

New Ways To Make Money On The Farm

Business Is Booming For Horse Loggers

Dave and Dona Goodin, Shobonier, Ill., have been experiencing a growing demand for logging with horses. Their ad in the Effingham, Ill., newspaper reads:

D and D Horse Loggers The Low Impact Loggers

Specializing In Aesthetic Logging

What's happening is that more and more people are seeking out homes in wooded areas where selective tree removal often is a necessity.

"Horses are ideal in this kind of situation because they keep scarring of the landscape to a minimum," says Dave. "Tractors and other big equipment often leave deep scars. With horses, most tracks are healed over within 30 days. And, horses can get into places where tractors can't go."

Horse logging is no novelty in the Goodin family. Dave's father and grandfather were both horse loggers.

The Goodins take on logging jobs many

miles from home. Most times they "commute" with their horses. They have a 6-horse trailer, so they can get to and from jobs with little effort.

Both Dona and her sister, Loralyn Valencia, drive teams.

According to Goodin, there's a strong demand right now for both hardwood and softwood lumber. The hardwood goes into making furniture, and much of the softwood is used for crating. Not surprisingly, there's a big demand for softwood from Japan and other Asian nations.

Horses today fetch some hefty prices, according to Goodin. He likes Belgians. A team of Belgians can sell for anywhere from \$1,900 to \$5,000. A set of harnesses can cost \$600, and a horse collar can cost \$125.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave and Dona Goodin, 1950 Washington St., Carlyle, Ill. (ph 618 594-2638).



Logging with horses keeps scarring of landscape to a minimum, say Dave and Dona Goodin, who take on logging jobs many miles from their Shobonier, Ill., home.

Christmas Tree "Baler"

Stephen Childs needed a baler for Christmas trees, but he didn't want to spend the money for a commercial model. So the Bliss, N.Y., tree farmer built his own on the frame of an old 1-row corn chopper.

"I spent about \$200 to build it. A commercial model would've cost about \$8,000," says Childs.

The baler squeezes trees down so he can wrap strings around them for shipping.

He stripped a New Holland 1-row corn chopper down to the frame, wheels, axle and gearbox and narrowed up the axle. He used a cutting torch to shorten the axle. He welded a Ford tractor wheel on back of the frame, then cut a metal cone off an old 3-pt. fertilizer spreader and bolted it to the back of the wheel. A stabilizer bar runs from the top of the cone to the front of the machine.

A pto-driven chain that turns on a

sprocket at the front of the machine pulls each tree through the cone. As the tree leaves the cone it drops onto a wooden platform that extends the length of the machine.

To operate the baler, Childs sticks the tree into the cone butt first, then grabs a hook attached to the drive chain and attaches it to the tree. To activate the chain, he leans on a lever that serves as a belt tightener. As the tree comes through the cone he ties three loops around it.

"I can't believe how well it works. The cone squeezes the tree down nice and tight," says Childs. "I use my small Case IH 255 tractor to pull it. We operate a tree farm, but most of our trees are dug for nursery use so we bale only 200 to 500 Christmas trees each year so I couldn't justify a new machine."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stephen Childs, 6207 Horton Rd., Bliss, N.Y. 14024 (ph 585 322-7615 or 585 786-2251).



Stephen Childs converted a New Holland 1-row corn chopper into this Christmas tree "baler". A pto-driven chain pulls each tree through cone.



As tree leaves cone, it drops onto a wooden platform that extends the length of the machine.

Dairywoman Runs On-Farm Art Studio

Farm wife and professional artist Bonnie Mohr of Glencoe, Minnesota, gets the inspiration for her beautiful paintings from the second floor of her farm house, where she can look out the window at her family's 60-cow dairy herd.

The self-taught artist loves rural America and its lifestyle. Each of her oil paintings represents hours of exacting research and meticulous planning. Her work reflects the landscape, animals and people who are part of this rewarding way of living.

The business portion of Bonnie Mohr's Studio is in an office building located about 20 yards from her kitchen door.

"Growing up as one of eight children of a dairy farmer, I never guessed when I spent all those hours working with cows as a girl, that one day I would be capturing them on a canvas," says Mohr, who has earned a nationwide reputation as a "bovine artist".

She has had long-standing sales relationships with leading agri-businesses such as Purina Mills, 3M, Cargill, Select Sires, World Dairy Expo, American Jersey Cattle Club and Rosedale Wallcoverings & Fabric.

She sells prints, collector plates, note cards and originals through her website or



Mohr's work often features dairy cattle.

directly from her studio where people are welcome to visit.

"We are located 50 miles west of the Twin Cities (Mall of America). If you plan a group to tour the barn and gallery, call for arrangements. We are typically open 9-5 Monday-Friday (other times by appointment)," she says "There are times we have to run to town with the mail or other errands, so you may want to give a call before you stop."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bonnie Mohr Studio, P.O. Box 32, Glencoe, Minn. 55336 (ph 800 264-6647; fax 320 864-6646; email: bmohr@hutchtel.net; website: www.bonniemohr.com).



Bonnie Mohr is a self-taught artist who loves rural America and its lifestyle.