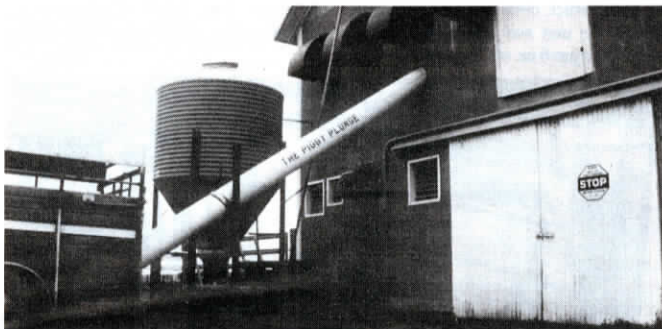
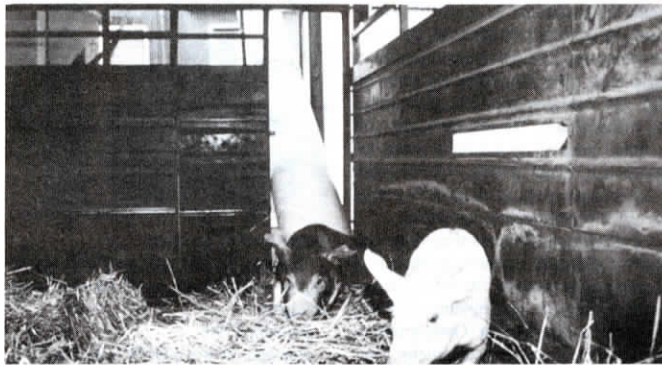


# Latest New Inventions For Hog Producers

**Editor's Note:** Our thanks to Dale Miller, managing editor of National Hog Farmer, for his help in pulling together these exciting new ideas for hog producers which were entered in the magazine's inventor contest at the 1992 World Pork Expo in Des Moines. If you'd like to enter the contest next year, contact Dale at: National Hog Farmer, 7900 International Dr., Suite 300, Mpls., Minn. 55425.



## “Piggy Plunge” Loads Pigs Into Trailer From Second Story Nursery

By Shayde Goracke

Leonard and Caroline Gronewold's feeder pigs get a slide ride that most animals won't ever experience.

When the pigs reach about 40 lbs., they are slipped into a 12-in. dia. PVC tube for a slide ride from a nursery in the former haymow of the Gronewolds' redesigned old two-story horse barn to a waiting trailer or truck 12 ft. below.

The slide isn't the only interesting feature of this barn. The pigs' slide ride is preceded by an elevator ride to the second-floor nursery at weaning. The Gronewolds remove pigs from the first-floor, 20-crate farrowing facility at about 12 lbs., and place them, up to 20 at a time, in a mobile crate for a slow ride on a 2,000-lb. capacity, motorized elevator to the barn's second floor nursery.

The 90-year-old barn, solidly built in part

from walnut, was first converted to hog production in 1959, when 20 farrowing stalls were constructed on the ground floor. At that time, weaned pigs were taken to another building. Three years ago, the Gronewolds wanted to expand their 40-sow herd and yet preserve the old barn. In hopes of accomplishing both goals, they asked Ron Perry, a local contractor, if it was possible to have a nursery in the haymow.

Leonard Gronewold and Perry came up with the plan for the barn that now houses 20 modern 7 ft. by 5-ft. farrowing crates, with plastic-coated floors, on ground level and 13 nursery pens, each capable of holding 20 40-lb. pigs, in the former haymow.

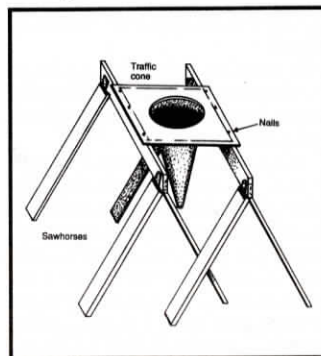
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leonard Gronewold, RR, Beatrice, Neb. 68310 (ph 402 228-0685).

