

## Vinyl Wall Panels Brighten Up Barn Interiors

“Our new Agri Vinyl siding for dairy and hog barns is easy to clean and brightens up the interior of any barn. It also reduces bacteria and is easier to clean than painted surfaces, which leads to better animal health,” says Barry Forsyth, Boncor Building Products, London, Ontario.

The vinyl panels come in 8-in. wide strips which staple in place. It’s available in two low-gloss finishes which provide the appearance of a freshly painted surface. Or you can choose a wood grain finish that replicates the textured look of real wood.

“It won’t dent, peel, flake or corrode. When you consider the cost of painting and repainting over a lifetime, vinyl siding is an investment that virtually pays for itself,” says Forsyth. “A simple hose washing renews its fresh, ‘just painted’ look. It won’t lose its sheen over time like aluminum or steel siding. Light bounces off it which reduces electricity costs for lighting.”

Contact: FARM SHW Followup, Boncor Building Products, 657 Wilton Grove Rd., London, Ontario, Canada N6N 1N7 (ph 519 668-6632).



Agri Vinyl siding is available in two low-gloss finishes which provide the appearance of a freshly painted surface.



There are no exposed fasteners to attract flies.



Barrel is open on top. A hydraulic-powered auger mounts on one side.

## Fuel Tank Feed Cart

Ralph Mika turned an old fuel barrel into a hand feed cart fitted with an auger.

Mika cut a hole in the top of the barrel and then reinforced the open edges and added legs to the tank. He also installed V-shaped bottom panels in the barrel to keep feed flowing. The V-bottoms take away about half the capacity of the tank.

Mika installed a hydraulic-powered auger on one side that extends into the side of the tank. He used a 5-in. dia. auger from an old combine.

The feed cart has the capacity of 850 to 1,000 lbs. of feed. He feeds approximately

140 cows with calves 5 lbs. of grain per day. It takes less than a minute to hook the tank to the tractor. You simply back the tractor forks under it and hook up the hydraulic hoses and chains.

“It now takes me less than 20 min. each day to feed the cows and calves. Material cost, including barrel, steel, auger, hoses, and motor, was about \$225. Of course, caution must be taken when opening up fuel tanks.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ralph V. Mika, Box 237, Mexico, Mo. 65265 (ph 573-581-2090).

## Dump Truck Turned Into Big Dump Trailer

“Owning a conventional dump truck is often more trouble than it’s worth,” says Fred Vlietstra, Kalamazoo, Mich.

Vlietstra farms with his brothers Marvin and David and nephew Fred. With bedding to haul for their dairy herd, sand and dirt to keep holes filled in the lots, plus hauling gravel for driveways and field stones away from their rock picker, they have a lot of work for a truck.

“But it’s not worth enough to justify owning a newer truck, and with an older one, you have the headaches of maintenance and also licensing,” he notes.

To obtain the benefits of a dump truck without owning and licensing one, Vlietstra bought an old one and turned it into a trailer. He got the 1973 Ford F-600 truck that he bought from a neighbor for \$200.

He cut off the cab and discarded the front axle. Then he pulled the frame I-beams together and made a hitch to fit a tractor drawbar. He left the rear suspension and axle in place.

The sides on the 5-yard, 10-ft. dump bed were too high to reach over easily with their skidsteer loader and rock picker. So Vlietstra removed the bed and replaced it with a 15-ft. long flat bed with 1-ft. sides.

The truck had an old Garwood hydraulic dump hoist, which he left in place. He added hoses to hook up to tractor remote hydraulic outlets.



To make the trailer, Vlietstra cut up a 1973 Ford F-600 truck. Original dump bed was replaced with a 15-ft. long flat bed with 1-ft. sides.



Vlietstra uses the trailer to haul bedding, sand, rocks, and firewood.

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Bridge hitch converts a pair of Deere 7000 6-row, 30-in. planters into a 12-row, 15-in. planter.

## “Side-Shift” Bridge Hitch Connects Two Deere 7000 6-Row Planters

Jason Buckman, Hallsville, Mo., built a bridge hitch to convert a pair of Deere 7000 6-row, 30-in. planters into a 12-row, 15-in. planter. The hitch shifts back and forth as much as 30 in. for transport and for side draft control on hillsides and terraces.

The 12-ft. long hitch is made from 6-in. sq. steel tubing. The back end bolts to the rear planter in place of its tongue. The front end of the hitch attaches to a horizontal bar on the front planter. A hydraulic cylinder on the horizontal bar moves the front end of the bridge hitch back and forth up to 30 in.

“I use my Deere 4030 85 hp tractor to pull it. I already had the planters and spent about \$5,000 to build the hitch, which includes the cost of rebuilding both planters,” says Buchman. “A new 12-row split row planter sells for about \$18,000.

“I used the planter last spring to plant about 250 acres of soybeans. Those 15-in. beans yielded about 10 bu. more per acre than my drilled beans even with a smaller seed population. I may use it next year to also plant corn. It takes one person only about 20



A hydraulic cylinder is used to shift hitch back and forth as much as 30 in.

minutes to install the hitch.

“The side shift really works nice on terraces because it compensates for the rear planter wanting to track sideways.”

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