

Solar Power Provides Cheap Barn Lights

"I didn't want to give our local rural electric cooperative \$300 per year just for basic service to my hay barn. So my neighbor Dennis Gilliland and I did a little barnyard brainstorming and came up with an inexpensive solution," says Michael Black, Seymour, Ind.

He went to the local Menards store and purchased a 3 1/2-watt solar panel (\$34) that he connected to a 1050 CA deep cycle marine battery. He also purchased four 10-watt LED portable work lights (\$19.95) that operate on 12/120v. He used scrap aluminum from old window frames to fabricate brackets for the solar panel and mounted it outside the barn.

"I cut the 12-volt cigarette lighter adapter off and used wire nuts to connect the circuit and incorporated a switch just inside the door," says Black. "I left the 120-volt cord coiled and unused.

"One night the lights were accidentally left on and were still working the next morning."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Michael Black, 9800W 200N, Seymour, Ind. 47274 (ph 812 216-2138; mnpblack57@gmail.com).



Dennis Gilliland connected a 3 1/2-watt solar panel to a deep cycle marine battery, allowing him to energize four 10-watt LED portable work lights in his barn. Panel mounts on homemade brackets outside barn.



Telescoping Clipper Head Reaches Taller Branches

Precision Manufacturing has found a way to make its heavy-duty clipper head more productive. The Shawnee, Kansas company now makes a Tele-Clipper telescoping boom that hydraulically extends the head's cutting surface from 7 ft. 3 in. to 10 ft. 3 in.

"Customers have asked for more cutting height to make room for equipment along the edges of fields and right-of-ways," says Precision's Bill Reed. "Now people can trim limbs higher than ever to remove nuisance branches that can break mirrors, damage cabs and bend combine grain tanks."

Reed says the operator controls all aspects of the Tele-Clipper inside the cab with a wireless remote or with the machine's electric toggle controls. The cutting head rotates 180 degrees so the clipping action can be aligned with the angle of the branch being removed.

The Tele-Clipper includes Precision's Extreme Duty cutting head for slicing branches and trees up to 8 in. dia. The powerful 5 by 8-in. cutting cylinder produces almost 25 tons of pushing pressure at 2,500 psi. Blades are made of 3/4-in. tempered steel and mounted on hardened pivot bushings with grease zerks. The clipper has extra long upper and lower cutting plates for easy



Telescoping boom hydraulically extends Precision Tele-Clipper head from 7 ft. 3 in. to 10 ft. 3 in.

release of the tree or limb being cut. The self-cleaning side spacers reduce everyday maintenance of the cutting head.

Precision's Tele-Clipper mounts on skid steer quick-tach brackets and has flat-faced quick hydraulic couplers. It weighs just over 1,000 lbs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Precision Mfg., 5734 Barton Ave., Shawnee, Kansas 66203 (ph 913 362-9244; www.precisionmfg.com).

Old-Style Rabbit Traps

With guidance from his grandfather, Donald Allen built his first rabbit box trap with a handsaw when he was 10. Five decades later the Snellville, Georgia, man is still building them, pretty much the same way except with power tools. The old-fashioned boxes are quite popular, he says.

"A lot of people trap and eat rabbits. Schools and colleges trap rabbits for educational purposes," Allen explains.

His first choice is to make them out of salvaged barn wood, but he also picks up scrap pine lumber. "I weather it for a year to turn dark and eliminate scent. I never use treated boards," he says.

The design is a 2-ft. by 5 1/2-in. by 7-in.

box with a door that drops when a rabbit hits a stick inside the box. Allen hand carves the trigger system (trigger, forked balance and top balance sticks) out of tree branches.

The boxes don't work in gardens to eliminate destructive rabbits, he emphasizes. Rabbits don't go in the box looking for food, and if they're baited the traps attract possums or skunks.

"Rabbits are looking to bed down in them," Allen says. The box trap needs to be set up in the woods near rabbit trails. He sprinkles salt water around the trap as an extra incentive and to cover up human scent. The traps must be checked every day, he emphasizes.

Allen sells his traps for \$20 (plus \$8

Car Headlights Used To Light Cattle Shed

Walk into one end of K.D. Cook's custom built cattle shed when the lights are on and you might think you're face-to-face with a half dozen cars. That's because Cook used a dozen old car headlights to illuminate the inside of his building. They all mount at one end of the shed facing the other end.

"I decided to use old sealed beam car headlights in the shed rather than mercury vapor because they're instant-on and they'd throw out plenty of light when I was working the cattle," says Cook. "I bought them for a buck or two, so the price was right. Then I went to an auto store and bought plugs so I could wire them in sequence."

Cook mounted each headlight to a metal roof truss on a piece of 18-in. long angle iron. Each headlight is held inside a plastic flower pot with a small metal bracket so it faces out instead of down. Initially he wired all of the lights in sequence to one switch and connected it through a 20-amp fuse, but that wasn't large enough. "Whenever I flipped the switch, the fuse blew, so I went to Plan B,"

says Cook.

He tried powering the lights through transformers from old welders, but they put out too much power. What did work was running power through a 200-amp battery charger with 10 amp, 30 amp and 40 amp output settings. With the dial on 40 amps it runs all the lights. He uses 3 switches to turn the ones he needs on and off. Better yet, if the utility power is out, Cook says he can hook up the charger's battery cables to his tractor and still have lights in his shed.

Another unique feature of Cook's shed is the 5-ft. tall inner wall made of metal roadside guardrails. Three horizontal metal rails are welded to the vertical metal upright posts with a small space between. Cook says the smooth rail surface provides a nice protective wall for the cattle and keeps them from pushing out metal side panels.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, K.D. Cook, 206 Old Fincastle Road, Lebanon, Virginia 24266 (ph 276 889-1158).



SwivelWheel trailer lets you haul motorcycles and ATV's without the hassle of backing up a jackknifing trailer.

Backing Up Is Easy With SwivelWheel Trailer

When the load is light and you don't want the hassle of backing up a jackknifing trailer, the SwivelWheel System platform provides a practical option, says Dalva Alexander, president of Fast Master Products, Inc. His company invented the platform in response to RV owners asking for something to haul their motorcycles and ATV's.

"They don't jackknife like utility trailers. They go where you go when you back up," Alexander says. Customers also appreciate the small size, about 6 ft. long including the hitch.

"Our system's chassis is built out of 3- by 1 1/2-in tubing frame and has a Torflex suspension that is self-dampening," Alexander adds.

The company offers five sizes ranging from the ECO model (\$895) that can haul up to 500 lbs. behind a car to a Tandem Tow model (\$3,995) that can haul 1,200 lbs. behind a motorhome and has a back hitch to tow a car behind the SwivelWheel.

Dual receiver hitches (\$175) are required on the larger models for better side-to-side control.

"Our main market is RV owners, but we've sold to lawn maintenance companies that haul equipment and don't want to guide a trailer when they back up," Alexander says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fast Master Products, Inc., 6819 Hwy. 90 no. 580, Katy, Texas 77494 (ph 866 794-8357; www.swivelwheel.com; info@cruiserlift.com).



Trap door drops when rabbit hits a stick inside box.

shipping).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donald Allen, 3647 Spain Rd., Snellville, Georgia

30039 (ph 404 578-7758; Dka92554@gmail.com).