NEW SYSTEM "PATCHES" PHONE TO MOBILE BASE

Make Phone Calls From Your Tractor

With the new Vox-A-Phone from Vox-Systems, Decatur, Ind., you can "patch" your mobile communications base directly to your telephone and call anywhere in the world right from your tractor, truck or car CB with no additional telephone charges.

"We've just manufactured the first 100 units," says Richard Woods, representative of the Vox Company, adding that cost will be a big advantage of the Vox-A-Phone. "Conventional mobile telephones cost a fortune and its easy to run up a large monthly phone bill. With this lower-cost system, farmers can take care of business while doing field work, or call directly to hired help in the field back home while on a trip. Also, when equipment breaks down in the field, you can call direct to town to explain the problem yourself to the dealer or his parts manager," Woods points out.

The Vox-A-Phone requires someone at the base station to dial calls for you, and to place the phone receiver on the speaker's unit. Wood explains that technically, such help can be eliminated but FCC regulations prohibit an unattended phone exchange that would let anyone with a CB use any phone equipped with a Vox system. "Systems that let you call anywhere — dialing right from your tractor, pickup or car, can be developed but government regulations prevent their being sold," he says.

Here's how the current system works:

You call your mobile base on your CB and someone there dials a number, then cradles the receiver over a special "hands off" mike. Shortly before the end of three minutes, a tone sounds, warning that your call will be cut off if the button on top of the Vox console is not pressed by the base operator. If the button is pressed, you have another three minutes to talk. "The limitation, again, is a result of FCC rules limiting use of airwaves owned by the general public," Woods points out.

Vox System's phone patch lets you call anywhere in the world on your tractor two-way radio.

A more advanced model, wired directly to the phone lines without a cradle for the receiver, will be released when government testing is completed. Someone will still dial for you, but direct phone line contact means cleaner communications, says Wood. He also notes that any type two-way communications band, such as the business band, will work with the Vox-A-Phone.

"One big advantage of the system is that you can telephone and talk to all of your hired help, no matter where they are, if they have two-way radios," points out Woods. "It's still one-way communication like between two CB'ers, so you can't talk at the same time. But one person can talk on the phone, or on one radio, and everyone can hear."

The Vox system sells for $329, f.o.b. the factory.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vox Systems, Route 4, Box 266, Decatur, Ind. 46733 (ph 219 565-3825).

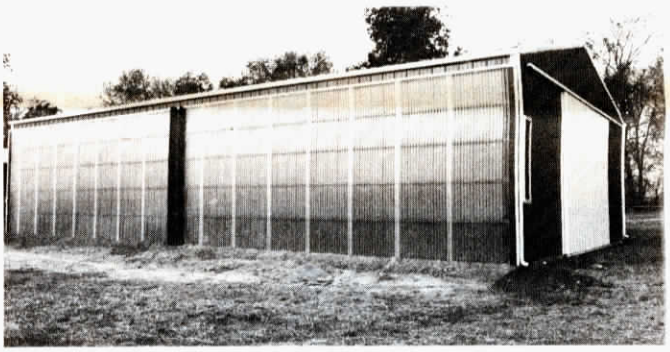
"THIS SYSTEM'S UNCOMPLICATED AND INEXPENSIVE"

Solar Drying Made Simple

"The unique thing about our Iron Horse solar-drying system is its simplicity," says Jack Hufford, manufacturer. "Most other solar systems on the market are too complicated and too expensive. We think our system can do the job as well or better for less cost. When grain is removed, the drying system is easily removed to make room for machinery or other storage."

In 1978, the first new Iron Horse grain storage building adapted for solar drying was erected in Ohio near the company's headquarters at Circleville and used to dry about 13,500 bushels of corn. Total construction cost was about $1.85 per bushel.

Corn was placed in the building at approximately 27% moisture and, within two weeks, moisture content was down to 17-18%. Through the rest of the fall and winter, fans were operated for about two hours each week to aerate the corn. When the crop was removed in the spring of 1979, average moisture content was around 15%, with corn near the bottom testing 14%.



Collector plates are mounted vertically on south wall of new or existing structures.

Hufford notes that the collector wall has a layer of insulation on the inside. Then, there's a prepainted black collector plate (made of metal siding) suspended between the insulation and the translucent fiberglass cover on the outside.

Aerovent dryer fans (12,000 cfm each) move heated air from the collector to a 30 by 48 in. plywood manifold along one side of the building. Perforated plastic field drain tile (4 in. dia.) is attached to the manifold and spaced 6 in. apart under the grain. This distributes air quickly through the grain, which is not piled as deeply in this type of storage as it commonly would be in circular bins.

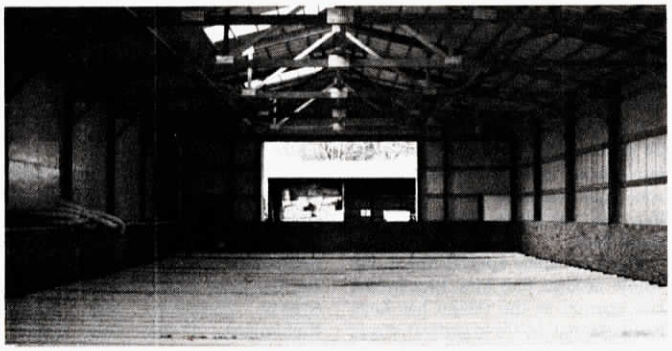
"Even on cloudy days, temperature of air passing through the collector will raise one or two degrees," says Hufford. "But at noon on sunny days, temperature of heated air is often 20° above ambient temperature, which is higher than the 10-15° temperature rise desired for low temperature drying.

Temperature is controlled by opening or closing "mixing doors" to permit outside unheated air to be drawn into the manifold, thus lowering temperature of air blown into the grain.

Auxiliary drying heat can be added, if desired, but Hufford doesn't believe it will be necessary for most installations. "The weather after we filled the bin in 1978 was about as bad as any season you could imagine, and drying time and grain quality were both quite satisfactory," he concludes.

Although designed for Iron Horse buildings, the Iron Horse solar collector will adapt to other buildings. Do-it-yourself plans, and a list of materials needed, are available.

For additional information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Iron Horse Buildings, Inc., Box 601, Circleville, Ohio 43113 (ph 614 474-6467).



Air is distributed by perforated 4 in. dia. plastic drain tile spaced 6 in. apart under grain.

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