Nifty A-Frame For Outside Farrowing

"We've used A-frames for more than15 years but this is the first time we've added a panel on front. Makes it easy to keep sows in individual pens," says Leroy Kooiker, Rock Rapids, Iowa.

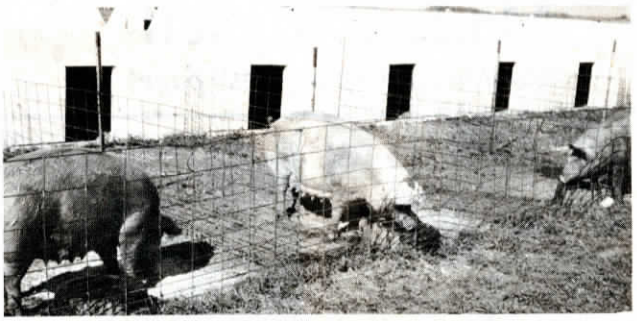
Kooiker used to keep sows in groups of 20 or so, all in one pen with A-frames grouped around it. That caused problems of doubling up in houses and too much competition for feed.

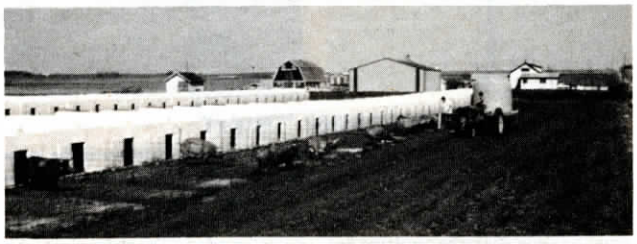
The new farrowing houses have a 6 by 8-ft. base with sloping sides that peak at about 5 1/2 ft. A 4 by 8-ft. sheet of plywood runs across the front of the house. A swinging door is cut out of the front. A small door at the rear of the house - just under the peak - can be opened to increase ventilation inside the house.

The A-frames are picked up two at a time with a front-end loader by hooks on top of each house. They're positioned in a straight line across a field and each house is fastened to the one next to it. An 8-ft. wide individual wire pen runs straight out from the 8-ft. plywood panel front. Kooiker has 101 A-frames lined up in two rows. Feed is dumped on the ground from a feed cart each day. Water is sprayed into a round concrete trough in each pen from a tractor-pulled water cart, using a 3-ft. PVC "nozzle" that Kooiker made to reach down over the side of the pen.

Kooiker also made a sow-mover cage to mount on the tractor loader bucket. It lets him reach over the sides of pens to place sows in the pens or remove. Eliminates the need to herd animals.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leroy Kooiker, Rt. 2, Box 129, Rock Rapids, Iowa 51246 (ph 712 472-3094).





"Cab Comfort" Made In Your Own Shop

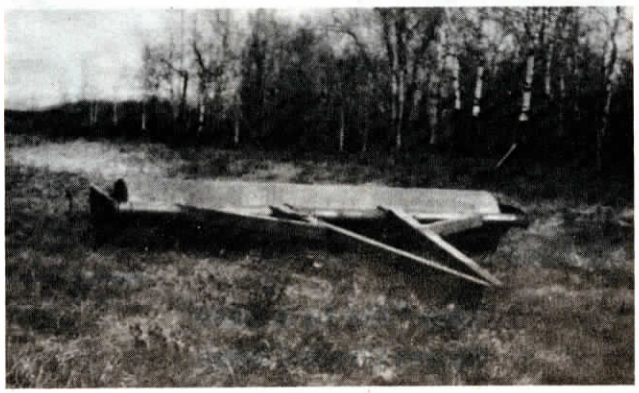
When the snow is blowing and the wind-chill temperature's 30° below, you'll be glad you took time to build yourself this comfortable cab for your garden tractor.

This one was designed and built for a 12 hp tractor by Frank Selden, of Oil City, Penn. and was a winner in the annual "panel project contest" sponsored by the American Plywood Association and Popular Science Magazine. It's made from 2-1/2 4 by 8 ft. sheets of 1/2 in. plywood and is equipped with sheet plastic windows.

Other materials you'll need include continuous hinges, one 1-1/2 by 48 in. and one 1-1/2 by 24 in. You'll also need two boxes (100 count) of No. 4 1/2 in. pan head sheet metal screws, three sliding barrel bolts, two screen door handles (3 in. center) and 20 sq. ft. of acrylic glazing plastic. You'll also need some exterior glue, silicone rubber caulk, 1-1/2 in. tempered galvanized nails, and some exterior paint to pretty up the finished product.

For information on do-it-yourself plans for making this and other projects out of plywood, send $2 for a new catalog of plans offered by APA.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jack Merry, American Plywood Assoc., P.O. Box 11700, Tacoma, Wash. 98411. Ask for "Handy Plan Catalog."



Rock Roller

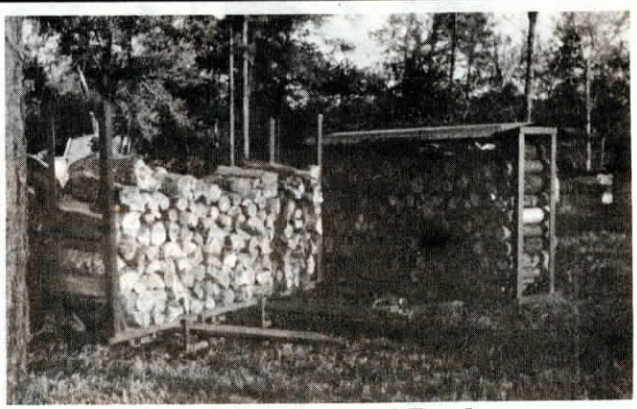
"When we're done rolling a hay field, it's as smooth as a golf course," says Roger Walter, who built a "rock roller" to push under stones and rocks that pop up in fields each spring, or after a field is worked.

Walter built the 20-ft. wide, 36-in. dia. roller with heavy 1/2-in. thick pipeline pipe. He fashioned water-tight hubs for the big roller from wheel hubs salvaged from a Deere 65 pull-type combine. He simply fitted bolts through two round steel plates, welded the bolts heads solidly into place on the inside, and then welded the steel plates to each end of the roller. The hubs simply bolt to the steel endplates. The hitch was built with a combination of hitch parts from two junked Deere 65 combines.

The roller holds 1,500 gal. of water. Depending on conditions, Walter ordinarily does not fill it to the top. Built-in baffles keep water from sloshing around.

"It pulls and turns surprisingly easy. You can pull it with a 50 hp. tractor. Total cost was around $600. We've used it for 5 years with no problems," Walter told FARM SHOW.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Walter, Walter Bros., Plummer, Minn. 56748 (ph 218 465-4473).



Moveable Firewood Racks

"You take this rack to the woods, load it up as you cut, and then use it to transport wood back to the farmyard where it serves as a storage rack. It totally eliminates the need for loading and unloading firewood several times," says Billy Shane Taylor, Alma, Ga., pleased with the combination storage/transport racks he built.

Fashioned from 2-in. angle iron, the racks are 8 ft. long, 4 ft. high and 16-in. wide. A two-prong bale fork, mounted on a tractor 3-pt., slips through 6-in. stands on the bottom of the rack. In storage, Taylor puts a 36-in. wide metal cover over each rack to shed rain.

"They're neat looking and let you easily move wood up close to the house during winter and then move it away again when summer comes," says Taylor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Billy Shane Taylor, Rt. 1, Box 116-A, Alma, Ga. 31510.