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 anymore 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 of 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 225 degrees. He keeps the thermometer reads 225 degrees. He keeps the recycled materials.”

Inside. I built it for about $300 using mostly recycled materials.”

“By the next morning, the room is still 104 °F, and the heat has killed the beetles in the wood,” explains Bell. “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 heats the shed until the lower thermometer reads 225 degrees. He keeps the thermometer reads 225 degrees. He keeps the recycled materials.”

“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. 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 easily 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.”

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### 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.

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### 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 50 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.

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

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

Dietrich stands-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 generator 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 drinking, it only runs when needed. This eliminates fuel and water waste.”

Dietsch points out that water running 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.

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