



Photo courtesy Missouri Ruralist

The Schultzes remodeled their farrowing building into a dog kennel that now holds 100 small purebred dogs. The renovation had to meet USDA animal health codes.

Dogs Replace Hogs

By Linda Ordway

Barking dogs have replaced squealing pigs in Edwin and Barbara Shultz's farrowing building. For less than \$4,500 in remodeling costs, they removed their farrowing pens and installed dog crates on their farm near Rutledge, Mo., to hold 100 small purebred dogs.

They say the conversion paid for itself in the first three years of operation, which was quicker than expected. In comparison, the hog market was so swamped that prices were barely paying for the cost of production.

It was seven years ago when the Schultzes, already dabbling in the dog business, decided to build another kennel. Because they had sold all of their hogs, a neighboring carpenter convinced them to remodel the farrowing building. So they built 33 indoor-outdoor crates on the east side of the building. Later they added a whelping room on the west.

They had to build according to codes placed on dog kennels by the USDA animal health inspection service. Their operation passed inspection after a few minor changes.

The Schultzes raise purebred Poodles, Schnauzers, Yorkshire Terriers, Shetland Sheepdogs, Maltese, Pomeranians and Shih Tzus. They also raise some crossbred dogs like Pom-poops and Cock-a-poops which sell for half the price of a purebred dog.

Most of the puppies raised on the farm are sold to an area dog broker. Barbara finds it easier to deal with one reliable broker instead of trying to find buyers herself.

Occasionally, they have puppies with coloring or composition not in line with the breeding. They sell those on an individual basis at half price.

Barbara receives \$45 per puppy for the crossbreds and up to \$120 for a purebred Yorkshire Terrier puppy. Depending on size and breeding, a purebred Poodle puppy will bring \$65 to \$75. The broker then sells the dogs to pet shops around the country where the price almost doubles.

"When I got into this business 12 years ago everyone said pets would be the first luxury to go when the

money was tight," Barbara says, "but the demand for puppies has increased every year."

The chores are divided so that Edwin feeds and water the adult dogs while Barbara handles work in the whelping room. Puppies need to be treated like pigs in many respects. Some have their tails docked and ears clipped at a young age. At five or six weeks of age they are weaned and given their shots. Barbara gives them a parvo virus vaccination, DA2P (distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza) shot and worms them with a liquid wormer.

Barbara averages four puppies per litter and sold 248 puppies last year. She grossed \$16,000, but her feed bill for the year was \$7,000. Veterinarian and medicine bills added another \$1,300 to the expenses. It also costs Barbara \$11 to register a litter of puppies with the American Kennel Club.

"It's definitely not a business that will make you rich," Barbara says, "but it gives me something interesting to do at home so I'm making money instead of out spending it." (Reprinted with permission from Missouri Ruralist.)

Look What He's Doing With Old, Worn-Out Tires!

"This idea lets you buy old tires for practically nothing and get good use out of them," says Oliver Hagg, Salina, Kan., who's been plugging holes in old tires with a mixture of newspaper and water for the past 15 years.

Oliver slips the worn leaky tire halfway off the rim and stuffs a wad of newsprint inside — about as much, he says, as is in an entire issue of FARM SHOW — and then takes a grease gun and puts a bead of grease all around both sides of the rim to seal it up. Then, he puts the tire back on. Before refilling it with air, he pushes down one edge of the tire to

make room for pouring in 1 to 1½ gal. of water, with a little anti-freeze mixed in to keep it from rusting out the rim or freezing. He then puts in the required amount of air pressure and the tire is ready to go. The water mixes with the newsprint which is forced tightly into any air leaks that might form in the tire. Hagg who uses the idea to fill tires on plows, planters, drills, and other field equipment, notes that he's never used newspaper stuffing for tires used on a car or truck. For safety reasons, he doesn't recommend that the idea be used on over-the-road vehicles.



Seeding Wheat By Air

By Wally Schulz

"Seeding wheat by air is getting to be popular with farmers here in southern Wisconsin," says Dick Vorpagel, operator of a custom aerial planting and crop dusting service headquartered

at Elkhorn. "It's always almost sown into standing soybeans. The leaves fall off and are ideal for protecting the wheat from wind, rain and birds. I've tried flying wheat into standing corn but found the seeds have a tendency to fall to the center of the rows," says Vorpagel.

He charges \$8 per acre. "We load about 1,200 lbs. or 20 bu. of wheat seed into the plane. This amount will plant about 13 acres. The pilot then returns to the landing field to pick up another load of wheat."

"I've been among the first customers to try fly-on wheat," says Pete Knapp, of Delavan, Wis. "I've found the cost for Vorpagel's service is cheaper than I can plow the land. I've gotten excellent results."

"It saves us a lot of extra labor," says Bob Pearce, of Walworth. For the past three years, he and his son Bill have had wheat seeded into soybeans by air. "We seed when the first yellow leaves appear on the soybean plants."

New Way To Plant Corn

"It gives corn more room to grow and weeds don't grow up underneath," says Ollis Popplewell, Russell Springs, Ky., who plants each corn field twice — travelling in different directions to create a checkerboard pattern in the field.

Popplewell won Kentucky's corn production contest last year with his no-till yield of 186.6 bu. per acre and he gives much of the credit to his unique planting method. The idea is to plant one-half of his planned plant population of 34,000 plants per acre traveling one direction through the field and plant the other half traveling crosswise.

"I think it gives the plant more room to grow, making bet-

ter use of soil nutrients and blocking the growth of weeds by creating a closed canopy," says Popplewell, noting that there may also be less lodging because the plants are spaced so evenly around each other.

Popplewell says he doesn't lose any corn at harvest despite the irregular corn planting pattern. "All the stalks slip into one snout or another. We simply follow one set of rows and the corn in between goes one way or another," he says, noting that he plants 37-in. spaced rows as a compromise between his corn head, which is set for 36-in. rows, and his chopper, which is set for 38-in. rows. He uses Paraquat and Atrazine for weed control.