



Northeast Shelters specializes in custom shelters using over 90 percent US-made parts. Most shelters ship on 12 to 14-ft. pallets and have color-coded parts for easy assembly.

Need Extra Storage? They'll Build You A Custom Shelter

If you can describe it, Northeast Shelters can build it. Owner Charles Vincent, a 4th generation carpenter, got into manufacturing customized shelters the easy way - people requested them.

"A golf course wanted some heavy-duty shelters, and we left stickers on them with our H.H. Vincent & Sons business name and address," recalls Vincent. "Soon members of the course were asking us to do awnings and shelters for cars, RVs and boats."

Over the past 30 years, Northeast Shelters has built its reputation around durable, high quality, American made shelters. He says with pride that 90 percent of what he uses is American made, even the steel.

"We have to buy things here to keep our economy growing," says Vincent. "Our ropes are made by a company in South Carolina, and we saw the wood for pallets with our own American made sawmill from Hud-Son Forest Equipment."



Alan "Lindy" Linda modified his Allis C for mowing around trees. He added a side mower, truck seat, custom step, and bars to move tree branches out of the way.

Modified Allis C Gets The Job Done

Alan "Lindy" Linda, New York Mills, Minn., has made multiple modifications to his Allis C for mowing around his property.

He added turf tires to the back and temporary automotive spares to the front to minimize lawn damage. Steps and a hand rail were added to get up on the tractor from the left side.

"I added a push mower to the right side for getting around trees. After completely rebuilding the tractor engine I now have a lot more power. In any normal to heavy lawn mowing, 2nd gear works fine," says Linda.

The seat from an early fifties International Harvester semi was added for comfort. "Having a seat with springs is an unbelievable improvement over any foam seat," says Linda.

Since he mows a small orchard with about 60 apple trees, Linda added a tow bar to pull a 20-in. mower to reach under trees. Metal pipe was used to make bars to lift the branches of the trees up and over the operator.

Linda converted the tractor to 12 volt and moved the battery back behind and below the seat to a platform made by extending the heavy side framing beside the seat. He also added rollbar.

"This past winter, I completely disassembled the pedestal front end and

made a new drag link, replacing the bolster seals and bearings. I run cornhead grease in the Gemmer steering box because the seals would not hold regular heavy gear oil.

"I fought with the Marvel Schlebler carburetor and always had to run with a bit of choke. During the last disassembly, I soaked the bowl and nozzle-jet in liquid Barkeepers Friend (www.barkeepersfriend.com). I had it around from getting mineral stains off a shower wall. The result was unbelievably better. It now starts with no choke in normal weather and runs and idles perfect. I think some mineral buildup occurs in the bottom, inaccessible passages of the carb bowl. With a 24-hr. soak, and after years of trying everything I could, it finally works perfectly," says Linda.

He notes that the mower is shown with the belt shields off as he repainted the Woods mower. "After mowing the first time, I realized that grass clippings and dust don't accumulate as they did before with the guards gone. I recently replaced the Woods belt, even though the old one was working but was 40 years old. I think that has to be a record for a Woods belt," says Linda.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup Alan "Lindy" Linda, New York Mills, Minn. 56567.

Most of what Northeast Shelters does is structures under 38 ft. in length. He notes that costs climb rapidly over that. Although most are sold on the East Coast, he has shipped as far west as Colorado.

While Northeast Shelters' crews will travel to erect a shelter, the company designs them for do-it-yourselfers. Most structures ship on 12 to 14-ft. pallets.

"We use longer structural pieces for greater strength. Imports tend to come in 4-ft. sections that weaken the structure," says Vincent. "We also color code all the parts so it is easy to put the structure together. It speeds the construction."

Customizing a shelter for the customer starts with identifying those needs. "We ask a prospect where the structure will be going, as potential snow loads in Maine require a different design than sunny Florida," says Vincent. "What height is needed? What should the door configuration be? Will machinery be going in and out?"

"We have different configurations, different anchoring systems and different insulation packages, if needed," he says.

In one case, that meant building a screen-house cabin on a floating dock. The owner was an author who slept on the dock and wrote there, recalls Vincent.

"We had a local man hit the lotto and buy some land in the mountains of Colorado," he says. "He wanted a shelter on a 15-ft. high platform with stairs on a pulley system. He asked us to go out there and put it up. We camped on the site. While frying bacon for breakfast, we saw why he needed a high platform. There were bears in a stream below us looking up when they smelled the bacon."



This custom shelter is used to house a wood splitter.

Northeast Shelters operates its own sewing division. Tarp material varies from 5-year to 30-year tarp. Fabric can be UV treated and is available in 10-oz. to 24-oz. vinyl or can be special ordered up to 30-oz. vinyl.

"We do everything from duck blinds to covers for tractors and RVs," says Vincent. "Our frames last pretty much forever, and while we try to sell long life covers, if they are damaged, we can take them back, cut the bad spot out and use the rest for ground covers. We repurpose and upcycle everything we can. We even recover other manufacturers' shelters."

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He Broods Birds In Modified Containers

For about \$6,500 each, Caleb Barron created efficient brooding houses out of shipping containers that house 600 chicks for 15 days before he puts them on pasture. He has remodeled six containers since 2017 for his organic pasture poultry operation in California. As a producer who leases land, the containers also give him the mobility to move his operation if needed.

"I had brooded in greenhouses, but was never happy with that because it was hard to seal them tight from predators," Barron says. After researching online, he talked to a Virginia poultry grower who used containers.

"I ordered a container, built it out and fell in love," Barron says.

He was initially concerned that the chicks would cook inside the containers, but he didn't lose any despite only making basic modifications. For his first container he cut a hole in the back wall and installed a fan. He took the big doors off the front wall and replaced them with a door with a window and screen so he can open it for more airflow. When needed, propane heaters keep the containers the appropriate temperature for the birds' age.

Since then he's added upgrades, including a commercial grade nipple water line and poultry lights. His best improvement was spray foam insulation.

"The chicks are growing so much better," he says. "There are no cold spots where the chicks can get trapped away from the heat. It keeps the bedding drier. There's no condensation."

All that leads to better odor control and an overall healthier environment for the chicks.

To protect them from ingesting the foam insulation, the ceiling and walls were foamed down to about 3-ft. from the floor on the inside. He then foamed the bottom 4-ft. on the outside so there is a foot overlap. The \$1,500 per container investment was worth it, Barron says.

He notes that some producers purchase



The spray foam insulated shipping containers have no cold spots where the chicks can get trapped away from the heat, and keep the bedding drier without condensation, leading to better odor control and a healthy environment for the chicks.

refrigerated containers that are already insulated, but the t-rail floors need to be modified and the back walls have to be removed completely.

Barron paid \$3,000 each for the containers. With his 6 container brooders, he starts off enough chicks each year to raise 60,000 chickens that he sells at farmers markets, and to restaurants and butcher shops.

"Another reason they are so great, if I have to, I can get a semi and move them to the next farm. In California, I will always rent so these are a really good solution," he says.

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