

Money-Making Ideas To Boost Farm Income

If you're looking for new ways to add to your bottom line, take a look at the money-making ideas featured here and on the next page.

If you've found or heard about a new income-boosting idea, we'd like to hear about it. Send details to: FARM SHOW Magazine, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665) or email us at: editor@farmshow.com.

Minnesotan On Mission To Cover State With Ginkgo Trees

If Kun Hung's vision comes true, Ginkgo Biloba trees will line boulevards in cities and fill rural windbreaks all across Minnesota.

"My goal is to make the ginkgo tree affordable for every family," he says. He plans to grow 100,000 trees himself.

It's an ambitious goal, since it takes at least three years to get them to a transplantable size and they grow slowly at first. But ginkgo trees have so many good qualities that he believes they're worth the effort.

"In China, some trees are several hundred years old," he says. "They're called a living fossil because they survived the Ice Age." In addition, Ginkgo leaves are used to treat disorders associated with aging.

Besides its longevity, the Ginkgo tree is a hardwood tree that provides good shade, is disease-free and, it's beautiful, with bright green fan-shaped leaves that turn golden yellow in the fall.

The variety is not new to the U.S. Missionaries returning from China in the 1800's brought Ginkgo trees with them, and they're common in some parts of the country.

Hung earned a degree in horticulture in China before moving to the U.S. in 1985. After a successful career in the restaurant business, he bought eight acres near Madelia, Minn. Following two unsuccessful and expensive attempts to import large quantities of transplantable Ginkgo trees from China, he imported 350 grafted tree roots and seeds.

Ginkgo trees have both male and female parts. In Minnesota, it's against the law to knowingly plant female Ginkgos in public areas, Hung explains, because they produce seeds that look similar to walnuts, but stink when they rot. By grafting male branches onto root stock, Hung's Ginkgo trees won't produce seeds. Most nurseries that currently sell Ginkgo trees don't guarantee that



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they're male trees, he notes. Seeds don't appear for 50 years.

It's a slow process. As he plants, grafts and waits for his ginkgo trees to grow, he makes a living growing and shaping bonsai trees and growing Asian vegetables for area restaurants and Asian markets.

His dream of seeing Ginkgo trees across his state motivates him. He started with the idea of lining boulevards, but now that he has moved to the country, he believes the 40 to 100-ft. tall trees would be perfect for windbreaks, too. The Ginkgo would add value, he says, because some day they could be harvested for their valuable wood.

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Bornean Bearded pigs have whiskers as long as 7 in. on their snouts and chins. They're the only swine breed in the wild that migrates for food.



Bornean Bearded Pigs Find Home In Tennessee

The old wooden dairy barn stood empty for a century until the Bornean Bearded pigs moved in.

"They demolished it in a week," says Jon Conley. "As Dad says, 'Only steel and concrete keep them in.'"

Wild swine are known for rooting - wood and ordinary fences are no match - but Conley is now set up for them and pleased to own a rare, private collection of the endangered breed from Borneo.

With whiskers as long as 7 in. on their snouts and chins, and 6-ft. long torsos, Bornean Bearded pigs can be intimidating. They're also intriguing, Conley says, because they're the only swine breed in the wild that migrates for food. They're athletic, and can jump great lengths and climb tall walls.

Conley's pigs originated from the San Diego Zoo. "They're just extremely rare," he says, and there's concern they may not survive in their native lands due to logging, hunting and less fruits for food.

Their survival may depend on people like Conley and his family. The breed arrived in the U.S. in 1994; only 30 Bornean pigs are in captivity. With small litters of two to four pigs and the challenge of breeding them in captivity, increasing their numbers takes time.

Conley and other family members own and operate Tennessee Safari Park, a private zoo with more than 60 species from zebras and giraffes to tropical birds and wild swine. They also raise buffalo, pigs and other animals on

their Century Farm.

The wild swine breeds require similar fencing to wild cats, Conley says. He uses 8-ft. high tensile wire fences and lays 4-ft. tall page wire on the ground next to the fences to deter rooting. Though Tennessee has a moderate climate, Borneans also require shelter - concrete floors with steel walls work well. The pigs eat grass, grain and old produce such as bananas and other fruits.

In addition to Borneans, Conley says his family has the only private collection of African Bush Hogs, plus they have light-colored Javelinas, Bzicot European Boars and Wart Hogs. The Conleys also raise heritage breeds such as Berkshire and Tamworth pigs. Conley hopes to add the Chinese Meishan breed soon.

"Borneans are highly sought after by zoos, making it one of their top five highlighted animals," Conley says. "With only a few private collections of these animals, it will certainly make for a highly sought-after species in the elite collections."

Bornean Bearded pigs start at \$5,500 for weaned 3-month-old pigs.

Conley welcomes questions from people interested in exotic animals.

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Illinois Family Builds Horse-Drawn Vehicles

Sleighs, carriages, doctor buggies, even coffin wagons - Howard Chupp and his sons build and restore any type of horse-drawn vehicles.

The Arcola, Ill., family business fits the work in between their regular job of building one Amish buggy per week. Demand is good for both kinds of work, Chupp says. Work has been steady since he started his business in 1996.

Chupp, a former construction worker, got the idea after he ordered a buggy and was told he'd have to wait two years. When that carriage builder retired, he gave Chupp blueprints and some advice. Now, with the help of his sons and a couple of nephews, the back order for buggies is six months instead of two years.

"We use many of the same parts on the antique buggies, such as the wheels and running gear, that we use on the Amish buggies," Chupp says. "People see something

they like and bring me pictures."

He often starts by drawing the pattern on plywood, but the carriages are made out of all types of woods. Some are painted. Some have natural wood preserved with a marine varnish.

Occasionally vehicles are in splinters when they come to Chupp's shop, such as the coffin wagon he fixed recently. It was in a parade when the horse pulling it spooked and damaged the front end.

"We actually took those pieces and splinters and glued and epoxied them back together and re-formed intricate moldings on it," Chupp says.

Other interesting projects have been buggies and sleighs with fold-down tops that doctors used, and a wagon presumed to have originally belonged to Cyrus McCormick. Chupp says the hand-forged steel is old and he found red paint on everything.

Chupp has shipped his work to both coasts

Howard Chupp and his sons build and restore any type of horse-drawn vehicles. Photo shows a two-seat auto-top surrey.



and has many customers in surrounding states. Cost for a basic carriage with fiber-glass seats and a vinyl top starts at \$4,000.

"There's a lot of work out there," Chupp says. "There's a lot of driving clubs and also interest in trail rides. It used to just be in the

Eastern states and now it's spreading westward."

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