

Portable Building Business

About four years ago, Greg Samuel and his father Gary of Rogersville, Mo., started building portable chicken and cattle sheds for use on their farm.

Demand for the buildings grew so fast they set up a small factory to produce them. It's now a thriving business. They still farm part-time, raising 8,500 laying hens and a few cattle. But they've hired a couple of employees and have expanded their line of buildings to include both shelters and feeders for almost any type of livestock, including sheep, goats, hogs, dairy cattle, miniature donkeys and horses, rabbits, etc. Their newest offering? Portable greenhouses. They displayed many of the buildings at the recent Ozark Fall Fest near Springfield, Mo.

All the buildings mount on 4 by 6 wood skids which have a pair of hooks at each end to move them around. Wood floors are raised about 3 in. off the ground. Some of the buildings have screened-in areas over bare ground. When the building is dragged away, the manure stays in place which helps to reduce disease problems.

"These buildings can be easily moved wherever you want, and they're reasonably priced," says Gary. "Our customers include everyone from small hobby farmers to big dairy and hog farms."

Here's a description of some of the buildings they offer:

Greenhouse - It comes fully assembled with poly walls and roof, a wood floor, and wood shelves on both sides. It's available in 6 and 8-ft. widths and lengths from 8 to 18 ft. The building comes wired for electrical outlets and ready for water hookup, and it's equipped with lights, a ceiling-mounted fan, and a thermostat. "By hooking a garden hose up to the faucet you can have water inside the building without having to run a hose inside the door," says Greg.

An 8 by 12-ft. model sells for \$1,899.

"Conventional greenhouses of comparable size sell for \$3,000 to \$4,000, and they aren't designed to be moved around," says Greg. "Customers like the portability. For example, after the greenhouse sets for a few months they might realize it doesn't get as much sun as they thought it would, or that maybe it would look better somewhere else."

Poultry laying house - This portable building is designed for use in pastures and has a metal roof and sides. It comes with operable windows, 3-ft. wide access door, poultry door, and rubber bottom sweeps (to keep predators from crawling under the building). It's available in 9-ft. widths and lengths from 12 to 18 ft. Options include nest boxes, electrical outlets, lights, a timer, and an outside egg collection door.

A 9 by 15-ft. laying house sells for \$1,699.

Poultry yard - With a screened-in area adjoining a large enclosed room, this building is part laying house and part free-range shelter. It comes in 6 and 9-ft. widths and lengths from 12 to 18 ft. It's 5 ft. tall at the back and 6 ft. tall on front. The unit comes with operable windows, 3-ft. wide door, chicken door, screened-in porch, and rubber bottom sweeps. Options include egg boxes, outside egg collection door, lights and timer. "It's totally confined and predator proof," says Greg.

A 6 by 15-ft. model sells for \$875.

Poultry yard deluxe - This large building has an 8 by 8-ft. inside room with a screened area on either side. It has a single door with a window on each side. Two models are available, one 18 ft. wide and the other 24 ft. Options include egg boxes, outside egg collection door, lights, and timer.

An 8 by 24-ft. poultry yard deluxe sells for \$2,150.

Multi-purpose animal pen - This A-shaped building has a 1 by 2-in. wire floor and sides on front, with metal sides on back. It also has a sliding center door, and front and side doors. Available in 4-ft. widths and lengths from 8 to 12 ft.

A 4 by 10-ft. pen sells for \$379.

Covered goat-sheep-calf feeder - It has a covered wooden manger and a hinged metal roof that can be swung back out of the way, allowing you to drop feed between the feeder's wire panel sides. Available in 4, 6, and 8-ft. widths and custom lengths.

A 6-ft. feeder sells for \$249.

Hog shed - This shed has galvanized metal sides with an open front and no floor. The inside is lined with plywood. The shed is available in 6-ft. widths and lengths from 9 to 18 ft. It's 3 ft. high at the back and 4 ft. high in front. "It works great for anyone who raises purebred stock on pasture. We also offer a building for farrowing hogs on pasture," says Greg.

A 6 by 15-ft. shed sells for \$469.

Bottle calf shed - This metal-enclosed building comes with wire panel dividers and is wired for electrical outlets and equipped with lights. It's available in 6-ft. widths and lengths ranging from 6 to 18 ft. and can handle anywhere from 2 to 6 calves at a time. "The building comes with a 2-ft. overhang. By butting two buildings together you can make an enclosed building with a 4-ft. covered alleyway in the middle, allowing you to feed calves out of the weather," says Greg.

A 6 by 12-ft. model sells for \$635.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Portable Livestock Shelters, 123-A E. Center St., Rogersville, Mo. 65742 (ph 417 753-3477).



Portable greenhouse, like most of Samuel's buildings, mounts on 4 by 6 wood skids. A pair of hooks at each end makes building easy to move around.



Poultry yard has a screened-in area adjoining a large enclosed room, making the building part laying house and part free-range shelter.



Calf shed comes with wire panel dividers and a 2-ft. overhang. By butting two sheds together you can make an enclosed building with a 4-ft. covered alleyway down the middle.



Hog pasture shed has galvanized metal sides with an open front and no floor. Back side is hinged at top and can be opened for ventilation.



Henry Toews says his new add-on track system is different because the walking beam hangs off the tractor axle, eliminating obstructions outside the wheel.



Prototype uses tractor tires to form an endless track.



Walking beams that support the idler wheels hang from tractor axle.

Track Kit Converts Any Tractor

Here's a new add-on track system that the inventor says is different than anything on the market.

What makes the tracks different, according to Henry Toews of Grunthal, Manitoba, is how the walking beam is constructed and the way it hangs off the tractor axle, eliminating brackets outside the drive and idler wheels.

Toews says the simpler design should be more economical to produce and maintain than other track systems on the market.

The 71-year-old retired farmer obtained an international patent on his invention and has installed a prototype on a 44 Massey tractor.

"It runs like a charm," he says. "You can drive over rocks and do anything you want with it. There's no way you can knock the track off."

Toew's prototype uses tractor tires to form an endless track. His system works on 2-WD

or 4-WD tractors and requires dual wheel mounts because the center lugs operate between the duals.

The walking beams that support the idler wheels hang from the tractor axle. As a result, there are no obstructions on the outside of the drive wheels or the idlers.

The walking beams swivel on a 3-in. pin and have adjustable sliders at each end that can be tightened with an impact wrench.

The idler wheels on his prototype are made from regular car tires - one 24 in. and one 18 in. diameter. The drive wheel is a 24 1/2-in. truck tire measuring 42 in. in diameter. The track is made from a 42-in. tractor tire.

Toews says he would like to work something out with an investor or manufacturer but hasn't publicized his idea until now.

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