## “Traffic Cone” Pig Holder

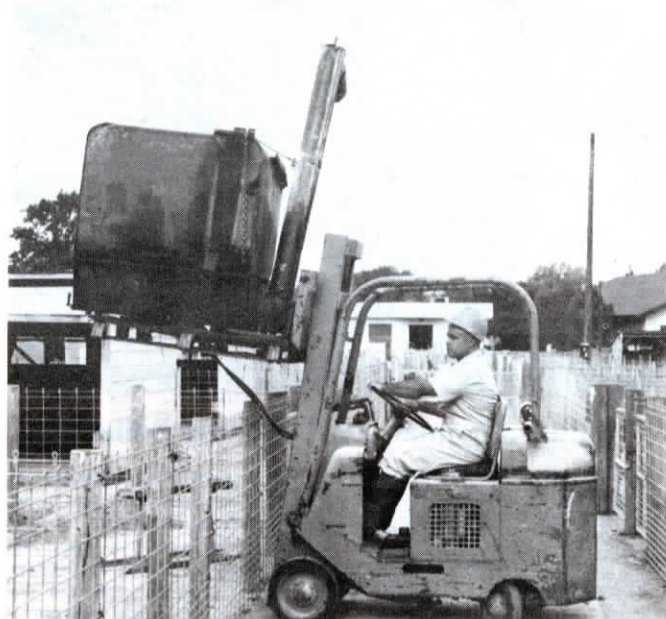
Renee Stockham, Hastings, Mich., designed this “traffic cone” pig holder to make castration easier. It puts the pig in a position where one person can work on it with both hands free.

Stockham turned a traffic cone upside down and nailed the base to a pair of sawhorses. The pig is picked up by his back legs and placed head first into the cone. The pig's front feet fold under him which limits his ability to move. Air coming up through the cone opening allows the pig to breathe easily and the soft material prevents injury.

According to Stockham, a large traffic cone costs about \$16.50 and a small one about \$9. She notes that the cones can also be mounted between 2 by 4's in any handy location or within a box-type frame built around the cone.



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Renee Stockham, Hastings, Mich 49058 (ph 616 948-2946)



## Forklift-Mounted Hydraulic Feed Hopper

This forklift-mounted hydraulic feed hopper fits into narrow alleys where maneuvering space is limited.

“It'll fit down a 4-ft. wide alley,” says Kent Parker, animal scientist at the University of California-Davis. “If you have long enough hydraulic hose, you can raise the hopper's discharge auger to a height of 18 ft. to fill bulk bins.”

Parker reinforced a 3 by 4-ft. metal pallet with 3-in. channel iron, then bolted the pallet onto the bottom of a hopper salvaged from an old pull-type Deere combine. The hopper's discharge auger pivots 180°.

discharge auger is chain-driven by a hydraulic motor mounted on front of the hopper. Quick-release hydraulic hoses connect the motor to an on-off power valve that Parker added to the forklift next to the forklift's up-down controls, allowing the operator move the hopper up and down or tilt it back and forth while unloading feed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kent Parker, Animal Science Department, University of California-Davis, Davis, Calif. 95616 (ph 916 752-1683).



## Tractor Tire Farrowing Nest

Tractor tires make low-cost “nests” for farrowing sows, says James P. Bedell, Ashburn, Ga.

Bedell uses a right angle grinder to cut notches into opposite sides of the sidewall, then uses a jigsaw to round them out. The notches provide lying space for the sow, and the sidewall provides a covered creep area for the baby pigs to keep them out of drafts and away from the sow when she lies down.

“It uses the same concept as the European farrowing ‘nest box’ which is designed to answer animal welfare concerns about crate confinement,” says Bedell. “I leave the bottom sidewall intact and fill the tire with straw. The sow stands on the sidewall and

her weight on it keeps her from rooting around. It really comes in handy when extra farrowing or lactation space is needed. Sows can be farrowed in the tire or moved into it from a farrowing crate. The bigger the tire, the better. I have about 12 tire farrowing nests on my farm and am still experimenting with their use. I've found that it's best to keep them under a shelter because if straw gets rained on it becomes a soggy mess. To clean the tire I flip it over and then roll it to a clean spot. After the tire is dry, I sweep out any remaining straw.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James P. Bedell, Rt. 1, Box 630, Ashburn, Ga. 31714 (ph 912 567-3939).