

## Farm Uses For Infrared Scanning

Infrared scanning has many potential uses on farms, says Brian Kumer, Peoria, Ill., who runs one of the country's only commercial scanning services in a rural area.

Kumer takes his \$30,000 infrared scanner out to farms and homes to take "pictures" of various objects. Then he uses computer software back at his office to interpret what the scanner saw. He advertises mostly in local newspapers and charges \$75 per hour.

Some potential farm uses include: Pointing the scanner at a metal grain bin to tell exactly how high the grain is in it. He can also scan tanks filled with various fluids. For example, he can read the levels of anhydrous and LP gas in tanks. He can also scan bearings and other moving parts and tell if any are running hot. The scanner will even spot electrical shorts that could cause problems if they don't get corrected.

According to Kumer, the biggest challenge in running an infrared scanning service is educating people on the benefits. "Most people don't know anything about how

infrared scanning works or what it can do for them," he says.

"The main part of my business is doing home energy ratings, in which I use the infrared scanner and do a blower door test. The scanner can verify insulation levels and determine how effective the insulation is. There's a big difference in the insulating value of different types of insulation. For an average home I charge \$300 to \$500 to do an infrared scan and door blower test."

The infrared scanner can also be used on ceilings to determine if water is leaking into the insulation. "The scanner can detect when water goes through a roof and contacts drywall, because as the water contacts the drywall it starts to evaporate. The evaporation process pulls heat off the drywall, which causes a temperature difference that the scanner picks up."

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**Pint-size RODA spreader can be pulled by an ATV, garden tractor, or utility tractor.**

## Small Spreaders For Small Spreads

If you have a small spread and need a small spreader to handle a little bit of manure and bedding, you'll like these pint-size spreaders from RODA Manufacturing, Inc., Hull, Iowa.

RODA makes two mini manure spreader models that it says are perfect for smaller operations. The compact spreaders are built as sturdy as the company's full-size spreader.

The simple, ground driven, belt drive can be engaged easily from the operator's seat on an ATV, garden tractor, or small utility tractor.

Side and bottom panels are made of 3/8-in. polystyrene that won't rot or deteriorate. Beater blades are made for 3/16-in. steel.

The smaller R-25 spreader is 96 in. long

and 48 in. wide, with a box that measures 60 in. long by 23 in. wide by 18 in. high. It has a loading height of 36 in. The larger R-50 spreader is 109 in. long by 67 in. wide, with a box that measures 71 in. by 36 in. by 18 in., with a loading height of 40 in.

Both come in colors to match your favorite farm tractors: red, green, orange, or blue. List price for the R-25 is \$1,678, while the R-50 lists for \$2,275.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, RODA Manufacturing, Inc., 1008 Locust Street, Box 469, Hull, Iowa 51239 (ph 712 439-2366 or toll free 888 214-9914; fax 712 439-2368; E-mail: [rodaoffice@rodamfg.com](mailto:rodaoffice@rodamfg.com); Website: [www.rodamfg.com](http://www.rodamfg.com)).

## "Scare Windmill" Repels Pest Birds

The 36-in. blades on this new "scare windmill" are painted with a special ultraviolet reflecting paint. To pest birds the spinning blades look like the flapping wings of a flock of birds taking off in fright.

The manufacturer suggests mounting the windmill on a simple 10-ft. pole made from 1/2-in. dia. pipe. The spinning blades repel birds on up to a 2-acre area, says the company. It's said to be effective for birds in fruit trees, vegetable crops, blueberries, and even Canada geese in grain crops.

Sells for \$69 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, JWB Marketing ph 800 555-9634; Website: [www.birddamage.com](http://www.birddamage.com).

**Painted with a special ultraviolet reflecting paint, the 36-in. blades on this "scare windmill" look like the flapping wings of a flock of birds taking off in fright.**



## Bale Elevator "Firewood Conveyor"

Old chain-and-paddle-type bale elevators can be converted into cheap firewood conveyors, says Elmer M. Pinkerton, Elmwood, Neb., who recently sent FARM SHOW photos of an elevator he converted.

He uses the elevator to load firewood into big stacks in an open-sided shed.

"A new firewood handler like this would sell for about \$7,000 but you can pick up these old bale elevators for next to nothing at farm sales," says Pinkerton.

He mounted a 5 hp gas engine on one side of the elevator that belt-drives a pulley which in turn chain-drives the elevator.

He modified the elevator's original chain tightener so that it can be shifted from one side of the elevator to the other in order to tighten the chain in either direction. The chain tightener is held in place by a coil spring.

"If I were to do it again, I'd mount the motor underneath the elevator so that it wouldn't have to be re-levated when raising



**Elmer Pinkerton uses this modified chain-and-paddle-type bale elevator to load firewood into big stacks.**

and lowering the elevator," says Pinkerton, noting that his machine can be raised to a maximum height of about 12 ft.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Elmer M. Pinkerton, 305 West D Street, Elmwood, Neb. 68349 (ph 402 994-5885).

**Jerry De Blonde turned an old pull-type sickle mower into a pull-type electric fence wire.**



## Pto-Powered Fence Winder Makes Pasture Moves Easy

A pull-type electric fence wire winder helps Jerry De Blonde, Swan Lake, Manitoba, make quick pasture changes. He built it using parts from an old pull-type sickle mower.

"We use it for rotational grazing when moving cattle to different pastures. It lets us roll up a quarter mile of electric fence at a time, drive to a new location, and then quickly unroll it again. It works fast and requires only one person to operate," says De Blonde.

De Blonde cut the hitch, table and sickle off the pto-driven mower, leaving the drive

system intact. He cut the shaft off where the table had been and welded a spindle horizontally across the top of the mower frame. He bolted an old car wheel rim to the shaft to roll up wire.

"To unroll the wire, I simply unhook the pto shaft and drive forward," notes De Blonde.

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