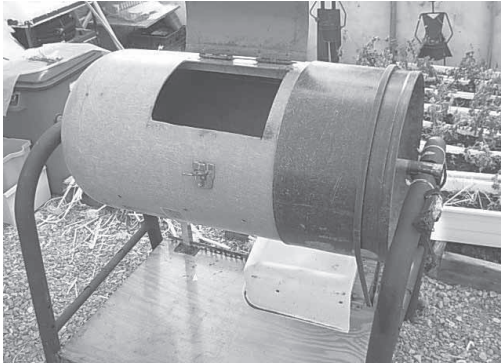


Money-Making Ideas To Boost Farm Income

If you're looking for new ways to add to your bottom line, take a look at the money-making ideas featured here and on the next page.

If you've found or heard about a new income-boosting idea, we'd like to hear about it. Send details to: FARM SHOW Magazine, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665) or email us at: editor@farmshow.com.

Jerry Ahern built this power mixer to mix up fresh bedding plant soils for his greenhouse.



Power Mixer Gets Greenhouse Soil Ready Fast And Easy

Jerry Ahern puts away his shovel and wheelbarrow when it comes time to mix up fresh bedding plant soils for his greenhouse. He has an easier way to do it.

"Every spring since I built my 18 by 28-ft. greenhouse, it's the same old chore of mixing up materials for the beds," he says. "This past spring I decided to make the job easier."

Ahern started with a 30-gal. fiberglass pressure tank that had a 6-in. crack. He cut out the cracked area, fixed a door to it and installed a set of baffles on a shaft he ran the length of the tank. An old metal bed frame was cut down to make two A-frame supports for the tank. A plywood sheet mounted to the four legs helps stabilize the frame and supports a soil collection box.

He used a couple of pieces of angle iron and shelving brackets to attach a plywood board as a mount for a 1/4 hp motor and a speed reducer.

"I connected the motor through a speed reducer to the tank," says Ahern. "A V-belt on a 1-in. pulley on the motor drives an arbor with a 5-in. pulley on one end and a 1-in. pulley on the other end. A V-belt runs from the 1-in. pulley up and around the pressure tank to spin it on its shaft. With the speed reducer, the tank revolves at about 60 rpm's."



An old metal bed frame was cut down to make two A-frame supports for the tank.

By attaching the plywood board by only one side and mounting the motor and speed reducer on the lower side, the weight of the motor maintains tension on the belt. To mix his bedding soils, Ahern simply fills the tank and rotates it for a few minutes. He then stops it so the door is facing down and drops the mixed materials into a collection box. Like the mixer itself, the box is made from materials he had laying around.

"I cut down an old aluminum shroud from a hot water heater and pop riveted it together for a soil catcher," says Ahern. "This power mixer mixes up my bedding soils quickly and easily," he adds.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jerry Ahern, Box 605, Elk Point, Alberta, Canada T0A 1A0 (ph 780 724-2472; jerryahern@telus.net).

Two-Person Lifter

If you've got a large flowerpot you're afraid to move, you might need a "helper" and a PotLifter.

It's a plastic two-handed tool with straps that slip and clip around a heavy object so two people can lift and move it.

"At 1 1/2 lbs., it'll pick up something that's 200 lbs. without straining anyone's back," says inventor Dan Davis.

You can also lift hay bales, wood chunks and heavy bags of feed, cement, etc. - anything between 24 and 72 in. dia. - because the straps automatically cinch around the object regardless of its shape.

Comes with a drawing bag. Sells for \$24.95 plus S&H.

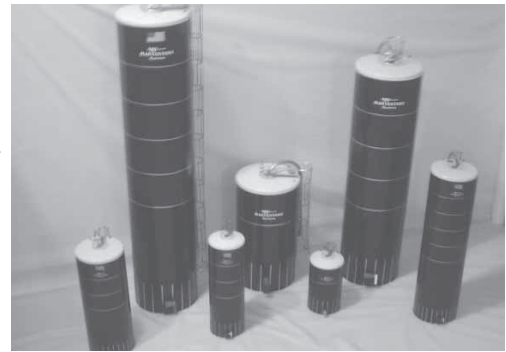
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Plastic two-handed tool has straps that slip around a heavy object.

