

New Products Especially For Women And The Farm, Ranch Home.



Spear covered the walls of the lower level of the house with 12-in. long cordwood held together with mortar.

COST JUST \$5,000

He Built His House Out Of Silo Staves

By Dee George

Doug Spear, Hewitt, Minn., wanted to build his own home. He looked at many different designs but when he read about a silo that had been converted into a house, he decided to build his own silo home starting from scratch.

At first Spear considered tearing down an old silo for the staves. But experienced friends warned him that most staves are ruined in disassembly. Instead, he bought \$2,000 worth of new staves (some were seconds) from a local company, enough for a house 28 ft. in dia. and 18 ft. tall.

Although a friend who builds silos got him started on the first round, Spear carried and placed most of the 75-lb. staves by himself. After completing the two main stories of the house with staves, he used heavy plastic to create a third story greenhouse.

The outside walls are covered with two layers of 1-in. thick insulating "bead" board. The lower level of the house is also covered with a layer of 12-in. long blocks of cordwood (dried for two years) held together

with mortar.

Most of the lumber in the house came from wood Spear and his brother cut and hauled to a sawmill. The floor in the bottom level is planed tongue and groove poplar. He plastered the inside walls of the house.

Building the silo house was a long term, labor-intensive project that Spear is still working on when time and money allow. So far it has cost just \$5,000. He and his wife Penny used less than five cords of wood last winter to heat the energy-efficient home and Penny notes that the house is also cooler during hot summer months. The couple also keeps electric bills down by not hooking up to public utilities. Spear has a Saab car engine in a shed attached to the house that runs a generator that charges a battery bank and also heats and pumps water to a storage tank upstairs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Doug Spear, Hewitt, Minn. 56453 (ph 218 924-2382).

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ONE SIZE FITS BOTH REGULAR, WIDE MOUTH

Tight Lid For Mason Jars

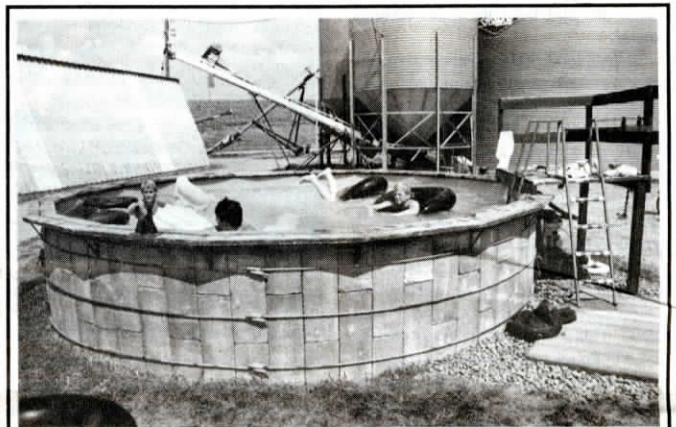
Here's the answer to safe storage of unused portions of food in mason jars — the new "JarMate" screw-on plastic lid that provides an air tight seal. It's reversible so one size fits both wide and narrow mouth jars.

In addition to replacing regular metal lids on opened jars of canned food, the JarMate lid turns any ordinary jar into a handy, air-tight container for shelf or counter-top storage of cereals, popcorn and other food-stuffs.

Package of 3 JarMate lids sells for \$2, plus \$1 for postage and handling.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup; Rolco Inc.; Helen Olson, vice pres.; Box 8; Kasota, Minn. 56050 (ph 507 931-4525).

Screw-on lid provides an air-tight seal. It's reversible so one size fits both wide and narrow mouth jars.



"Silo" Swimming Pool

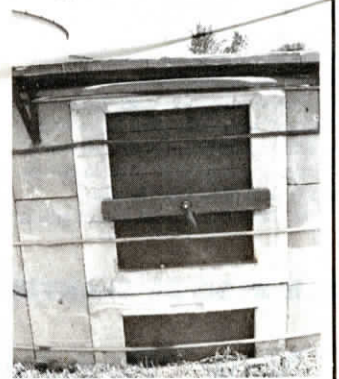
Concrete staves, resurrected from a tornado-ravaged silo, make a dandy swimming pool for the LeRoy Bauer family, Shakopee, Minn.

"People drive in thinking this must be some kind of grain structure, until they see the water inside," says Bauer, who built the "stave silo" pool four years ago. "We had an above ground metal swimming pool for 10 years, but it rusted out. Its liner, filter and silica sand base were still in good shape, but it would have cost \$500 to replace the tank. A neighbor, whose silo had been damaged by a tornado, gave us the staves for nothing."

To build the 18-ft. dia., 4-ft. high enclosure, Bauer used enough "tongue-and-groove" staves for a 16-ft. dia. enclosure, and then installed a 2 by 4 ft. section of the silo's original wood door. "Concrete silos are designed to be either 16 or 20 ft. in diameter, so to make the pool 18 ft. in diameter, we'd have had to split a couple of staves lengthwise to fit the liner we already had," says LeRoy, noting that if you bought a 16 or 20-ft. dia. liner this wouldn't be a problem. "The door is just the right width to complete the enclosure, and it makes the pool look like the bottom 4 ft. of a real silo."

Each block is 2 1/2 ft. high, so to make the sides of the pool 4 ft. high the Bauers cut 1 ft. off half the blocks. Three silo hoops, spaced 1 ft. apart, hold them in place.

To keep the blocks from puncturing the



liner, the Bauers lined them with tar paper. His sons built a 12-in. wide redwood deck around the top of the pool walls. The deck secures the top of the liner.

A 3 by 5 ft. redwood platform serves as a "jumping off" board. The pump and filter mount under the platform. A portable vacuum can be hooked to the intake valve to clean out the bottom of the pool. "We filter water four hours each day, and vacuum the bottom of the pool every three weeks," says Bauer, noting that in the winter they drain the pool down to 18 in. and cover it with a tarp.

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