



“Wood cooker” on wheels sterilizes firewood by killing any beetles in it.

Cooker Kills Pests In Firewood

Jon Bell had trouble with beetles infesting firewood cut from pine trees. He built a “wood cooker” on wheels that “sterilizes” the firewood so it can be sold instead of going to waste.

“We get infestations of the beetle from time to time, and in the past we could spray infested wood with a chemical,” explains Bell. “We can’t use it any more so it often goes to waste.”

Bell made a shed that pulls loads of wood in on a track, heats it up, and then pulls it out the other side.

“I discovered the pallet industry uses hot ovens to sterilize their new shipping pallets,” he explains. “I adapted this idea using heat from a wood stove. I can process and utilize wood I cut and be certain the beetles are dead and won’t spread to other trees.”

Bell built his cooker on an old trailer frame. The galvanized tin covered shed is 7 by 11 ft., big enough to hold about 2/3 cord of wood. The walls are insulated with R19 fiberglass and the ceiling with R-30. To handle and hold the heat, he lined the inside of the shed with sheet rock. A wood stove made from a 55-gal. barrel provides heat. The stove is mounted through the wall with the door outside the shed. This allows Bell to feed the fire and control the heat level without opening the door of the shed.

“Electric fans stir the heated air and transfer heat evenly and efficiently to the wood,” explains Bell. “Temperatures are checked with oven thermometers placed high and low inside. I built it for about \$300 using mostly recycled materials.”

Bell heats the shed until the lower thermometer reads 170 degrees and the upper thermometer reads 225 degrees. He keeps the fire going for several hours before letting it die down and letting the wood gradually cool.

“By the next morning, the room is still more than 90 degrees, and the heat has killed all the beetles under the bark,” he says. “I’m careful not to let the room temperature rise above 250 degrees for safety.”

Bell says he can load, cook and unload a



Inventor Jon Bell made a shed that pulls loads of wood in on a track, heats it up, and then pulls it out the other side.



A 55-gal. barrel stove mounts in an outside wall.

batch every 24 hours.

Building the cooker on a trailer has come in handy. When friends have wood to cook, he simply pulls it to their site. Four additional cookers are being built, and Bell hopes more will follow. He thinks his cooker would be equally useful in other areas where wood is being destroyed because of insect pest infestations.

“The firewood that I cook isn’t smoked or charred,” he says. “It’s perfectly usable. It doesn’t dry the wood; that wasn’t its purpose. It kills the bugs.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jon Bell, P.O. Box 344, Lyons, Colorado 80540 (ph 303 747-2611; jonbell@indra.com).

Receiver Hitch For ATV’s

This new 2-in. rear receiver hitch for ATV’s and utility vehicles bolts onto the ATV’s existing ball-mount hitch. The manufacturer, Agri-Cover, Inc., of Jamestown, N. Dak., says the hitch allows you to use a variety of attachments and is quick and easy to install.

Fits many makes and models of ATV’s. Sells for \$55.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Agri-Cover, P.O. Box 508, Jamestown, N. Dak. 58402 (ph 888 357-5091 or 866 414-5422; fax 701 251-1512; customer



Hitch bolts onto ATV’s ball-mount hitch. relations@agricover.com; www.agricover.com).

Magnetic Valve Stem Caps

The developers of SnapCaps™ say their patent pending valve stem covers make it a lot easier to put air in tires. The snap-on magnetic covers replace “screw-on” dust caps.

A steel ring screws onto an existing air valve, and the magnetic cap simply sticks to it. “In tests, SnapCaps have stayed in place at speeds of over 200 mph. These magnets are up to 1,000 times stronger than conventional magnets of the same size,” says SnapCaps CEO Scott Perry.

SnapCaps stick to fenders or other steel parts while you’re adding air so they won’t get lost like conventional caps.

SnapCaps will also stay on during serious off-road activity, he says.

A set of four SnapCaps sells for \$9.97 (Can.) plus S&H.



Snap-on magnetic valve stem cover replaces “screw-on” dust caps.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Snap Caps, P.O. Box 28168, Westshore RPO, Victoria, B.C. Canada V9B 6K8 (fax 250 478-6139; info@snapcaps.ca; www.snapcaps.ca).

Pto-Powered Ditcher For Smaller Jobs

If you’ve always wanted a ditching machine but were put off by the price, here’s a new unit that’s affordably priced and has many of the features found on bigger models.

“Our new 3-pt. mounted, pto-driven ditch cleaner works great for cleaning waterways or making smaller channels to drain wet fields. It comes with a 12-in. dia. cutterhead equipped with four blades,” says David Guidry, Bayou Machines & Fabrications, Breaux Bridge, La.

The company previously offered a bigger ditcher equipped with a 24-in. dia. cutterhead and eight knives (FARM SHOW’S Vol. 22, No. 6). It was designed to be pulled by a 150 hp tractor and sold for about \$6,000. The new model can be pulled by a 25 to 50 hp tractor and sells for just \$2,100 plus S&H.

The unit’s frame is made from 2-in. sq. tubing and fits Cat. I quick hitches. Hard surface blades are available.

“We tried to keep the price down for smaller farmers and ranchers,” says Guidry. The machine requires very little maintenance because it’s direct driven with a shear bolt. It has no gearboxes, chains or sprockets.



Affordably-priced ditcher has many of the features found on bigger models.

Guidry is looking for dealers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David or Mary Guidry, Bayou Machines & Fabrications, 1053 Cajun Tractor, Poche Bridge Road, Breaux Bridge, La. 70517 (ph 337 332-1226 or 337 332-6518; fax 337 332-3501; ctpbmf@aol.com).

Auto Shutoff For Remote Water Tanks

Filling multiple stock tanks from a remote well just got a lot easier. Instead of relying on a timer and wasting water when underused tanks run over, you can fill only those tanks that need filling.

“It’s easy to set up an auto shutoff when a pump is filling a single tank,” says Dietsch. “It’s a lot harder when you have multiple tanks strung out over several miles, all operating off a single well.”

Dietsch markets stand-alone, 7-kW gensets that operate on propane in remote locations. They’re popular with ranchers who need a way to get water to cattle on pasture. A timer can be set to automatically start the genset and begin pumping water. As each tank on the pipeline fills, the float shuts off the water. If the pump doesn’t shut down when the last valve shuts, it may blow one or more valves.

Dietsch’s new auto shutoff monitors pressure in the pipeline. When the pressure spikes as the last valve closes, it immediately shuts down the well pump before the pressure can build enough to override the floats.

“There’s only a second or two in which this pressure spike must be identified and action taken,” says Dietsch. “What it means is that instead of running their pumping system so many hours a day, whether or not cattle are



Auto shutoff makes it easier to fill multiple stock tanks from a remote well, without having to rely on a timer

drinking, it only runs when needed. This eliminates fuel and water waste.”

Dietsch points out that water runoff around a tank can create environmental problems and herd health problems as well.

The auto shutoff sensor is a simple 6-in. sq. box that bolts onto a standard genset. It retails for \$400 and can be retrofitted in 15 minutes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lee Dietsch, 514 Twp. Rd. 8 B E, Hamler, Ohio 43524 (ph 419 233-7708).