

Denailer Boosts Value Of Old Barn Wood

Dan Yoder can remove nails from old barn wood fast with his power denailer. Buried nails can really lower the value of old wood but getting them out can be time consuming.

"We got tired of pulling nails pretty fast," says Yoder. "I told a local machinist what I wanted, and he built it. It cuts our time by a third."

A bed of rollers makes it easy to move even big beams into place. An overhead carriage equipped with denailing jaws uses both hydraulic and air power. It travels 10 ft. up and down the bed and in and out 14 in. It has up to 14 in. of clearance over the bed to accommodate even large beams. Hydraulic arms clamp the beam from both sides and the top to hold it in position.

"We position it right over a nail and lower it hydraulically," says Yoder. "The jaws open and close with small air cylinders. When we activate the large hydraulic cylinder, it can penetrate 1 1/2 in. in hard wood. Once the jaws close, the cylinder pulls the nail out."

The rollers are wood, which allows Yoder to use a metal detector when he thinks he is finished. He inspects each beam or board before removing it from the denailer. The combination of labor saving and added value has sold Yoder on his denailer.

"I think my employees would probably quit if I sold this thing," he says. "They

wouldn't go back to chiseling out nails."

Yoder plans to sell his current denailer because he's having a replacement built. It will have 4 top clamps instead of the 2 now. It will also have a slightly bigger hydraulic cylinder and a heavier bed frame.

"I want one that will go even deeper and give less when it does," says Yoder. "I have a \$32,000 price on this one. If others want them, we will make them to order."

Yoder got into the old barn wood business by accident. He moved a wood kiln onto his Ohio farm to take advantage of free natural gas from a well on his place. A farmer in the area brought him some old barn wood to be dried. Taking down old buildings and buying old wood to be dried soon became a big part of his business.

"While old wood is much drier than fresh, it still needs to be dried down for use making furniture," explains Yoder. "Drying it also eliminates bugs that can live in and nest in the wood."

While he sells most of his wood in the local area, he has shipped barn wood to North Carolina, Alabama and as far west as Colorado. "We always have a good stock on hand with many semi loads sitting in storage," says Yoder.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Yoder Dry Kiln, 29881 Route 643, Fresno, Ohio 43824 (ph 740 623-2006).



Buried nails can really lower the value of old barn wood, but pulling them out by hand is slow work. To make the job go faster Dan Yoder had a local machinist build this power denailer.

Why Stone Mills Produce Better Flour

Bob Hegge says there is no better mill for grinding wheat and other grains than a natural stone burr mill. The grind is finer than steel burr mills, and it doesn't overheat the flour.

"Stone-ground flour stays cool, so it tastes better," says Hegge, Meadows Mills. "Mill stones flake the grain instead of chunking it, giving it more surface area. It mixes better with water and doesn't have the burned taste you can get with steel burr mills."

Hegge says Meadows Mills is the only one left in the world that makes natural stone burr mills. They use pink granite mined in North Carolina, reputed to be the hardest granite known to man. Hegge says that's why they last so long.

"Our company has been making millstones with it for 112 years," says Hegge. "We make new ones, but we also restore our old mills. We won't turn away anything restoration wise. If the stones are good, we will restore them. If not, we replace them."

Restoration can be as little as dressing and resetting bed stones or can include replacing bearings or other parts.

The company also sells decorative stones that aren't up to quality standards. They even sell querns, working replicas of a primitive, hand-powered mill.

The main business is new mills. What originally set the company apart was being the only vertical mill; all others were horizontal.

"It's hard to control the grind with horizontal mills," says Hegge. "With ours, the slower you feed the grain in, the longer it stays between the stones and the finer the grind."



"Stone-ground flour stays cool, so it tastes better," says Bob Hegge, whose company makes natural stone burr mills.

He says the quality of the grind is why all the major firms offering stone-ground flour are using Meadows Mills products. Models offered vary by stone size, including 8, 12, 20 and 30-in. dia. stones. Grinding capacity varies from 30 lbs. to 750 lbs. an hour. The company also makes all the support products needed for a milling operation, such as sifters, collectors, elevating fans and baggers (including hand baggers).

"We sell a tremendous number of 8-in. mills every year," says Hegge. "Over the years we've watched interest rise and fall, but it has been on the rise for about 10 years and building every year."

The base price for an 8-in. mill is \$1,520 with a crating charge of \$50. Add the wooden base, 6-quart collection drawer, belt drive, belt guard, switch, steel table and 1 hp electric motor, and the price climbs to \$2,285. With a 2 hp motor, it's \$2,435. The \$50 crating charge applies to both.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Meadows Mills, Inc., 1352 West D Street, P.O. Box 1288, North Wilkesboro, N.C. 28659 (ph 336 838-2282; toll free 800 626-2282; sales@meadowsmills.com; www.meadowsmills.com).



Inexpensive display stand frames can be disassembled quickly for storage.

Simple PVC Display Stands

Here's an easy and cheap way to set up a display at a farmers market or when exhibiting at a show or other event.

"We saw the idea at the Ingham County Fairgrounds in Mason, Mich. We wanted them lightweight yet rigid enough to hold up," says Brian Fischer.

He and another maintenance worker, Dan Burnham, decided pvc pipe was the most user-friendly – and something they had on hand after a plumbing project. Burnham made the first X-style floor displays out of the 1 1/4-in. pipe. It worked so well, the men designed another style for table displays and built a dozen more for the 2014 fair.

The frames – made of pipe, couplings and elbows – are glued together, but the legs are not.

"We left the legs removable for easy

storage," Fisher says. The frames stack up and the legs can be stored in a tote. Table units have 12-in. legs, while 16-in. legs work better for floor and heavier display stands.

For the backdrop, the men used plastic screening material left over from another fair project. They secured it to the frames with 8-in. zip ties that were cut flush. Artwork is hung on the screen with small S-hooks.

Because air passes through the screen, the pvc stands would work well outside even when it's windy, Fisher notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ingham County Fair, 700 E. Ash St., Mason, Mich. 48854 (www.inghamfair.org).