able to use your own barrel, which often outlasts factory-made drums three to one, and will cost less," Stump explains. "It's heavy enough that hogs can't knock it over, yet one man can move it."

The kit sells for \$74.95.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, R & D Equipment, P.O. Box 774, Sioux City, Iowa 51102 (ph 712 255-5205).



Kit includes everything needed to turn a 55 gal. drum into a hog feeder.