

State-Of-The-Art Farm-Built Containment System

"When my dad built a new machine shed last year he wanted to move all of our fertilizer tanks inside so we designed and built our own containment system," says Bancroft, Iowa farmer Tim Renger. The 104-ft. long containment chamber is made of reinforced 8-in. concrete and has 8-in. high reinforced ledges. It has a 3-in. slope across the length to a drain that routes into an underground storage tank.

Renger is pleased with the new system because it houses all of his liquid fertilizer products and farm chemicals in one facility that meets state requirements. The linear design along one side wall of his father's new machine shed allows easy unloading of bulk fertilizer and chemicals and easy loading into their tender equipment.

"We wanted something that would keep all our products in one place inside," Bucky Renger says, "and we wanted the pumps and supply lines in a permanent installation. Inside the containment walls are four 3,000-gal. tanks for fertilizer and one 2,500-gal. tank for a specialty micro-nutrient. All of the tanks have cone bottoms for easy cleanout. Two more poly tanks in the lineup hold 2,500 gal. of water for filling the spray tender.

"We put all of the tanks inline and plumbed 3-in. lines with Banjo valves at every junction and on every tank," Renger says. "We also have a 40-gal. cone for measuring specialty ingredients and chemicals."

The system has a corrosion-free stainless pump that's powered by a 7.5 hp motor



The 104-ft. long containment chamber, made of reinforced concrete, contains all the Rengers' liquid fertilizer products and farm chemicals. A rack holds totes.

with 100 gal./min. capacity. All liquids run through a meter with automatic shutoff that can be set to specific amounts. "We wanted the pump and meter to deliver accurate amounts at high capacity," Renger says. "We can fill a 1,000-gal. tender in under 12 min., including connecting and disconnecting the supply lines."

The Renger's system includes a 6-ton storage rack that holds three 250-gal. totes for chemicals and/or micronutrients. Hard lines are plumbed from the totes to the mixing

cone. He lifts and removes the totes with his forklift. There's also two sets of blocks near the edge of the containment wall where totes can sit and be emptied into the system.

"Having all of this equipment in one place and plumbed into one system is the ideal way to handle chemicals and fertilizer," says Tim Renger. "Before this we had some tanks outside, some inside, and we always had to connect and disconnect hoses for different products and use small portable pumps. Now we've got one high capacity pump

and permanent lines with a flush system so there's no chance of contamination between products. The system is also secure in a locked building."

The Rengers figure they spent about \$10,000 for the concrete containment chamber and it took them about two weeks to move all the tanks in place and plumb the lines.

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HogGone is a sodium nitrite-based, encapsulated poison bait. To keep non-target wildlife from eating it the company offers a wild hog feeder with guillotine-style doors.

Poison Bait May Help Control Wild Hogs

Wild hogs are out of control in many parts of the U.S. A new sodium nitrite-based bait from Australia called HogGone promises relief.

Tyler Campbell, feral swine project leader, USDA, APHIS Wildlife Services, says the product and its delivery system are promising.

"When sodium nitrite reacts with water, it produces nitrates that turn into ammonia gas," explains Campbell. "With a lethal dose, there is a timed response. It causes a type of anemia, depleting the red blood cells of oxygen. The animal gets sleepy after about an hour, finds a place to bed down and doesn't wake up."

Normally, wild hogs will reject the sodium nitrite because of its salty taste. HogGone is an encapsulated product that eliminates the taste and prevents the sodium nitrite from reacting with water before it's eaten.

The challenge is keeping non-target wildlife from eating the toxic bait. The company's solution is a patented wild hog

feeder. Campbell has worked with the company to fine tune the feeder, testing it on wild hogs in 6 states over the past two years.

"It has guillotine-style doors that keep out most non-target animals; however, raccoons have at times figured it out," he says. "We've made some modifications to keep them from getting in."

Expectations are that USDA approval of the product may take until 2015.

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Mike Henry makes hand milkers to milk goats, sheep and cows. A canning jar-style cap with 2 ports for vacuum lines fits most quart, 1/2-gal. and 1-gal. jars.

Hand Milker An International Hit

Mike Henry made his first hand milker because his hands hurt from milking out a nanny goat. Today he makes them for people all over the world to milk goats, sheep and even cows.

"I experimented with a brake bleeding kit and quart milk jars until I got it right," says Henry. "Soon I could milk my goats faster with it than I could by hand. I ended up buying most of the brake bleeding kits in Alaska for parts."

As demand grew, Henry had a vacuum pump designed just for the milker. He has since sold the Henry Milker in all 50 states and 52 different countries. He recently set up a distributorship in Australia. His website offers more than 30 milking and goat-related products in addition to milkers.

"We still sell our original one-teat milker but our two-teat milker has taken over most of the sales," says Henry. "It's designed for the home hobbyist. Quite a few people use it on goats and sheep, but a growing number

use it on cows. It works especially well on miniature cows."

Each unit is equipped with large and small teat cups that so far have met every need. A canning jar-style cap with two ports for vacuum lines fits most quart, half gallon and gallon jars. A pressure relief valve and gauge reduces the potential for teat or udder damage. The FDA approved milk line transfers milk from the teat cup to the container for cleaner milk. All units come with cleaning brushes for the milk line.

The one-teat milker is \$129.99. The two-teat milker is \$159.99. Shipping is extra. Henry offers a 30-day, no-questions-asked, 100 percent money back guarantee.

Henry participates in a lot of give-aways of product to 4-H and FFA chapters and sponsors goat shows around the U.S.

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