



Manure conveyor - a converted 40-ft. bale elevator - lies across top of farrowing pens inside an old hip roofed barn.

Manure Conveyor Made From Bale Elevator

Delmer Hering figures pig pens are a better use of space in hog buildings than alleyways.

The Bruno, Saskatchewan, hog and grain farmer helped his father put farrowing pens into an old hip roofed cattle barn several years ago. They found they could best use the space by putting in three rows of pens, but that left only a narrow alleyway. It was wide enough to walk through, but not wide enough, for even a wheel barrow to haul out the bedding and manure.

Herring, who was just 14 at the time, came up with a solution to the problem. He converted an old hay bale conveyor into a manure conveyor. This lies across the top of the pens, with the top end stuck through an opening in the barn wall. As he cleans the pens, he throws manure and used bedding onto the conveyor and it's emptied into a spreader or a pile outside.

"It was just an ordinary 40-ft. bale elevator," he says. "I replaced the chain in it with no. 80 roller chain, and put steel cleats every 3 ft. to move the manure. I had a local machine shop weld the cleats on to the chain, since it's a fairly delicate job, welding on the chain without ruining it," he says.

The cleats are cut from 1-in. by 1/4-in. strap iron.

He added a sheet metal floor under the chain so the manure stayed on top. That didn't last long, though, so he replaced the sheet metal with arena -or puck-board. (For you non-hockey people, that's the heavy plastic boards used for siding hockey rinks.) He also made sides for the conveyor from the same material.

"Arena board is light, but very tough and slick. It resists manure acids and wears well, even where the chain rubs against it," he says. "You can fasten it in place with self tapping



Top end of conveyor sticks through opening in barn wall. As Hering cleans the pens, he throws manure and used bedding onto conveyor and it's emptied into a spreader outside.

screws, or you can just use wire."

He found that the idler shaft at the top of the conveyor wasn't heavy enough. "The original one was a hollow tube. I replaced that with a solid rod," he says.

Since the conveyor is not mounted solid, it can be slid anywhere on top of the pens, making manure handling as easy as possible in the bedded barns. The Herings like the system so well they've built a second 24-ft. conveyor for a shorter barn.

"I wouldn't use metal for the floor of it again," Herring says. "It just didn't hold up. Also, I've found that we can extend the life of the chain by oiling it once a week with used engine oil.

"Since we didn't have to build in a manure handling system or widen out the alley ways, we can use most of the space for pig pens. Alleys need only be wide enough to chase a sow through," he says.

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Pest animals hate this mini strobe light which goes off 60 to 70 times per minute.

Rodent-Chasing Strobe Light Scares Pest Animals Away

"There's never been anything like it. It's unbelievable how well it works," says David Scheiding, manufacturer of a new pest-chasing strobe light that he says frightens away rats, mice, woodchucks, moles, gophers, and other pest animals.

Scheiding discovered the strobe light's pest-chasing ability by accident. "We make warning lights to put on farm equipment and slow-moving vehicles. One of our customers was having a terrible time with woodchucks in a barn. For some reason, he got the idea of putting one of our strobes in the barn and was amazed to discover that the woodchucks took off immediately and never came back."

Scheiding's mini strobes use a minimal amount of electricity, running continuously for 60 hrs. on a single D-Cell battery. But they generate a surprisingly bright 300,000 candle power strobe that's visible for up to 3 miles at night. It's so bright, in fact, that it hurts your eyes to look at it.

In tests, the light has been effective at chasing away all kinds of smaller rodents,

rabbits, squirrels, owls, and even larger animals, like coyotes and deer.

"One light will protect a half acre plot," says Scheiding. "To protect a garden, we recommend hanging the light from a pole. For burrowing animals, you should place it right near the opening to tunnels, or even down in the tunnel or den. After a couple nights of the strobe, they'll disappear and you can turn it off until you need it again."

Hunters have also found the strobe useful, notes Scheiding. He says you can use it to protect your kill by keeping scavengers away until you return. And the strobe will also help you find your way back."

The rodent repellent strobe goes off 60 to 70 times per minute. The light itself is waterproof and comes with a 90 day warranty. Sells for \$19.95 apiece plus \$4.95 S&H.

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New "Tray Lift" For Case-IH Combines

"It allows one person to easily raise or lower the tray under the straw chopper from outside the combine," says Wayne Noomen, NooWay Enterprises, Inc., about his new "Tray Lift" for Case-IH Axial Flow combines.

The patented Tray Lift consists of a set of steel brackets that bolt to each side of the combine. The brackets bolt onto the combine without any pre-drilling and come with linkage that attaches to the rear bolt of the tray.

"It takes only minutes to install and has a lot of leverage so it's easy to use," says Noomen. "The tray on Case-IH Axial Flow combines is equipped with stationary knives and is held in position by two bolts on each side of the combine. When harvesting soybeans, the tray should be drawn up close to the chopper knives. For corn, the tray should be lowered so that cobs and husks fall through to the ground. However, raising the tray is a big job because there's nothing on the outside of the combine that can be used to raise it. One person has to go inside the combine and hold the tray up while another person on the outside tightens the bolts to hold it in place.

"If you don't raise the tray for soybeans you can end up doing a lousy job chopping straw. If you don't lower the tray for corn, cobs and other material can bounce back



Steel brackets bolt to each side of combine and come with linkage that attaches to rear bolt of tray.

from inside the combine and bend the rear section of the sieves.

"To raise the tray with my Tray Lift, you simply loosen two bolts in slotted holes on each side of the combine and move a lever until a lock automatically engages to hold it in the raised position. To lower the tray, a smaller lock release lever is moved first. Then the tray can be lowered. The two bolts on each side can then be retightened."

Fits all Case-IH Axial Flow models equipped with choppers from 1982 to present.

Sells for \$189 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, NooWay Enterprises, Inc., 2756 181st St., Currie, Minn. 56123 (ph 507 859-2089).

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our web site at www.farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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"Made It Myself"