

The walls of Bob Lenhardt's dog house consist of tires stacked 4 to 5 high and packed with dirt. Dogs enter through standing tire. A tin roof goes over the top of tires.



Doghouse Made From Old Tires

Dogs at the Lenhardt place near Courtland, Miss., have a "cool in summer, warm in winter" dog house that never needs maintenance and is virtually indestructible.

Bob and Joyce Lenhardt say their dogs love it.

Bob cuts off the top sidewall on each tire to more easily pack them with dirt. Walls of

the house consist of tires stacked 4 to 5 high.

Dogs enter the large circular house through a tire that stands on its side. A tin roof was laid over the top of the tires as a roof. Bob covered it with a 6-in. layer of dirt.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob and Joyce Lenhardt, 4400 Figg Rd., Courtland, Miss. 38620 (ph 662 563-8153).

Old Tires Make Ideal Retaining Walls

Joyce and Bob Lenhardt make retaining walls from old tires. They say the idea works great, costs next to nothing, and the walls actually look pretty good.

There are a lot of steep banks where the Courtland, Miss. couple lives, and erosion from runoff was a problem.

"It was my idea, but my husband did the majority of the manual labor," Joyce says. "We have put up three different retaining walls on our four acres. Using railroad ties, like most people do, would have been quite expensive."

The Lenhardts' biggest retaining wall is 50 ft. long and is made up of six rows of tires laid in stacks on their sides. There's a stepped walkway up the middle, giving access to their home.

"To build a wall, we start off with the first row of tires at the base, packing in the bottoms of them one at a time with the sandy, clay type soil we have here," Joyce says. "Once the bottom row is done, we do the next

row and work our way up. Each tire is offset from the one below it, like bricks, and each row is set back a couple of inches further as you go up so it's terraced."

The way the tires stack leaves room along the wall to plant flowers and vines in the tires so the tires themselves are hard to see through all the plant material.

They plant English and Japanese Ivy, which cover parts of the structure, and a variety of flowering annuals and perennials.

"At first, I wasn't sure if I liked the look of having so many tires in my yard, but after the plants and flowers got established, it started looking really pretty and you don't even notice the tires," Joyce explains. "It only took about two years for the plants and vines to fill in the area and for it to look decorative."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob and Joyce Lenhardt, 4400 Figg Rd., Courtland, Miss. 38620 (ph 662 563-8153).



"My grand kids have a lot of fun driving it," says Allen Rose about this two-seater tractor he built out of three old garden tractors.

"Two-Seater" Garden Tractor

"I made this two-seater tractor out of three old garden tractors. It's about 18 in. longer than a conventional garden tractor and has two seats on it. My grand kids have a lot of fun driving it," says Allen Rose, Bloomingburg, N.Y.

The "Togetherness" machine, as Rose calls it, is powered by an 11 hp Toro gas engine hooked up to a 3-speed transmission. Rose used the front of a Toro tractor and the back part of a Sears tractor, including the transmission. The hood and fenders came off a third machine. He cut the frame of the front

tractor in half and welded in new material to lengthen it by 18 in. He also lengthened the drive chain. And he bolted on another seat on back, complete with metal tube armrests and a backrest.

The gear shift lever is located under the driver's seat, and the front grill and hood raise up in one piece. "The entire project took only a couple hours to put together," notes Rose.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Allen Rose, 32 Edson Drive, Bloomingburg, N.Y. 12721 (ph 845 361-3436).

Disability Toolbox Can Also Aid The Able-Bodied

Farmers with disabilities will find great ideas on "The Toolbox" CD from Purdue University's Breaking New Ground Resource Center. Able-bodied farmers and gardeners may find it just as helpful. Many of the products, such as automatic hitching devices and livestock restraints, are designed simply to make farming easier and safer.

"The Toolbox lists close to 800 products that could help a farmer, rancher, agricultural worker or even a gardener with a disability," says Paul Jones, Breaking New Ground program manager.

Jones points out that one of the most common disabilities among ag workers is arthritis. Like more visible disabilities, it can limit quality of life and productivity. Many of the items in The Toolbox can help improve both quality and productivity.

Previously available only in print format from the university, The Toolbox is now available on a compact disc. The new format makes it easy to search for a particular product and even view product demonstrations.

"We've got hyperlinks to the websites of suppliers listed in The Toolbox and their email addresses as well," explains Jones.

The CD includes stories about farmers who have overcome their disabilities, as well as technical articles on available technology.

The print edition is still available for \$80, but the CD can be ordered for only \$25. Orders for either can be placed by contacting Breaking New Ground.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul Jones, Breaking New Ground Resource Center, Purdue University ABE Building, 225



Farmers with disabilities made-it-myself ideas and commercial products on "The Toolbox" CD from Purdue University's Breaking New Ground Resource Center.



Toolbox lists close to 800 ideas and products to help farmers with disabilities.

South University Street, West Lafayette, Ind. 47907 (ph 765 494-1221 or 800 825-4264; website: www.breakingnewground.info).



Drive-over gate has platform 24 in. off the ground that works like a cattle guard.

Drive-Over Gate For ATV's

Tyler Morhart, Spring Valley, Sask., came up with a simple drive-over "cattle guard" gate for his 4-wheel ATV.

"It makes checking cows easier because I don't have to open and close big gates all the time," says Morhart.

He built the gate out of 2 7/8-in. dia. drill stem pipe. It consists of a 54-in. wide by 47-in. long platform with a pair of ramps on each side that are 48 in. long and 18 in. wide. The

platform is 24 in. off the ground and works like a cattle guard. "The cows never try to jump over the gate, yet it's still low enough that I can easily drive over it," says Morhart.

The ramps are hinged so Morhart can flip them up out of the way, if necessary.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tyler Morhart, P.O. Box 75, Spring Valley, Sask., Canada S0H 3X0.

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