

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.**



Latest version of mini thresher is powered by a 5 hp gas engine.

Improvements Made To Mini Thresher

Orville Hillis is nearing completion of his second wooden mini threshing machine, which was first featured in *FARM SHOW* several years ago (Vol. 29, No. 6). He built it to thresh Amaranth and other small grains.

"I attended an Amaranth conference and met people from all over the world," says Hillis, of Charles City, Iowa. "People in Africa were interested in it." They also grow Amaranth, a high protein grain ground into flour or popped like popcorn. In 2005, he took it to a Missouri farm show and had a lot of interest from people in the states.

Hillis's goal is to build something that could sell for about \$2,500 that a village or cooperative could purchase for people to rent or use. Small equipment used by university researchers costs about twice as much.

The first machine threshed about two bushels/hour and Hillis hopes to improve on that. Instead of running it off a pto, the new machine can run off a 5 hp gas engine.

He also upgraded the wood stove fan from his first machine with a paddle fan, similar to those on old combines. The new machine has three cylinders instead of two and a straw walker that moves the straw out with a screen below for grain to drop through into a container. The thresher will be



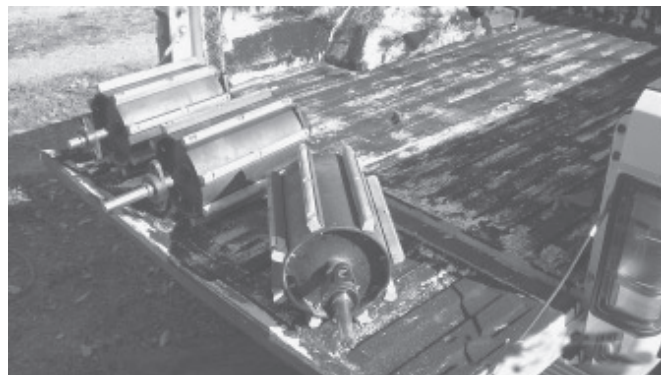
Different screens are available for threshing a variety of grains.

mounted on wheels.

With different screens, the thresher can be customized for a variety of grains, and Hillis notes that members of seed savers organizations are also interested in his machine.

Hillis works on the thresher in his spare time and hopes to find grants and manufacturers to produce it. He welcomes calls or emails from anyone interested in learning more.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup, Orville Hillis, 3020 220th St., Charles City, Iowa 50616 (ph 641 228-4860; fludzone@fi.ai.net).**



New machine has three threshing cylinders instead of two.

They're Turning Leaves Into Logs

A British company compresses fallen leaves into logs that burn like wood. The patented product began commercial production in January, and owners of the company hope to expand with worldwide dealerships, including the U.S. and Canada, by 2009.

Peter Morrison, an engineer and inventor, came up with the concept to compress 70 percent leaves and 30 percent wax into 3-lb. logs that burn for more than two hours.

"Leaves are collected from street cleaning and open spaces where they have naturally fallen or been diverted, in partnership with local authorities, private companies and residents," says Sharon Warmington, operations director and co-owner of BioFuels International Ltd., which manages Leaf Log. She adds that leaves can be moist or dry, and that since it takes them two years to decay they're available year round for processing.

"Although our volume sales are for the winter market, Leaf Log is also suitable for outdoor leisure including camping and garden fires," Warmington notes.

The logs light easily by setting fire to the outer wrapping. They can be burned in stoves, fireplaces and open fires, and there is no noticeable smoke or aroma. Leaf logs are sold in boxes of 10 for about \$40. Leaf Logs can be ordered through the company's website.

Interested distributors are invited to contact Warmington for more information.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup, BioFuels International Ltd, Unit 19, Boulton Industrial Estate, Icknield Street, Birmingham, United Kingdom B18 5AU (ph 011 44**

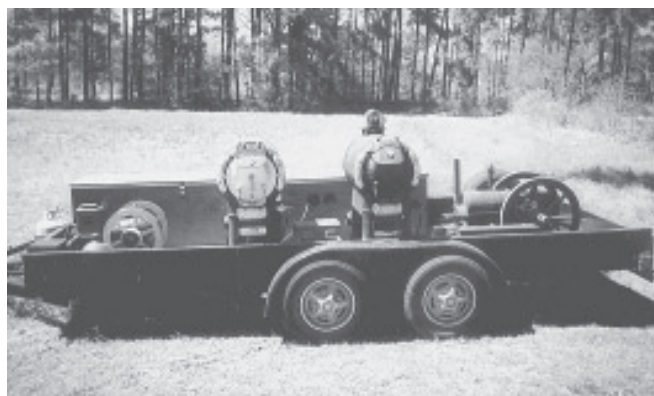


A mixture of 70 percent leaves and 30 percent wax is compressed into 3-lb. logs.



Logs will burn for more than two hours.

(0) 800 085 1744; info@leaflog.com; www.leaflog.com).



Al Jarvis and his family operate a roasted peanut stand at events in Texas. It's complete with antique flywheel engines and coffee bean roasters.

Peanut-Roasting

For Al Jarvis, the aroma of fresh-roasted peanuts is the result of a successful blend of a hobby and a business. Jarvis and his family operate a roasted peanut stand at events in Texas. The antique flywheel engines and coffee bean roasters set his stand apart.

The flywheel engine collector explains that he had been looking for a creative way to use his engines when he came across an A.J. Deer Royal no. 5 coffee bean roaster.

"When I completed the restoration of the roaster, I knew I had found a unique way to demonstrate both the engine and the roaster," Jarvis says. "I would roast peanuts by belting the roaster to the engine."

That was 18 years ago and the Jarvisses have been hauling their 16-ft. peanut trailer to events ever since. The peanuts are roasted by propane.

"If I'm in a location where the popping engine would be a nuisance to those around me, or in an enclosed area where exhaust fumes

could accumulate, I can run the roasters with electricity," Jarvis explains. "I always run the engine when possible for the attention and attraction it brings to my set-up. I am known as 'The Peanut Man' with the popping engine."

Jarvis buys the peanuts in bulk and roasts them on site for a variety of functions at churches, schools, company parties, grand openings, festivals, fundraisers and flea markets. The Jarvisses attend the Six Flags Over Texas Heritage Festival and are regulars at the Canton, Texas, First Monday Flea Market - one of the largest in the U.S.

For anyone interested in duplicating the business in another location, Jarvis has three restored pre-1929 coffee bean roasters for sale (\$8,000 each) as well as flywheel engines available for sale.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup, Al Jarvis, 215 Loop Lane, Lufkin, Texas 75904 (ph 936 634-7610; cell 936 676-7414).**