



“Variable 360” mower uses a pair of hydraulic cylinders to open or close the wings.

Hydraulic-Controlled Variable Width Mower

“Our new variable width mower allows you to adjust the width of the mower with a hydraulic lever,” says Dominic Quail of The St. George Company Ltd., Paris, Ontario.

Imported from Europe, the 3-pt. mounted, pto-operated “Variable 360” is built in three sections and can mow anywhere from 6 ft. 8 in. wide to 12 ft. A pair of hydraulic cylinders are used to open or close the side wings. All material is discharged out the back.

“It works great for mowing between rows of orchard trees because it eliminates the need for a second pass,” says Quail.

The mower is also equipped with two independent, hydraulic, breakaway valves - one for each wing. The valves allow the wings to move in toward the machine if they strike a tree or other immovable object. Once the mower is past the object you activate the hydraulics to return the wing to its original position.

The low-profile machine can cut under branches that are only 6 in. above the ground. Sells for \$8,852. A smaller model is also



Mower can be narrowed down to a width of 6 ft. 8 in. from its maximum width of 12 ft.

available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The St. George Company Ltd., Box 430, 20 Consolidated Drive, Paris, Ontario, Canada N3L 3T5 (ph 800 461-4299; fax 519 442-7191; E-mail: sales@thestgeorgeco.com; Website: www.thestgeorgeco.com).



Clark’s “pistol grip” rinser consists of a water hose pistol with two lengths of aluminum pipe attached to it in the shape of an “L”. A brass nozzle mounts at end of pipe.

“Pistol Grip” Jug Rinser

Rinsing out chemical jugs is an easy job for Rusty Clark, Williamston, N.C., who built a “pistol grip” rinser that hooks up to a standard garden hose.

The unit consists of a water hose pistol with two lengths of 1/4-in. aluminum pipe attached to it in the shape of an “L”. One pipe section is 12 in. long and the other 8 in. The sections are connected by a brass elbow fitting. A brass nozzle mounts at the end of the 8-in. pipe section.

Clark turns the chemical container upside down and inserts the nozzle up into the fill opening, and then squeezes the trigger.

“It’s easy to use and sure beats having to triple rinse by hand. It also eliminates the need to punch a hole in the jug, so if I want I can use the jug more than once,” says Clark. “I use it to rinse out 2 1/2-gal. jugs, but the nozzle is small enough that it will easily fit into a 1-gal. jug. By using longer lengths of pipe it could also be used on 5-gal. jugs.”

He says he’s willing to sell the rinsers for about \$40 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rusty Clark, 13382 U.S. Hwy. 64, Williamston, N.C. 27892 (ph 252 792-5609).

Portable Solar Power Pump

Need electricity for a cabin, water pump or campsite? Powerpod Corporation may have the answer for you.

The portable power system includes a solar panel sitting atop a “pod” that contains batteries and a DC to AC converter. All you have to do to set it up is install a grounding rod and hook up the batteries.

“With this go-anywhere power system, we’re trying to do what Henry Ford did with the automobile,” says Kerry Kalarney, CEO, Powerpod Corporation. “People want things simple, and they want them to work.”

Powerpod offers 18 different units with various power outputs. Prices begin at \$750 for the smallest unit, which weighs just 110 lbs. and stands only 4 1/2 ft high. The largest Powerpod weighs 1,200 lbs. and stands nearly 10 ft. tall. Powerpods have been on the market for six years. Units have been installed at McMurdo Station in the Antarctic and at a Smithsonian Institution research station in Panama.

Kalarney has worked with solar ever since he built a home in a remote area 20 years ago.

“I turned to solar for power and I’ve lived with solar as my only source of power ever since,” he says.

In addition to consulting with the military and other federal agencies, Kalarney works on private energy installations. Currently, he is working on a project for a ranch in Oregon. The owners want to go into energy farming



Go-anywhere solar panel sits on top of a “pod” that contains batteries and a DC to AC converter. All you do is install a grounding rod and hook up the batteries. with wind turbines. Thanks to energy rules in Oregon, the owners will receive 18-20¢/KW for power that costs them only 6-7¢ per kilowatt to produce.

Before installing generating equipment, check with your state energy office. It may be more efficient to feed excess energy into the grid and draw when you need it rather than to set up your own onsite battery storage.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup: Powerpod Corporation, Box 321, Placerville, Colo. 81430 (ph 888 786-3374; Website: www.powerpod.com).



Low-cost calf pens were built out of 4-ft. sq. wood pallets. Plastic pails are used for milk replacer and dry feed.

Pallet Crates Helped Expand Herd

When Don Bless and Steve Smith, Blue Earth, Minnesota, decided they needed to increase the number of steers going through their feedlot, they decided their most economic source of calves would be the numerous dairy calves readily available in their local area.

Problem was, they had to buy them at 3 to 4 days of age. Besides the work of feeding young calves, they needed a place to raise them.

Bless no longer milked cows, but had an old stanchion dairy barn. They removed the stanchions from one side of the barn and built some low-cost crates out of 4-ft. sq. wood pallets.

“We got the pallets free from a local company just for hauling them away,” Bless tells.

To turn pallets into crates, Bless and Smith first attached a 2 by 4 flat on the wall about 3 ft. high, the full length of the barn. Then they screwed pallets to the 2 by 4 about every 3 1/2 ft. These form the sidewalls of the crates.

Toward the center alley, they attached 2-ft. high plywood fronts at the bottoms of the pallet sidewalls. One 4 by 8-ft. sheet of plywood is enough to make fronts for four crates.

A 1 by 2-in. board runs across the tops of the pallets above the plywood front. “This keeps calves from getting over the plywood and also adds stability to the crates,” Bless says.

Attached to the plywood front are two 5-in. lengths of plastic field tile, just the right diameter to hold 5-qt. plastic pails. One pail is used for milk replacer; the other for dry feed.

He says the pallet crates were simple and easy to make. “We did the whole barn - 20 crates - in about an hour,” he says. “We used drywall screws, driven by an electric screwdriver, to attach everything.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Bless, 8186 377th Ave., Blue Earth, Minn. 56013 (ph 507 526-5274).