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"Sleeper Cab" Tractors

(Continued from cover page)

from his father Barney, and used it in a test run on 70 acres last fall. This winter he put on the finishing touches and hopes to use it full time this spring.

Simonson says that at a total cost of about \$16,000, the homemade sleeper-tractor cost less than a similar-size tractor, is easier to fix, rides smoother, and has the added advantage of extra room. "It rides

unbelievably well. You almost can't believe you're in the field," he says.

The semi frame and industrial rear-end were joined together with 1-in. plate steel. Simonson designed and installed electrically controlled air over hydraulic brakes with switches to control each side independently



Each of Earl Laufer's three truck-tractors can be fitted with triples that result in a total working width of 21 ft. Laufer, who farms near Hettinger, N. Dak., built his first tractor in 1963. He uses Euclid industrial rear ends together with whatever semi-truck cab and front-end he can find. He's built three for his own use and has helped neighbors build their own, too.

in the cab so he can use the brakes to help steer the tractor when needed.

To counter potential problems due to the tractor's lighter weight, Simonson added 10,000 lbs. in the form of fenders, a 210-gal. fuel tank, a 25-gal. hydraulic oil tank, plus a set of 7,000-lb. oil field pump weights. Powered by a 318 Detroit diesel, with a 13-speed transmission, the tractor

has a top road speed of 32 mph. He installed regular tractor wheels and tires on industrial tractor wheel hubs. A heavy-duty truck power steering pump provides hydraulics. He built a rear drawbar out of 1 by 5-in. steel.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brian Simonson, P.O. Box 193, Antelope, Mont. 59211 (ph 406 286-5220).



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'Pan Flush' Solves Toxic Gas Problems

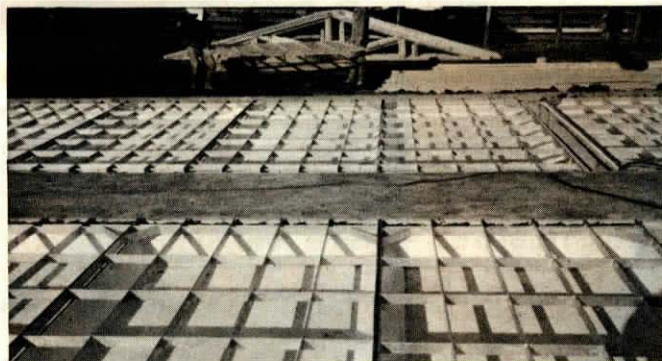
If you've got an older farrowing or nursery barn with a gas problem from an underground pit, or you're planning to put up a new building, you'll want to take a close look at this new in-floor flush system put together by Better Way Products, Milford, Ind.

The system consists of a network of individual pans that install below floor level. The old grates install normally above the pans and once a week or so the pans are unplugged and waste "self-flushes" out through PVC drain pipe. If installed over an existing pit, waste simply flows to the pit below. If there's no pit, waste is carried out of the building to an outside lagoon or slurry tank.

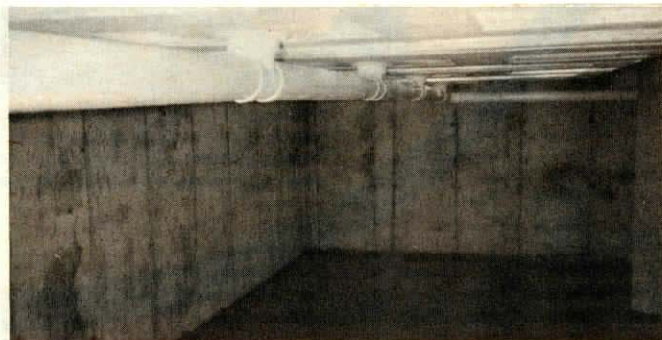
"It seals off below-barn pits so no gases reach the animals and yet allows you to still use your conventional equipment. Some farmers have put cement caps over their pits and installed raised farrowing crates with flush pans. That works, too, but it's a lot more expensive and inconvenient," says Bruce Korenstra, who developed the flush system in partnership with his father Francis.

Korenstra says that in addition to causing health problems in pigs, pit gases also corrode equipment and cost money because of the increased ventilation and heat needed to keep the air fresh. He says one farmer who capped his pit with the pan flush system now saves 2/3 of his heat bill.

The flush pans are 6 1/2 in. deep with steep sloping sides. They vary in size from 4 by 8 ft. to 5 by 10 ft., made from wood filler reinforced fiberglass that's designed to stand up to the weight of a full pan of waste. The pans are sized to fit most sizes of slats so that once installed you can simply



Pans install below grates in new or existing buildings, sealing animals and equipment off from pit gases.



Pans flush into below-floor PVC drain pipe that deposits waste in pit or carries it from building.

reposition the slats on top. They're designed to fit most existing pits without extensive modification. Korenstra says some farmers still install them over new pits even in new barns if they don't have room for other storage. He says there's little demand for the idea in finishing

barns because gas isn't considered as much as an irritant to older animals.

The pan flush system sells for about \$5.50 per sq. ft. of pit coverage.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Better Way Products, P.O. Box 52, Milford, Ind. 46542 (ph 219 658-9633).