

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](mailto:editor@farmshow.com).



Tim Gogerty built this machine to pack straw into erosion control "waddles".

## They Turn Straw Into Erosion Control "Waddles"

By Rex Gogerty

"Waddles" made from straw and designed to control soil erosion by capturing sediment and spreading out the water, have been on the market for years. They're widely used on highway construction projects.

Since Tim Gogerty of Hubbard, Iowa, was already in the business of "rebaling" big round bales into small square bales, it seemed like it made sense to get into waddle-making.

The absorbent, sponge-like waddle is a large straw sausage that's held in place by wooden stakes and performs like a mini-terrace on bare slopes.

Gogerty and his sons, Jordan and Jason, produce waddles in 10, 20 and 25-ft. lengths and diameters of 9, 12, and 20 in. They follow Dept. of Transportation specs and use wheat straw purchased from certified weed-free fields. They bale the straw in small square bales and feed the slices into a home-built waddle maker.

Neighbor Randy Funke worked with the Gogertys to design and build the waddle maker, which operates off a tractor's hydraulics. A rotating shaft equipped with hammers flails the straw and feeds it into a 9-in. dia. auger. The auger compresses the straw into a circular chamber and pushes it into biodegradable netting. Different size circular chambers can be attached to the machine to make waddles of various diameters.

The netting is cut and tied according to the length of waddle needed. Then the finished waddle is coiled and stacked on pallets for shipping.

"The machine can turn out a 25-ft. long waddle in only about 20 seconds. That's as fast as industrial models," says Tim.



Large straw sausage is held in place by wooden stakes and acts like a mini-terrace on bare slopes.

"Besides having an accelerated production schedule, our Iowa location is close to a lot of construction sites in the middle of the U.S. That means lower shipping costs than the waddle manufacturers on the East and West coasts."

The Gogertys rebale and make waddles in a 40 by 60-ft. hoop building.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tim Gogerty, 33094 K Ave., Hubbard, Iowa 50122 (ph 641 487-7825).



From the front, Jim Aira's fruit and vegetable stand looks like a shiny red barn. It's actually a used shipping container with a false barn front built over the top.

## Shipping Container Disguised To Look Like A Barn

You won't find a nicer looking fruit and vegetable stand than the one built by Jim Aira of Gilroy, Calif. From the front, it looks a lot like a shiny red barn but it's actually a used shipping container.

The shipping container stands 40 ft. long and 8 ft. tall. The false barn front built over the top is 18 ft. tall. A pair of rectangular hinged doors built into one side of the container open up to form the display area. An electric-powered cooler is built into one part of the shipping container to keep produce fresh. A tin roof over the display area provides shade.

The one-of-a-kind "barn stand" is located on highway 152 just south of Gilroy and 60 miles south of San Francisco.

"I've been selling out of homemade fruit stands for 8 years, but most of them were built out of plywood. I was having trouble with the fruit rotting because it sat out all day in the heat," says Aira. "With the shipping container's walk-in cooler I can keep fruit and vegetables cold and bring out only what's needed for display. And at the end of the day, all I have to do is close and lock the doors."

He built an insulated room for the cooler that takes up about 25 percent of the container. He used 1/2-in. thick sheets of plywood to



An electric-powered cooler is built into one part of the shipping container to keep produce fresh.

build the false front, nailing the sheets to a frame made from 2 by 8's.

The top of the barn is dressed up with a 12-in. wide lip made by nailing 1 by 3 boards onto 2 by 12's.

Aira bought the shipping container used from a private individual for about \$3,000. "I spent about \$10,000 for the building materials and shipping container, and about \$5,000 for the cooling system. And if I ever want to I can sell the shipping container and cooling system separately if the buyer wants," notes Aira.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Aira, 4385 Davidson Ave., Gilroy, Calif. 95020 (ph 408 612-6753).

## Egg Washer Built For Smaller Flocks

Washing eggs from her 1,500-hen flock had worn out Geraldine Howard when she heard about a power egg washer for sale. It didn't work, but with the help of her husband Greg, she got it going. It worked so well, she and her husband now sell egg washers based on the 1950's design, which they updated and improved.

"We had to buy a new motor and belting and reduce the size of the brush," recalls Howard. "We finally took it to a machinist who made us a prototype of a new one. He made 10 of them for us, and we started selling them immediately."

The machine continues to be custom-made with virtually all U.S.-made components. It has a two-part aluminum housing that comes apart for easy inspection and cleaning. The egg washer is 24 in. long, 21 in. high and 8 in. wide. It's designed to be placed over a sink and has a water hose that fits over a standard sink faucet fitting.

Water flows into the egg washer and drops down on the eggs and a rotating brush that scrubs the eggs as they pass through. An auger turns the eggs while feeding them through the egg washer and past the brush.

"The payback on these is only a couple months with labor saving," says Howard. "It's designed for flocks of less than 2,000



Powered egg washer uses water and a rotating brush to scrub eggs as they pass through machine.

birds. We've sold them around the U.S. and as far as Alaska, Australia and England."

Howard's Gibson Ridge Egg Washer can scrub up to 28 eggs per minute, though she knows of only one customer able to keep up with the machine.

The Gibson Ridge Egg Washer sells for \$1,830 plus shipping. To see it in action, check out the video at [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com).

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