



Perry Bubnick designed this 50-cord "air dryer" by setting up two 80-ft. long rows of 10-ft. tall poles, spaced 8 ft. apart. He nailed 1-in. thick oak slabs to the inside.

Firewood Air Dryer Handles 50 Cords At A Time

An Esterhazy, Sask. man has devised a system for uniformly and quickly drying large quantities of firewood, taking advantage of Mother Nature to save time and effort.

Perry Bubnick says he designed his 50-cord air dryer to speed the drying process evenly without having to do any hand stacking.

He set up two 80-ft. long rows of 10-ft. tall poles, 8 ft. apart (because his loader bucket is 7 ft. wide) and then nailed 1-in. thick second cut oak slabs to the inside. The overlap of the slabs alternates on each pole so that 6 to 10-in. openings are left for air to pass through.

"I didn't use wide slabs but there's very little problem with firewood pieces falling through," Bubnick explains. "I used thin cable to tie the tops of the two rows of poles together, preventing them from spreading. I went 10 ft. high with the walls, but the higher the better if you have the means to fill it. Both ends are left open so you can add green wood or a different species to one end and still get at the other end."

The dryer walls face squarely into the prevailing winds to promote airflow, he says, and Bubnick located it close to his lane so he has easier winter access.

He used his loader to fill it the first fall, and managed to put in 30 cords of 18-in. by 8-in. dia. unsplit Trembling Aspen Poplar. By the next fall, it was just right for burning, he says.

"I expected to still see some green pieces and possibly having to leave it in for two years, but that wasn't the case," Bubnick says. "The theory that gave me the idea for the dryer was that if all the pieces are round or rather cylindrical in shape, and piled at random, the air should flow freely through them if exposed to a wind. When I walked along the downwind side after first filling it, I knew it was going to work well."

Bubnick explains that a cone-shaped woodpile, as dumped from a conveyor, will dry quickly on the outside but will take forever to dry at the center. His idea to create a "wall of wood," was to promote an even airflow for uniform drying, thus having the entire load ready at the same time.

"I now have a conveyor on my wood processor with 360 degrees swiveling wheels so I can push it along sideways, completely filling the dryer to capacity, and this year I'm filling it with 16-in. split wood and feel it will work okay as long as the load is clean without too many bark pieces and splinters, etc., that are typically produced with a firewood processor. Our processor uses a clean-out grate, but is not 100 percent effective. This 'shrapnel,' as I call it, can impede airflow."

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"Made-It-Myself" Deere 990 Cab

Harry Wallace, Woodland Park, Colo., bought a 2001 Deere 990 utility tractor to do landscaping and snow plowing. With job sites up in the Rocky Mountains, he needed a cab "for eight months out of the year."

Upon learning that Deere doesn't offer cabs for that model, he decided to make his own.

Wallace constructed the cab frame from heavy wall steel tubing and the window frames from 1 1/2-in. angle iron. "It bolts together but doesn't rattle or squeak."

The windows are plexiglass and were installed with specialized 3M double-sided tape. He used C clamps to hold the window and frame together until the tape cured.

Wanting a factory "look", he copied the OEM door and bought a Deere door latch, complete with safety and key lock. "I built the door heavy and it slams shut with a better sound than the OEM cabs," he says.

Although the cab fit well around the tractor, it didn't cover the brake pedal. To fix that problem, Wallace's friend sewed him a flap out of canvas. "If I didn't do that, I was going to have to make the cab about 8 in. wider which would have been an engineering nightmare to figure out," he says.



Harry Wallace spent only about \$400 to build a cab for his 2001 Deere 990 utility tractor.

With some acoustical foam inside the dash and under the hoods, he says the cab is very quiet.

Wallace spent about \$400 to build it. Contact FARM SHOW Followup, Harry E. Wallace, P.O. Box 521, Woodland Park, Colo. 80866 (ph 719 687-3761; wallaceh@wsd3.k12.co.us).



Used school buses can be put to all kinds of uses, including hauling pumpkins, says Used-Bus.com. The company has one of the largest inventories of used buses in North America.

Looking For A Bus? Try Used-Bus.com

If you're looking for a used school bus for some kind of farm project, just point your computer mouse to Used-Bus.com. Of course, you can also call them on their toll-free number.

With more than 15 acres of buses, the company has one of the largest inventories of used buses in the U.S. and Canada.

"We have used buses of every make, model, capacity and price," says Mario Rodas, Used Bus sales manager in Kankakee, Ill. "We've been in business for 30 years and have five locations. Our buses start at \$800, many of them with low mileage. Over the

years we've sold a lot of used school buses to farmers, who have put them to hundreds of different uses - everything from hauling pumpkins, potatoes, hogs, and chickens to storing seed and transporting people to work fields."

The company offers a free catalog of pre-owned, low mileage buses.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Midwest Transit Equipment, 146 West Issert Drive, Kankakee, Ill. 60901 (ph 888 873-3287 or 815 933-2412; info@used-bus.com; www.Used-Bus.com).

Home-Built Heavy-Duty Rock Digger

Really big rocks embedded in fields are no problem for Bill Bell of Deloraine, Manitoba. He built his own rock digger, and says it works great.

He's used this two-wheeled implement since 1988, when he spent only \$720 in materials to build it. He would have had to spend \$6,500 at the time for a similar-size commercial rock digger.

"The center beam is a 6 by 10-in. heavy wall steel tube. The rock shaft is a Massey Ferguson discer frame with 4 by 6-in. tubing to the spindles, which came off a 140 IH combine," Bell explains. "The digging teeth were made from steel off the frame of a McCormick-Deering disk. They're braced with 2 by 4 steel uprights. The points on the teeth are frogs from old plows."

The unit has an 18-in. hydraulic cylinder with a pressure relief block, pre-set at 2,200 lbs. to protect the hydraulic lines from the



very high pressure that's created when digging out a rock. There's also a shut-off valve to release pressure on break-aways.

Bell pulls the unit with his 1977 Allis Chalmers 7040 tractor.

This implement has dug out hundreds of rocks, including many that were too heavy for the tractor's front-end loader to carry away.

He also rents it out for \$80 per day.

Over the years Bill Bell has used this home-built, 2-wheeled implement to dig out hundreds of rocks, including many that were too heavy for the tractor's front-end loader to carry away.

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