



Alfred and Darryl Enns say their new steel truss buildings are stronger than any other hoop-type building on the market. They're also a good buy at just \$2,995 for a 30 by 72-ft. single arch kit with cover.

Extra-Strong Steel Trusses Beef Up Hoop Buildings

"There's nothing on the market like these trusses. They're so strong we can hang a pickup from the roof of our hoop buildings," say Alfred and Darryl Enns of Stream Shelters, a farm-based manufacturer of innovative, low-cost hoop-type shelters. The company has just introduced new-style steel truss arches that they say are much stronger than the pipe-type arches used in most hoop structures.

The father-son team also invented and manufacture the innovative wood-truss hoop buildings featured recently in FARM SHOW (Vol. 25, No. 2). "We've been amazed by the response to your article. We've had more than 800 inquiries and we've sold almost a hundred buildings from that one article. We found out that farmers were looking for something simple at a price they could justify," says Darryl. The big advantage of the wood truss buildings is that they're much easier to insulate and finish off inside. And at \$2,995 for a 30 by 72-ft. building, they're also a much better buy than anything else on the market, say the Enns.

Although the wood truss buildings are popular, Darryl and Alfred also knew there was still a need for an even stronger structure. No one, so far as they were aware, was making steel-framed hoops that would stand the test of time. So they started designing new trusses that would do the job.

"We're making them out of square tubing, which is 40 percent stronger than round tubing. We weld them together and then hot dip galvanize the finished product, which makes them far superior to products which



Trusses are made from square tubing, webbed together with solid steel bars.

are galvanized first and then welded together. Usually they just paint over the welds with silver paint. Later that's where they will rust. We treat the entire truss, including the welds," Darryl notes.

Truss arches are manufactured in 30, 42, and 50-ft. wide spans with 1 1/2-in. and 2-in. sq. tubing webbed to a 12 to 20-in. depth, depending on the span, with solid bar steel. Arches are held together by 2-piece joints at the center that bolt together.

"We also make single arches 30-ft. wide, using 2-in. sq., 12-ga. tubing. Center couplers and base plates are included along with three rows of parallel purlins and an end brace kit."

The 30 by 70-ft. truss kit, with 12.5 oz. canvas cover, sells for \$3,995 (U.S. funds). A 30 by 72-ft. single arch rafter and cover kit, with a 12.5 oz. tarp, is \$2,995 (U.S.).

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Stream Shelters welds its trusses together and then galvanizes the finished product. "That makes them far superior to other products which are galvanized first and then welded together. We treat the entire truss, including the welds," notes Darryl.



LIFTGUARDS simply bolt on in place of conventional guards, unlike other add-on fingers. They lift and separate in a more gentle way, says inventor Joe Figliuzzi.

New-Style Sickle Guards Double As Pickup Fingers

Growing wild rice in Northern Minnesota requires a lot of hard work, patience and, at times, some special-built equipment. It grows so tall that any wind or other adverse weather condition often results in a downed or tangled crop.

"Conventional add-on pickup fingers help somewhat during harvest but they often dig into the ground and break off. They are so long they sometimes shatter the crop before it even gets to the cutterbar," says Joseph Figliuzzi, Kelliher, Minn., who finally decided he had to come up with something new.

He started experimenting with shorter lift guards and was surprised to find they worked better than long ones since plants were only disturbed up close to the cutterbar.

That's when he hit on the idea of combining the functions of conventional sickle guards with pickup fingers. His prototypes worked so well he patented – and is now prepared to license for manufacture – a new product called LIFTGUARDS™.

"They eliminate all the problems with conventional lifting fingers and even improve performance in standing crops so you never have to take them off," says Figliuzzi. "I've been testing them under all kinds of conditions in my own fields over the past four years and their performance has far exceeded my expectations. Yields increase because I get more grain into the combine."

One way Figliuzzi tested his idea was by

fitting half of a cutterbar with LIFTGUARDS and leaving half with conventional sickle guards. "Results were fantastic. The rice that came through the conventional guards would continually bunch up and move unevenly into the machine while the other half with LIFTGUARDS fed in smoothly and evenly.

"Watching grain flow evenly over the LIFTGUARDS reminds me of wind tunnel tests that manufacturers use to test aerodynamics, where you see air flow smoothly over a car or airplane wing. That's what happens with LIFTGUARDS, even under good field conditions. They aid the flow of grain and crop material into the combine in a natural way that causes less shattering to stalks."

Figliuzzi feels certain his LIFTGUARDS will also improve performance in crops such as soybeans, canola, wheat and other small grains, but he has not yet tested them in those crops. "Farmers who've seen LIFTGUARDS say they think they might eliminate the need for pickup fingers on reels since they lift the crop up high enough for bats alone to bring in the crop."

Figliuzzi is looking for a manufacturer to bring LIFTGUARDS to market. He has received his Canadian patent and the U.S. patent is pending.

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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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