



Dory Container Traveler will revolutionize how farmers transfer grain from the field to the end user, says inventor Dory Tuvim. The idea is to move shipping containers full of grain, instead of transferring grain from combine to wagon to bin to truck, etc.

By Dawn Throener, Associate Editor

Invention Brings Shipping Containers To Farm Fields

Dory Tuvim is out to revolutionize how farmers transfer grain from the field to the end user. He wants them to move shipping containers full of grain instead of transferring grain from combine to wagon to bin to truck, etc.

But before Tuvim, president of a company that manufactures shipping containers, could start making his vision come true, he needed to answer the question, "How can I add wheels to a shipping container so it can be towed by a tractor?"

His answer is the Dory Container Traveler (DCT). It consists of a pair of horseshoe-shaped frame members attached to a subframe on wheels.

A tractor with a DCT attached backs up to surround the container on three sides. The DCT's four hydraulically-controlled corner latches are set in position to lift the container at its four corner posts 18 in. off the ground within 20 sec. "We've tested it with a 250 hp tractor at 20 mph and a load of 70,000 lbs.," says Tuvim.

Each shipping container holds about

50,000 lbs. or 800 to 1,100 bu. of grain, depending on the product. Tuvim wants to use the containers and DCT on chickpeas, wheat barley and malt barley.

"The advantage is that the container has a product in it that is identified by a serial number which is on the container," he says. "The world market now demands identified product from the source."

"Another thing is that it'll eliminate all the handling from a bin to the elevator going from grain cart to a truck, from the truck to the harbor and so on and so forth," Tuvim says.

After getting a patent and creating a model, he went to Doepker Industries of Anaheim, Sask. which engineered the prototype.

Randy Doepker, company vice president, says the biggest challenge was coming up with the right wheels. "We had to find something that would handle the load yet with enough floatation to minimize impact on the fields."

Tuvim plans to make the DCT available to farmers or groups of farmers to lease or buy. Lionel Doepker, chief customer officer with



Dory Container Traveler consists of a pair of horseshoe-shaped frame members attached to a subframe on wheels. It hauls containers that hold up to 1,100 bu. of grain.

Doepker says it's designed, tested and ready for market and will sell for between \$75,000 and \$90,000 (Can.).

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646-2346 or 514 645-2346; fax 514 645-6970; dory.tuvim@mcscontainers.com; www.mcscontainers.com) or Doepker Industries, P.O. Box 10, Anaheim, Saskatchewan, Canada S0K 0G0 (ph 306 598-2171; fax 306 598-2028; www.doepker.com).

"Color" Adds Variety, Profit To Popcorn Business

Popcorn producers Blair and Livia Townsend, who farm near Walsingham, Ontario, have started a profitable new sideline selling "colored" popcorn.

"There are very few producers in the U.S. or Canada selling colored varieties," Blair says. "People like the novelty of the colored corn and will pay more for it. Some of our varieties are Strawberry Red, Shamu Blue, Purple Passion, Peaches and Cream, and Traditional Yellow."

"They do have a different taste that's very pleasing to the palate," adds Livia. "They pop up very white with a colored, dark center - except for the Traditional Yellow, which has yellow popped kernels, and the Peaches and Cream, which has both yellow and white popped kernels."

The Townsends started out as tobacco farmers and began developing popping corn as an alternative crop 20 years ago. They grow and market up to 50 acres of popping corn and sell their product under the label, "Uncle Bob's Popping Corn."

According to Livia, the family's popcorn business is increasing yearly by 20 to 30 percent. They sell retail and wholesale, with a number of U.S. companies purchasing from them and then selling under their own brand name.

"A few large players dominate the popcorn industry but we have steadily expanded our market until we now sell to more than 500 stores," Blair says.

Colored varieties are harder to grow than traditional ones, according to the couple. They are also more finicky to handle, requiring more cleaning and polishing.

The Townsends' colored popping corn is



"Colored" popcorn is a profitable new sideline business for Blair and Livia Townsend, who farm near Walsingham, Ontario.

available direct from Ontario Popping Corn Co., and retails for about twice the price of regular popcorn.

Another very successful popping corn product is something the Townsends call "Pop-a-cob." It consists of an entire cob of popcorn, packaged in a poly bag, with a paper bag and microwave instructions for popping the corn right on the cob. Pop-a-cob is available in both colored and traditional varieties.

"That's been a huge seller for us," Livia says. "It's been on the market for about the last four years. It retails for \$1.50 to \$2 per cob."

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Firewood bag is a plastic mesh tube equipped with drawstrings at the top and bottom. It's designed to hang inside a metal support frame for filling. Once bag is filled, top drawstring is drawn and tied and the frame hinges open on one side to be removed.



"Bagged" Firewood Makes Handling Easy

"It eliminates one step in handling firewood and leaves you with a stable, secure, moveable quantity of wood to sell," says Janet Janssen, Apache Forest Products, Inc., Millet, Alberta, about the company's new firewood "bag".

The firewood bag is actually a plastic mesh tube equipped with a drawstring at the top and bottom. It's designed to hang inside a metal support frame for filling. The frame sets up on a pallet, and the bag hangs from steel loops along the top edges of the frame.

Once the bag is filled, the top drawstring is drawn and tied and the frame hinges open on one side to be removed, leaving a plastic mesh "bag" filled with firewood resting on a pallet. The bag and pallet can then be moved

and stacked using a forklift. Air flows through the plastic mesh, so firewood stored this way will continue to dry. The bagging system holds about 1/4 cord of wood.

"It reduces handling time and leaves you with a stable, secure, moveable quantity of wood to sell."

The bags sell for \$8 plus S&H per bag but are available for less with a quantity purchase. The metal frame used with the bags sells for \$460 plus S&H.

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