



Life-sized hay bale “semi truck” was made out of 3 different sizes of bales and includes a 48-ft. trailer, standard 8-ft. wide cab, and lengths of 8-in. irrigation pipe that serve as smokestacks.

Hay Bale “Truck” Made Travelers Look Twice

Travelers along Hwy. 287 near Townsend, Mont., had to do double-takes last fall as they drove by Brandon Flynn’s life-sized semi with a 48-ft long trailer, standard 8-ft. wide cab, and a load of bales. Made out of 3 sizes of bales and a bunch of “accessories”, the “sculpture” was an entry in a yearly contest along the Montana highway.

Flynn assembled the bales over the course of 2 1/2 days, with help from 2 other people. It

required 26 large round bales, 25 large square bales, and 18 small square bales.

“We used a sprayer to paint the cab blue, hand painted the windows silver, and outlined them with black. We also painted the deck edge grey. That was starting to look good, but what really finished it off nicely was the attention we paid to the details,” Flynn says. “We used twine to tie on two upright sections of 8-in. irrigation pipe for smokestacks. I

used an actual old fuel tank, real mirrors, grab handles, antenna, a hood ornament, and 10 tires on rims, which were held in position by pushing rebar through them and into the bales. On top of the cab, we placed a real amber hazard light and two horns. The headlights are represented by rolls of twine, and the lines painted on in silver and black look like a grill.”

For added authenticity, Flynn mounted

“Oversize Load” banners on both the front and back of the unit.

Lastly, he combined a rebar frame with old, straw-stuffed clothes to create a friendly, waving farmer mannequin, standing beside the truck.

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Emilee Klingler is shown practicing 24-in. high jumps with Prinze, her 5-year-old mini horse. She went on to beat out 35 other competitors at a jumping competition last summer.



Mini Horse Jumping Catching On

At 32 in. tall, the 5-year-old mini horse owned by Emilee Klingler cleared a series of 24-in. jumps and beat out 35 other competitors at Pennsylvania’s first-ever mini horse jumping competition last summer.

“We went into this blind as this was a new event with rules just put into action,” Klingler admits. “But Prinze knew what he was doing. Mini horses, in general, love to jump. He’s very hyper and loves to run, and jumping makes him excited.”

Klingler had experience training her aunt’s mini horses for other events. When she heard about the event, she knew it was something she would enjoy. Her aunt and 4-H leader, Elaine Anderson, purchased Prinze for Klingler to show. Her win at the local event qualified her for the first 4-H state competition.

Her uncle, David Anderson, built jumps out of pvc pipes, and Klingler worked with Prinze 2 to 3 times a week in the spring. She upped the training to about 5 days a week during the summer to prepare for competition.

“I work with him a lot so I have control,” she says. By talking to Prinze and tugging the chain on his halter she learned to slow him down for the first round to make a clean run without hitting any jumps to qualify to compete in the second round, which is a timed run.

“Then, I just tell him to go,” Klingler says, and she has to run to keep up with him on the

lead. The event is as much fun for spectators as it is for participants, says Lew Trumble, Penn State Equine Extension Associate, who helped develop rules and guidelines for counties to build courses and train mini horses for jumping.

“It was something that was requested from a district in the state. The mini horse discipline has grown so much in the last 4 or 5 years. We wanted 4-Hers to have more options,” Trumble says. “I was not a mini horse person until working with 4-H. I have been impressed what they train their horses to do.”

Horses must be 40 in. or less; competitors range in age from 8 to 18. “It’s very popular with the youth and the spectators,” Trumble says. “For our junior show, it was the last class of the horse show, and people stayed around to watch.”

At 15, sophomore Klingler looks forward to competing 3 more years in the new 4-H program. She was proud how well Prinze did against older horses at the state level and hopes to improve her 10th place finish next year.

“I recommend it to anyone,” Klingler says. “It’s so much fun.”

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“Barndominiums” are built on concrete slabs, with the walls and roof made of metal. Popular designs include a home and workshop or garage connected by a breezeway.

Texas Company Specializes In “Barndominium” Living

Building “barndominiums” is not a new idea, says Erik Cortina, owner of Texas Barndominiums, LLC.

The concept goes back a long time to when people wanted to be close to their horses and put their home and barn under one roof. Some clients are still interested in that, but more choose designs with a home and workshop or garage connected by a breezeway all under one roof.

What defines a barndominium is that it is built on a concrete slab, and the walls and roof are 26-gauge metal with living quarters inside. They look like a metal building from the outside, but are beautifully finished out with living quarters inside.

That doesn’t mean they are cheap or barnlike, Cortina emphasizes.

“They can be very high end,” he says, adding that the floor plan can be open because no bearing walls are needed. The exterior wall frame is made of 4-in. 16 gauge steel purlins supported by 4.5-in schedule 40 pipes, and the roof is 8-in. 16-gauge steel purlins supported by schedule 40 pipe trusses or I-beams. The entire metal structure is fully welded for additional strength.

Spray foam insulation makes them efficient for heating and cooling. The exterior steel, warrantied for up to 35 years against failure, makes the buildings very low maintenance.

“A lot of our customers are retiring. They



Barndominiums look like a metal building from the outside, but have beautifully finished living quarters inside.

know they don’t have to do anything to the structure,” Cortina says.

Barndominiums are customized to meet the homebuilder’s needs. Concrete floors are beautifully stained; interior stud walls can be finished off like traditional homes. Cortina provides turnkey construction in central Texas around San Antonio.

“Customers like the flexibility of Barndominiums,” he explains. “But the main thing they like is the low maintenance. We’re making barndominiums popular, and it’s because of quality and that they’re built stronger than conventional homes.”

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