

“Go Anywhere” Portable Bridge

If you've got gullies, creeks or ditches you've been driving around for years because there's no easy way to cross them, maybe you need a portable bridge.

Instead of building a costly permanent crossing over each ditch, gully or whatever, you simply pull a portable bridge to wherever its needed for bridging livestock, equipment, vehicles or whatever, explains Bruce Pohlig, president of Continental Custom Bridge, Alexandria, Minn.

“We cut the cost of building a bridge in half,” Bruce told FARM SHOW. “We'll build any size—from a narrow foot bridge to a 4 lane highway bridge for semis.”

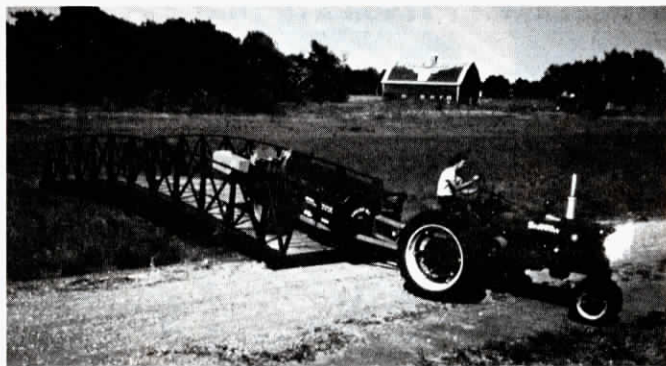
Working with a Continental representative, you select from several bridge designs, choosing a portable or permanent bridge to suit whatever load the structure is likely to carry. Bridges are all-steel with wood decks. Trusses are built above the deck on standard bridge designs, but

can be built below the deck, or even eliminated, if necessary to accommodate wide machinery.

Pohlig says farmers are buying bridges to carry center pivot irrigation systems or wide equipment over streams or ravines, for driveways and many other uses. A tow bar can be adopted to certain bridge designs to give them portability for moving from place to place.

A typical 10-ft. wide, 40-ft. long bridge rated at 5 to 7 tons, enough to support a 100 hp. tractor, weighs about 6,600 lbs. Cost is right at \$5,800, plus delivery. The company delivers anywhere in the U.S. and Canada on its own trucks.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Continental Custom Bridge, Route 5, Box 178, Alexandria, Minn. 56308 (ph. 612 852-7500).



Bridges are portable and can be moved from field to field, as needed. Decks can be designed without sides to accommodate wide equipment.



Pohlig says larger bridges are easily moved with a simple two-wheeled “dolly” as shown with this bridge awaiting delivery at Continental's factory.

WOODEN LINER INSULATES CORN FROM MOIST WALL

Convert Your Silo To Dry Corn Storage

“We tried plastic, epoxy and cement before hitting on the idea,” says Roy Bilyeu, owner of Mason City Silo Repair, Mason City, Iowa, who has developed a process for converting concrete stave silos to dry corn storage. “We've converted 13 silos so far and all our customers are satisfied,” he told FARM SHOW.

Bilyeu builds a wooden liner completely covering the inside of the silo. The liner insulates dry corn from the moist wall of the silo, creating an air space to evaporate condensation and frost.

“We create a 1-in. air space by nailing 1 x 4's directly to the silo walls, spaced 6-in. apart and running vertically. We then staple ¼ in. plywood to the 1 by 4's covering the entire inside. In effect, we're building a barrel inside the silo.”

Bilyeu builds a wooden liner com- to 200 miles from their Mason City headquarters on jobs. “Most farmers are stopped from doing the work themselves because they don't have the needed high scaffold, or the time,” according to Bilyeu.

“We also seal the top of the silo and pour a concrete floor,” he points out. And, if the silo wasn't originally built strong enough to hold corn, we strengthen it with extra hoops.”

According to Bilyeu, the key to successful conversion of silos into

grain bins is proper aeration of the grain. “We use a 1½ hp. fan blowing through a 6-ft. length of vented 12-in. pipe across the silo floor, blowing or pulling air through the grain. Most farmers fill their converted silos with a new air-operated blower built by Mid-States Manufacturing, of Co-

lumbus, Neb. The unit loads up to 1,000 bu. of corn per hour into a silo. It's portable and one unit can be co-owned and shared by neighboring farmers.”

Base conversion price for a 20-ft. dia. silo is 35 cents per bu. of grain the converted silo holds, plus whatever

extra work is needed, depending on condition of the structure and what's needed to ready it for storing shelled corn or other dry grain.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mason City Silo Repair, 20 9th Street N.E., Box 363, Mason City, Iowa (ph. 515-425-4611).



Crews essentially build a barrel inside the silo by nailing 1 by 4's directly onto silo walls, then stapling on ¼ in. plywood liner. Base price for converting a 20 ft. dia. silo is right at 35 cents per bu.