

Ramps Lift Center Pivot Over Oil Well

Steel ramps carry a center pivot irrigation system up and over an oil well in the middle of Nebraska Farmer Gust Anest's corn field.

The steel ramps were designed and built specifically for Anest, of Bayard, so that he could have his cake and eat it too — oil as well as irrigated crops. His oil well pumps about 40 barrels of crude oil a day and, his irrigated corn last year yielded close to 200 bu. an acre.

"The idea of mixing oil with water works beautifully," Anest told FARM SHOW. "The center pivot rises on the two towers and the oil well is between them. One ramp is 10 ft. high, the other about 14 ft., and the longest ramp is about 140 ft."

"The field measures 50 acres and was worthless \$50 an acre land when I bought it," says the Nebraskan. He told Jim Franklin, service manager at Midwest Farm Service in Gering, Neb., that he'd buy a center pivot irrigation system for the field if Midwest could come up

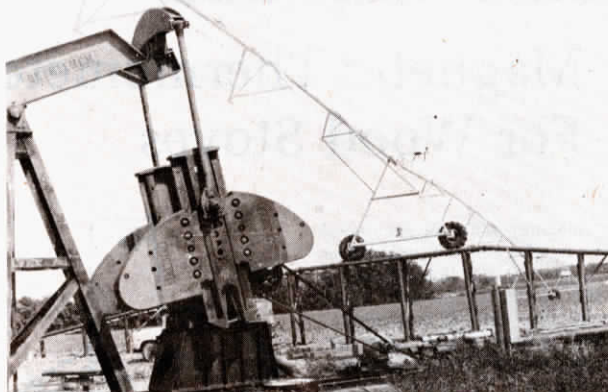
with a way to "walk" it over the oil well on each revolution.

Midwest is a dealer for Lockwood Corp., a manufacturer of irrigation equipment also headquartered in Gering. Lockwood engineers designed the ramps.

No alterations in the center pivot itself were required.

According to Franklin, his company is available to engineer and build similar systems for other farmers for bridging things in fields that can't be moved. Or, a farmer handy with a welder and cutting torch could build one himself to cross ditches, span roads, or whatever.

The sixth and seventh towers of Anest's system cross the ramps, and the sprinkling goes right on. Distance between the two ramps (and two pivot towers) is 148 ft. Both ramps are curved slightly to compensate for the circular movement of the system. The ramps, made out of old sprinkler systems, are secured to the ground by concrete



footings. The ramps are 4 ft. wide at the bottom, and 2 ft. wide at the top where the center pivot's wheels travel.

"You can run the system at any speed you want, including wide open," says Anest. "The ramps don't slow the pivot down at all — electrical power pulls the system right on up and over. They do cause some trouble in that you have to work around them when tilling and

harvesting."

Anest's system, including the ramps and the center pivot, cost \$40,000. He estimates the ramps themselves cost \$7,000 to \$8,000. He did none of the work himself.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Midwest Farm Service, Box 366, Gering, Neb. 69341 (ph 308 632-6137).

"Breeding Box" For Heifers

Wisconsin dairymen Darrell and Dan Weisenbeck, of Durand, use a home-built "breeding box" to get artificially inseminated heifers to settle on first service.

"It's simple to build and is virtually guaranteed to work," says Dan. The box is completely enclosed except for the rear end. A heifer to be artificially inseminated the first time is led into the box. A sliding door closes in front, and a chain is hooked across the hind legs. The darkness of the stall soon quiets the animal and she stands for breeding.

"The breeding box is not a squeeze chute or constraining stall," Dan Weisenbeck points out. "It's the darkness that makes the heifer settle down. An animal would probably stay there all day if you left her."

The breeding box is an idea the Weisenbecks picked up while reading a beef magazine. Without any details about it, Dan built one of 3/4 in. plywood to try out. It is 6 1/2 ft. long, 5 ft. high, and 27 in. wide — just right for an 850-lb. Holstein heifer.

"At first, we had the front completely closed and had to back the heifers out after breeding. Later, we made a sliding door to raise and let them walk out forward," says Dan. "The chain across the back adjusts to cows of different lengths and is all the restraint they need. The feel of the chain keeps them from backing out."



Photo courtesy of "Country Today"

The box fits conveniently in a center alley between pens. Heifers can walk down to it and out the other end. Dan Weisenbeck does his own artificial insemination work so he is there when a heifer is ready for breeding.

Why are the conception rates better with this system?

Dan says, "The semen moves up the reproductive tract to meet the egg in a quiet cow. In an excited, nervous animal, the uterine contractions work against the movement of the semen and the cow may not settle. It's the calming effect that makes the difference."

Still another key to successful breeding is inseminating at the right time. The Weisenbecks use KaMar heat detectors (made



Used Milk Delivery Truck Makes Handy "Tool Wagon"

An old milk delivery truck is finding useful years in retirement on a cattle and grain farm in South Dakota.

Harold Cleveland of Canton, converted the old truck into a trailer that he used for hauling seed corn, chemicals and other supplies to the field. It pulls behind his tractor.

"I bought the old truck for \$75 a few years ago to use for a tool wagon," he says. "I sold the engine out of it, and a neighbor put a hitch on the front end to fit my tractor."

The old truck body is weathertight. Besides that, it is convenient as a kind of field head-

quarters at planting time. It has a table that can be used as a writing desk or a place to eat lunch. And it provides a convenient place to store records of the planting operation. Cleveland also keeps his planter plates in the truck.

"A nice thing about it is that you can stand up in it and can get at things easily through the wide side doors," he points out.

Cleveland bought the truck from an automobile junk yard west of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. "There are many old trucks just like it in junk yards just waiting to be bought and put to use."

by KaMar Inc., Steamboat Springs, Colo. 80477). This is a white stick-on tab that is placed on the tail head of every heifer. The pressure of a mounting heifer squeezes a red dye out of the tab and it turns red. This signals that the heifer is in standing heat.

The Weisenbecks have been

using the breeding box for three years. They built it for less than \$50, and they say it is simple enough for anybody to build.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Weisenbeck, Route 3, Durand Wis. 54736 (ph 715 673-4981).