

Digging Ditches With Dynamite

Want a drainage or irrigation ditch in a hurry? One of the fastest ways to put one in is by blasting.

"It's fast and simple and we can work in places that would be difficult for conventional ditching equipment. It's economical, too, with costs right at \$1.50 per running foot — about a third less than with conventional ditching equipment," says Jerry Wilson, Woodward, Iowa. He's been in the blasting business for 11 years, doing all kinds of controlled blasting jobs, including demolition of old buildings or silos.

"We go anywhere in the United States," Wilson told FARM SHOW. "We blast out ditches, rocks, tree stumps and bridge piers. One of our most common jobs is to go inside elevators to loosen up fertilizer that has set up and become rock hard."

Wilson notes that ditch blasting works especially well for fields that are too wet to bring in dryland equipment. "In fact, it works best when the soil is moist. Right after frost is out of the ground in the spring is a good time for blasting a ditch," he points out. "The nice thing about a blasted ditch is that it has a nice V-shape. There is no ridge along the side because the explosion spreads the dirt over a wide area. The V-shape trench is self-cleaning from the action of the water, and it doesn't fill in with weeds and brush like a conventional, wide-bottomed ditch."

Blasting works better in heavy soils

than in sandy ones, and any job has to be done when the soil is wet. Average ditches blasted out by dynamite are 3½ to 4 ft. deep and 6 to 8 ft. wide. Average displacement is about 120 cu. yds. of earth for every 100 ft. of ditch. Wilson says he averages 600 to 1,000 ft. of ditch daily, depending on soil moisture and whether pasture, swamp or timberland is being ditched with dynamite.

"We're often called upon to demolish old silos without damaging the barn or other adjacent structures or equipment. We also have done a lot of river and creek channel straightening to help prevent flooding damage to crops."

Wilson has crews in different parts of the country, but he personally supervises all jobs. The explosive he uses most of the time is dynamite, but he does use some TNT and other types.

Everything is checked out scientifically before and during the blast, explains Wilson, who uses two sensitive seismographs to take blast readings. "There's also a lot of paperwork to a blasting job."

Wilson holds a federal license for blasting, and has to be licensed in each state in which he works. He also needs to get permits for storage of explosives.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wilson's Controlled Blasting, Woodward, Iowa 50276 (ph 515 438-2743).



Two-man crews can ditch up to about 1,000 ft. per day with dynamite. Explosion spreads dirt over wide area, eliminating ridges along ditch.



HANDLES UP TO 230 LBS. LIVE WEIGHT

Maxi-Barbecuer Cooks Whole Hog

You can cook "whole hog" with this complete barbecuer from Holstein Mfg., Holstein, Iowa.

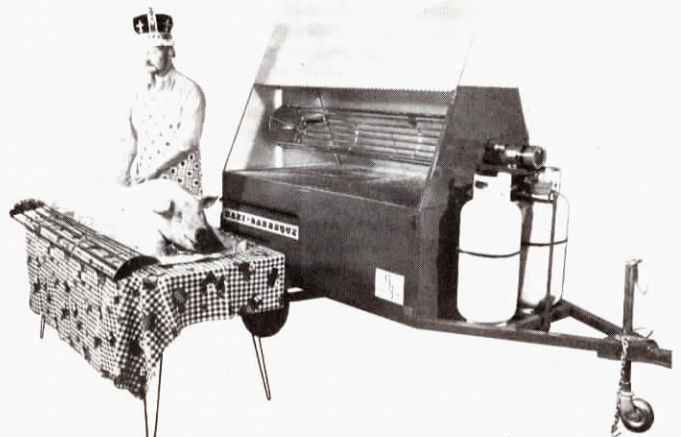
The gas-powered Maxi-Barbecue has a rotisserie large enough to handle whole hogs up to about 230 lbs. live weight. The barbecue is built on a trailer and comes complete with turn signals and a heavy duty hitch for over-the-road travel.

"Hog farmers, dealers, caterers, associations and assorted individuals from different walks of life all buy our barbecues," says Bruce Schmidt, president of Holstein Mfg. "We also have factory rental barbecues which are available at \$40 a day."

The barbecue's nickel-plated rotisserie turns at 2 rpm. If the rotisserie isn't needed, it can be replaced with a

flat grill for regular barbecuing of chicken, steaks, hamburgers or whatever. The grill area (6 ft. by 40 in.) is raised above 4 pipe burners and 48 lbs. of grill rock. The trailer comes with 2 40-lb. propane tanks. There is storage space beneath the grill area. Entire unit weighs approximately 1,100 lbs.

Smith says it takes 8 to 9 hrs. to cook a 230 lb. hog at 350°. "We inject our hogs with a mixture of apple juice, soy sauce and beer. A 230 lb. hog will dress out at 140 to 150 lbs., and out of that you will get about 100 lbs. of meat. Depending on the size of the servings, a hog weighing 230 lbs. will feed 200 to 300 people. Some owners have custom cooked as many as 75 to 80 hogs a year with our port-



ble Maxi-Barbecue."

The unit, equipped for LP gas, sells for \$2,010. An identical charcoal burning model lists for \$1,510. Options include a flat griddle for pancakes.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bruce Schmidt, Holstein Mfg., Box 135, Holstein, Iowa 51025 (ph 712 368-4342).

LaDon Wiese, Iowa's 1978 Cook-Out King, cooks his winning recipe on the Maxi-Barbecue.