PotLifter, Inc., 4451 Ferncroft Rd., Mercer Island, Wash. 98040 (ph 888 644-4222; info@potlifter.com; www.potlifter.com).

Ken Klettke uses sections of pvc pipe to make miniature silos.



Mini Silos Complement Toy Farm Display Hobby

When collector Ken Klettke couldn't find a miniature silo or silage blower to go with his toy farm display, he took matters into his own hands and built mini versions of each in great detail.

The Fort Atkinson, Wis. native's hand-made creation soon became popular with other farm toy collectors who asked him to build more for them.

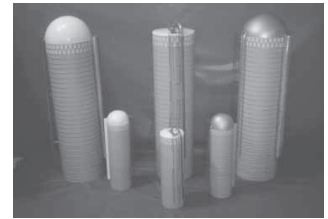
Klettke makes two types of mini silos - A.O. Smith Harvestore, and stave (concrete) silos. He uses sections of pvc pipe and sands them to roughen the surface before painting. To make the silo's horizontal reinforcement rings and vertical reinforcement bars at the base, he uses pin striping (from an auto supply store), or sometimes just paints them on.

"For the stave silos, I make the roof out of Styrofoam with a coat of plaster over the top. I sand it to make it rounded, smooth and paintable," Klettke explains. "Then I paint on a checkered pattern around the ring, and either a silver or white dome."

For the Harvestore roofs, he simply uses a pvc cap that's cut down to fit, and painted white. Hoops are made from wire belting and Klettke uses wire screening to make the ladders. Chutes and filler pipes are made with aluminum, he adds.

"I also include a bottom unloader that I make using different odd parts," he says, declining to be more specific because it's his "little trade secret."

Using pvc pipe, a solid piece of plastic, some toy wheels and an axle, Klettke also makes a 1/16-scale International Harvestor



He makes both A.O. Smith Harvestores and stave (concrete) silos.

blower and is working on a 1/64 scale blower.

The silos he makes are available in various sizes - four different Harvestore 1/64-scale models, and three sizes of 1/64-scale stave silos. Klettke also produces three sizes in each, done at 1/32-scale.

"I've got about 50 made right now, but they go pretty fast. I go to toy shows between Nov. and April, attending two to three per month, all in an hour and a half radius from home," he says.

Klettke says the 1/64-scale stave silos are the most time-consuming to make. The smaller ones take about four hours apiece to complete.

He sells his silos for between \$45 and \$85 each, depending on the size, and his blowers are priced at \$75 each. Klettke accepts custom orders and mail orders, for which he then charges extra for shipping.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Klettke, 1258 Sioux Trail, Fort Atkinson, Wis. 53538 (ph 920 568-9250).

On-Farm Butchering Service

By C.F. Marley, Contributing Editor

When I heard that my nephew Gerry Marley was going to butcher several steers on his small farm near Nokomis, Ill., I decided to get some pictures.

Gerry doesn't have a livestock trailer to bring animals to town so he decided to call on a local on-farm butchering service. He also feels that calm animals make the best beef so by butchering on the farm, animals don't have to go through the trauma of transport.

Allen Stock of Farina Locker, Farina, Ill., runs the on-farm butchering service Gerry used. Stock says business is booming. His butchering truck, which is operated by two men, can handle up to three steers per visit, or 12 hogs. The truck has a boom and winch. Quarters of beef or halves of hogs are placed inside tightly sealed meat compartments while several canisters carry away the hides and offal.

It took less than an hour at my nephew's farm to butcher three steers. There's so much work they only make on-farm visits to farms



Business is booming for Allen Stock, who runs an on-farm butchering service.

within a 35-mile radius of their locker plant. Cost to butcher and package a large steer is about \$450.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Farina Locker, P.O. Box 36, Farina, Ill. 62838 (ph 618 245-6491).