

Speedy Way To Bundle Up Firewood

Selling bundled firewood can be much more profitable than selling wood by the cord. The Wood Beaver Twister is a firewood wrapper that's fast, safe and durable, according to Scott Eifler, owner of Resource Recovery Systems, Inc., which sells recycling, construction and forestry equipment.

Eifler invented the patent pending Wood Beaver Twister, which is made in Wisconsin. The 30-lb. bundles are commonly sold to campgrounds, convenience stores, gas stations and other businesses.

The process is simple. Place wood (about eight pieces up to 24 in. long) in a pre-measured galvanized carrier, which is shorter than the wood. The carrier remains stationary while the operator holds the wrap across the top of the bundle and pushes a foot pedal to spin a plate around the wood, which wraps the bundle with 12-in. shrink wrap. A label can be slipped in under the plastic. Total wrap time is less than 15 seconds.

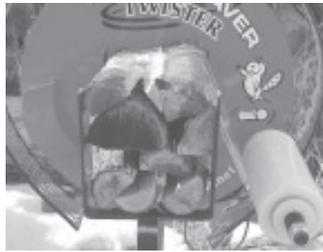
The system comes with four drop-through baskets to speed up the process. One person can make 75 bundles/hour. Two people can make up to 120. The Twister is portable on 8-in. wheels and has a steel-gear 1/4 hp motor with a two-year warranty. Cost is \$1,995.

Resource Recovery Systems also sells hand crank firewood bundlers, rolls of shrink wrap, and web nylon handles to staple or nail on to the bundles for customer convenience. One cord of wood nets 170 bundles.

Eifler's company also sells firewood processors made by a company in Fin-



Wood Beaver Twister firewood wrapper is operated by pushing on a foot pedal.



Wood is wrapped with 12-in. shrink wrap.

land that has a reputation for quality, innovative products. Prices start at \$7,200 for processors that cut, split and convey wood. More information is available on Resource Recovery Systems' website.

Eifler welcomes dealership inquiries. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Resource Recovery Systems Inc., 1117 West-rain Dr., Hartford, Wis. 53027 (ph 800 569-6813; www.woodbeavernet).

A Growing Business: Pet Memorial Services

It may seem like a risky venture to open a funeral home strictly for pets, but that's what Coleen Ellis did four years ago. Grieving from the loss of Mico, a 14-year-old dog she adopted from a shelter, Ellis decided to transfer her experience arranging funerals for people to helping people say goodbye to beloved pets.

Ellis says she believes demand for pet funeral services will be strong in both urban and rural areas. Her first Pet Angel Memorial Center opened near Indianapolis in Carmel, Ind. The second opened in Wichita, Kansas.

"Wichita is in a rural area of the country. It's very interesting how many farmers working with cattle dogs come to us," Ellis says. "You don't need a big city area like Chicago to offer these services."

Ellis and her team offer a variety of services including pickup from the veterinarian office, cremation, burial service, and a host of personalized items that memorialize pets.

"The two big comments we hear from families are that they appreciate the very respectful care of their pets. And, more importantly, we give people permission to grieve the loss of their pets," Ellis says.

The majority of the center's clients choose to have their pets cremated, and the ashes are placed in urns. Some have said their goodbyes at home or at the vet's office. Others want to gather with friends and family for a short service at Pet Angel Memorial Center's chapel or visitation room.



Coleen Ellis helps people say goodbye to their pets. Sometimes they gather with friends and family in this chapel.

Usually the groups are small, but Ellis says Pet Angel once coordinated a service with 500 mourners for a police dog killed in the line of duty, complete with honor and color guards.

Though cats and dogs are most common, the center has provided services for birds, a miniature horse, hamsters, goldfish and an iguana, for example.

If the family chooses, the center makes arrangements for burial at home or in a community pet cemetery or provides information about freeze drying and taxidermy options.

Ellis recently started franchising the business.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pet Angel Memorial Center, 172 East Carmel Drive, Carmel, Ind. 46032 (317 569-6000; www.petangelmemorialcenter.com).



Donnie and Paula Beechler with mobile home raw material in background.

"Upscale Sheds" Made From Old Mobile Homes

By C. F. Marley, Contributing Editor

"It's cheaper than building a shed from scratch," says Donnie Beechler of Springfield, Ill., about the remanufactured sheds he makes from old mobile homes.

Beechler is president of Beech-Built, a business he started to recycle discarded mobile homes. He's been operating a trailer court for years and has had to get rid of a lot of old mobile homes. Typically, the mobile homes would last 20 to 30 years and then be sent to a landfill.

"It costs about \$1,000 to get rid of each one. You've got landfill fees and the cost of getting the discarded trailer out to the landfill. I thought there had to be a better way," says Beechler.

He did some research and found that 200,000 to 300,000 mobile homes go to landfills every year. He also learned that most recycling methods only remove the metal and wiring from the structures. So he began working on ways to reuse most of the mobile home itself by cutting it into sections and then transforming it into a multiple-use shed.

Last March, Beechler showed his innovations at a local home builder's show where he got a positive response. Speaking about the demonstrator model he brought to the show, Beechler had this to say: "This was formerly the kitchen of a mobile home. The paneling is the original paneling that was in the mobile home. I turned the paneling around, patched the holes, and then repainted it. We reused all the paneling, the ceiling, the insulation, the light switches, and even the electrical outlets. We reuse 80 percent of the



The Beechlers with completely closed trailer shed. Other such units are built with bathroom fixtures.

original mobile home."

The sheds Beechler builds range in size from 8 by 12 ft. to 12 by 14 ft. Basic prices range from \$2,395 to \$4,895.

People have a lot of different ideas about how the sheds might be used, says Beechler. "Someone told me my sheds would make a nice facility for food vendors. Motorcycle riders say they'd make nice winter storage. And weekenders say they could use them as lake cabins."

Beechler says he may rebuild some mobile homes into upscale portable restrooms complete with toilets and showers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donnie Beechler, 2845 Sand Hill Rd., Springfield, Ill. (ph 217 638-7433; www.beechbuilt.com).

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our website at www.farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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"Made It Myself"