

## Pressure Sensors Fit Any Tire

For eight years the Tire Sentry System has been alerting truckers when their tires are under-inflated. Now it's available for pickups, vans, SUV's, cars and trailers.

The sensor system complies with the Congress-mandated TREAD Act requiring new vehicles weighing over 10,000 lbs. to have tire pressure monitoring on board, says Richard Van Dyke, president of Fleet Specialties Co., which sells Tire Sentry.

The system is wireless with a valve cap sensor for each tire and a display that plugs into the cigarette lighter that lights up and beeps if a tire loses 10 percent air pressure or more.

The tire sensors include an anti-theft feature and use watch cell batteries that last 18 to 24 months and indicate when they need to be changed.

The cost ranges from \$295 for a four-tire system, to \$389 to monitor six tires on a truck or trailer.

"This was originally designed for the trucking industry," Van Dyke explains.

"All our Tire Sentry systems are built to



Valve cap sensor alerts driver when tire is under-inflated.

rugged truck specifications."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fleet Specialties Co., Tire Sentry, 31328 Via Colinas, Suite 104, Westlake Village, Calif. 91362 (ph 818 889-1716; www.tiresentry.com).



Zip-Up Ceiling Systems zip into place and zip back out when you need to work on plumbing or wiring.

## Easy-To-Install "Drop" Ceiling

IG Creative Solutions is hitting the market with their first product, and it's a slick one. Zip-Up Ceiling Systems literally zip into place and zip back out when you need to work on plumbing or wiring. Each 16-ft. panel has lips on its edges that snap into place in matching grooves on mounting rails.

"My husband and his brothers came up with the concept, and it has really taken off," says Anita Maley. "Our ceilings are being installed everywhere from an MGM Grand hotel in Detroit to pole barns and chicken coops."

What businesses and individuals like is the ease of installation and the ability to quickly remove panels later if necessary. Maley says the panels are easy to power wash, which appeals to commercial operators as well as livestock owners. People also like the fact that minimal ceiling height is lost.

"With most drop ceilings you lose four to six inches or more, but with ours you only lose two inches," she says.

A variation on the interior product is called the Underdeck System. It installs under outdoor decks with a slight slope, creating a dry area below.

"It acts as its own gutter system and stands up well to snow and ice," says Maley. "There have been no problems with leaking or expanding and contracting."

The interior system sells for \$3.25/sq.



Zip-up system can also be used to put up a rain-proof ceiling under wood deck.

ft. and is available in white and black. Underdeck sells for \$4 to \$5 and comes in white and beige.

Maley says the Zip-Up Systems are guaranteed to never lose their grip. "We have installed and taken down our show booth thousands of times, and the panels are still as tight as when it was new. There are no toxic contaminants in it," she says.

Maley says the products can be ordered direct from the company, or call the company or check the website for a dealer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, IG Creative Solutions Inc., 23697 Regency Park Drive, Warren, Mich. 48089 (ph 586 757-5722 or toll free 888 449-4787; fax 586 757-5766; service@zipupceiling.com; www.zipupceiling.com).



Hopper is about the width of a loader bucket and has an opening at the bottom. It keeps elevator full without overloading it.

## Hopper Feeds Corn To Grinder

Roger Keller of Pomeroy, Ohio, recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a metal hopper he built for a neighbor, who uses it to feed ear corn into an elevator that delivers corn into a feed grinder. The bottom part of the hopper is open and has an adjustable sliding door to control the flow.

The hopper is made from 16-ga. metal and stands on four legs that have skids made from 1-in. pipe. The bottom of the hopper is located just a few inches above the elevator. The hopper is just a little wider than a loader bucket.

"It keeps the elevator full without overloading it, which saves time," says Keller. "My neighbor stores ear corn inside a shed and places the feed grinder just outside the shed. He dumps a bucket full of corn into the hopper, then goes back for another load with the elevator and grinder running. By the time he gets back, the hopper is just



Hopper opening has an adjustable sliding door to control the flow.

about empty. He adjusts the size of the opening by loosening a couple of bolts set in slots and then raising or lowering the sliding door."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Keller, 34856 St. Rt. 7, Pomeroy, Ohio 45769 (ph 740 985-4434).

## He Made His Own Biodiesel Processor

Robert Robinson's been happily using his home-built biodiesel processor for four years.

"My raw material is used cooking oil that I get for free from restaurants. It's usually partially hydrogenated, so I decant the liquid vegetable oil off the top, filter it, and use it for fuel in a 'straight' Mercedes Benz that I've converted to run on vegetable oil," Robinson says. "With the hydrogenated fraction, I pour about 35 gallons at a time through a strainer, and into the biodiesel processor. It heats up the oil to 120° F and I add about 7 gal. of methanol, into which I've mixed a certain amount of lye. Then the processor stirs the mixture for 1 to 1 1/2 hrs. Next, I transfer the reactants over to a settling barrel, where I let it settle for at least eight hours."

The biodiesel reaction produces glycerin as a byproduct, and since it's heavier than the biodiesel, it settles to the bottom where Robinson can drain it off. He's usually left with 30 to 35 gal. of biodiesel per batch.

"I use this biodiesel in my 4-WD GMC Suburban, but have also supplied some friends and family members with biodiesel to use in their diesel trucks or cars," the Sacramento, Calif. man explains.

To set up the system, Robinson had design and engineering help from his friend Maurice Leighton.

The "single 60-gal. tank biodiesel processor" is made from a propane tank set vertically. The rounded bottom has four threaded ports for the heating element, thermostat and drain. The other end is cut off to accept the motor, bearings, paddle shaft and lid of the pour opening.

"The thick walls made it suitable for the installation of electrical hardware, and the height of a propane tank reduces the floor area needed, compared to barrel-type tanks,"



Robert Robinson and Maurice Leighton put together this biodiesel processor four years ago. The raw material is used cooking oil from restaurants.

Leighton explains. "This operating system has an 'auto run cycle' that enables the heater to operate, then turn off and automatically begin the mixer motor cycle for a pre-set time before shutting off automatically. There's also an 'option cycle' that just operates the 'mix motor cycle' without heat."

According to Robinson and Leighton, anyone can build this processor if they have electrical knowledge and experience with wiring schematics and relays. Robinson will answer questions by email. He'll sell detailed plans and schematics if there's enough interest.

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