

Do-It-Yourself "Post & Beam" Barn Kits

Old-fashioned post and beam barns are alive and well, and you can order one today from Classic Post and Beam, York, Maine.

The company has just introduced a new series of do-it-yourself kits called the American Barn Series. Six traditional barn designs are available, ranging in size from the Farmstead at 1,302 sq. ft. for \$39,800 to the Ft. Morgan with 3,011 sq. ft. for \$69,000. Customers can also come up with their own design and receive a custom kit, says company representative Jim Nadeau.

"We ask a customer how they are going to use the barn and whether or not there will be a need for expansion over time, so it can be designed accordingly," says Nadeau. "We use a number and letter system, so the buyer can assemble the barn themselves with every day tools."

Prior to delivery, plans for a foundation are delivered to the buyer. At the time of delivery, full payment is made, and the buyer gets a full set of building plans, a construction

guide and photo illustrations of how to construct the building. In addition, all sales are supported with a 7-day a week, toll-free phone line for any questions that come up.

The kit includes everything from posts and beams to shingles and flashing, insulation and caulking, and siding and screws.

"No unusual equipment or tools are required," says Nadeau.

Although everything is included in the standard package, buyers can strip their purchase price right down to the frame itself, if they wish. While the barns are designed for use as livestock or for storage of equipment, workshops or studios, they could be modified for house use as well, says Nadeau.

"The barns are not insulated, but we could make any of our designs into a home by insulating it," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Nadeau, Classic Post and Beam, Box 546, York, Maine 03909 (ph 800 872-2326, Website: www.classicpostandbeam.com).



Do-it-yourself kit lets you build old-fashioned post and beam barns. No unusual equipment or tools are required.

Home-Built Hydraulic Rock Rake

Chuck Daus wanted a rock rake to clean up his fields, but the only one he could find that was close to what he wanted was available only in a 3-point hitch version.

"I wanted a pull-type rake because I felt it would do a better job if it were mounted on wheels that were running over the ground you just de-rocked and smoothed, rather than moving up and down with the tractor from the rough terrain," he says.

Daus does a lot of shop work so he decided to make what he needed to.

With the help of a friend, he put together an all-hydraulic side delivery rock rake that can be angled to windrow rocks to either side.

He made the rotor of 6-in. dia., 5/16-in. walled pipe, with 3/4-in. sq. solid steel bars wrapped at an angle around the outside of it. The bars sift and winnow the rocks. He says twisting the bar around the pipe, so the whole sifter bar is not in contact with the ground at one time, prevents excess bouncing.

They mounted the rotor in a frame using 1/2-in. plate steel for the sides and 1/4-in. plate for the rest. A piece of 8-in. I-beam was used to make an arching tongue, and for wheels they used an axle designed for a 3,000-lb. trailer.

The rotor is chain-driven by a hydraulic motor. "Powering the rotating drum with hydraulics is much better than with a pto because if the drum gets a rock jammed in it, the hydraulics will stall rather than brake a shear pin or worse. And I can just reverse the motor to back off the drum and release the jammed rock," he says.

Hydraulic cylinders control the angle of the rotor and height of the sifter by raising or lowering the rear-mounted wheels.

Although he bought the trailer axle and



Rotor is chain-driven by a hydraulic motor. Rake is angled to windrow rocks to either side.



Rotor is equipped with 3/4-in. sq. solid steel bars wrapped at an angle around it. Bars sift and winnow the rocks.

hydraulic motor new and had the hoses made at a local shop, he was still able to put the entire machine together for under \$800. "That's less than 25 percent of the cost of the commercial three point machines and I think mine does a better job," he says.

"My buddy and I put in about 35 hours in the shop, total," he adds. "The most difficult part was bending the steel bar and welding it onto the pipe to make the sifter rotor."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chuck Daus, Ickes Heights Road, Imler, Penn. 16655 (E-mail: dauscj@nb.net).

Liquid Hand Pump

Pumping liquids is as easy as opening and closing a faucet with this new low-cost, hand-operated transfer pump.

The GoatThroat™ pump attaches to any container from 2-gal. jugs to 55-gal. drums. It can be safely used with a wide variety of liquids, including fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, fuels and chemicals.

The hand pump pressurizes a container with a few strokes of the piston. Then you tap down on a "faucet" to dispense liquid in precise amounts, adjustable up to 4 1/2 gal. per minute.

Three drum seals are provided with each pump, to fit and pressurize different size containers. Four siphon tube segments are provided and can be used singly or in combination. The siphon tubes adjust from 12 to 36 in. Additional tubes can be ordered, and tubes can easily be cut to length for use with custom container sizes.

"Conventional methods using gravity transfer from drums stored on their sides can cause leaks and spills, whereas the GoatThroat's spill-proof 'faucet' keeps work areas clean and helps prevent spills," says Rebecca Scherer, with distributor Fred C. Gilbert Co., Bakersfield, Calif. "The unique air-pressure dispensing system allows containers to be completely drained while remaining in a safe, upright position. There's no need to risk turning a barrel on its side, or waste time and money cleaning up spills or overflows."

Three pump models are available, each designed for use with specific liquids. Sells for \$135 to \$200 depending on the type of seal.

An optional remote discharge, thumb-operated tap with extension hoses is also available. Sells for \$50 to \$75 depending on the seals and extension hose used.



Hand pump pressurizes a container with a few strokes of the piston. Then you tap down on a "faucet" to dispense liquid in precise amounts, adjustable up to 4 1/2 gal. per minute.

And an optional backpack sprayer kit lets you use the pump to apply fertilizers and pesticides to plants in greenhouses, fruit groves and fields. Sells for about \$100.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fred C. Gilbert Co., 106 Norris Road, Bakersfield, Calif. 93308 (ph 800 494-3733 or 661 399-9569; fax 661 393-9654; Website: www.fcgilbert.com).

Sounds Of Bawling Calves Prompt Cows To Produce More Milk

Researchers at the University of California vet school in Tulare have been able to boost milk production 1 to 2 percent by playing the sound of bawling calves in milking parlors.

Brenda McCowan, lead researcher for the project, found that milk production increased for the session immediately following the session in which cows heard the calf tapes. Her conclusion was that the sounds stimulated a biochemical reaction resulting in more production later, and was not

merely an increase in milk letdown. The boost in production was relatively inexpensive to induce. All you need is a tape player and a couple speakers.

McCowan simply taped 4 different calves right at feeding time. She tried to make the tapes as realistic-sounding as possible and then played them back at "calf height" in the parlor. Tapes were played on alternating days in order to confirm the boost in production.

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