

Top ridge of "fanless" barn has 2 ft. wide opening which is covered with doors that open and close.

DOOR AND VENT OPENINGS CONTROLLED AUTOMATICALLY

"Fanless" System Heats, Cools This Hog Barn

"It seemed to me that a lot of horsepower was being spent in barns making air do things against nature," says Robert DeBrabandere, a hog farmer in St. Marys, Ontario, who built a modern new hog barn that's naturally ventilated without the aid of fans.

Robert did a lot of looking before building his barn. "The real breakthrough came after a tour of some greenhouses. To my great surprise, I found a system which could be adapted with almost no modification in a hog barn."

The ventilation system has three parts: Tip-out wall doors hinged at the top, a 2-ft. opening in the ridge with tie-up doors, and winter air intakes or ducts between the rafters.

Fresh outdoor air comes into the barn when the side doors are opened. As air is warmed by the body heat of the pigs, it rises and escapes through the ridge opening. The 4 by 8-ft. wall doors and the ridge doors are opened by commercial automatic vent drive units. The door openers are controlled by Honeywell thermostats — the same type used for ventilating fans.

High partitions and self-feeders arranged in the front of the pens give pigs almost complete protection from drafts. The ceiling, sides, and doors are insulated, so the barn stays cool in summer and warm in winter.

The barn has so far "worked great" through a warm and cold season, says Robert. The thermostats are set at 70°



The barn is 36 ft. wide, 90 ft. long and has 27 finishing pens.

in summer, which keeps the ridge doors open almost constantly. On windy days, doors on the windward side do not open at all; air enters from the leeward side and exits through the ridge.

In winter, cold air comes in through cold air intakes between the rafters. The air mixes with warm air above the pigs, avoiding most drafts in the pens below. Air exiting through the ridge doors keeps them from freezing shut.

The 36 by 90-ft. barn has 27 finishing pens facing outward with a gutter at the rear. There are seven doors approximately 4 by 8 ft. on each side. Although somewhat more expensive to build, Robert figures he'll save about \$800 per year.

IMPROVES LOOKS, DISCOURAGES THIEVES

Custom-Painted Spare Tire Cover

After years of trouble with canvas spare tire covers that tear off, blow off or get stolen, Floyd Neely, of Huntsville, Mo., decided to invent a cover of his own that would wear well and discourage thieves.

"This cover locks in place so thieves can't easily remove either the cover or the spare tire. Also, it can't blow or tear off the tire. With a custom paint job, it'll actually enhance the looks of your truck or camper," explains Neely.

To mount the cover, a metal disc, the same diameter as the tire being covered, is placed over the tire. Next, an outside strip is wrapped tightly around the tire thread and locked at the bottom. It holds the covering disc tightly over the studded area of the tires so the tire can't be removed without unlocking the cover.

Covers are available for the smallest trailer or camper tires to the largest pickup or RV tire. Made from 20 ga. steel, the standard model sells for \$38. A stainless steel model sells for \$52.

Neely works with artists to paint the broad side of the cover, but says he encourages customers who want a custom paint job to have the job done

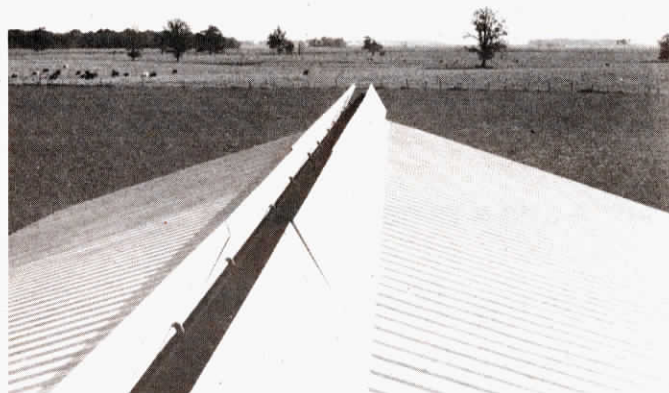


Metal disc, same diameter as tire, is placed over tire to lock it to vehicle.

by a local artist or sign painter. "Then, you can tell them exactly what you'd like, especially if the painting is to be something personal, such as a painting of your farm. What's more, you can probably get the job done cheaper by a local artist," he points out.

Decals can also be applied to the cover's surface.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Floyd Neely, Yosemite Recreational Products, P.O. Box 90, Huntsville, Mo. 65259 (ph 816 277-3108).



Outside view of ridge opening at top of building and the ridge doors which open and close automatically.



Side doors open, close automatically to let in fresh air as needed.