

He Made His Own Platform Weigh Scale

"Having my own on-farm platform scales has saved me a lot of time hauling grain to town," says Mark Musser, Beecher City, Ill.

He used the bed from a 35-ft. semi trailer as a platform and installed four load cells under it, one at each corner. He paid \$50 for a used semi trailer bed, which he cut back to 25 ft. He also widened the bed 1 ft. on each side to a width of 11 ft. A read-out monitor at one corner of the scale is enclosed in a weatherproof metal box.

The platform is covered with 3 by 12 bridge

planks, which add strength and spread out the truck's weight across a wider area. Musser used salvaged metal to make a roof over the scales.

"I use it to weigh short semi trailers loaded with corn and soybeans," says Musser, who rents land from several different landlords. "I paid \$1,000 for the load cells and spent another \$150 for other materials."

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Mark Musser used the bed from a 35-ft. semi trailer as the platform for his home-built weigh scale. He installed four load cells under it, one at each corner.



Duane King built this 3-pt. mounted "sweet corn" sprayer mostly from junk parts.



Tractor pto belt-drives a big 28-in. dia. squirrel cage fan and a spray pump.

"Sweet Corn" Sprayer Keeps Crop Insect-Free

Duane King farmed for 50 plus years, building a half dozen different pull-type sprayers over that time. But even though he's retired now, he hasn't stopped innovating. He recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a 3-pt. mounted "sweet corn" sprayer he built mostly from junk parts.

He used a big 28-in. dia. squirrel cage fan, pulleys and shafts from an old pull-type sprayer. The tractor pto belt drives both the fan and a spray pump.

"I use it to get rid of ear worms and stalk borers in my sweet corn. It sure beats spray-

ing by hand, and it cost less than \$500 to build," says King. "I plant sweet corn as a hobby to give away to family and friends. For the season I make 10 weekly plantings for a total of about one acre of corn. I won't stop planting until July 4, so I'll be able to harvest sweet corn until the first frost. I put drip tape between every two 16-in. rows.

"The spray comes out as a fog. I spray the corn every five days as it grows, starting at the flag leaf stage when the corn is about to tassel. I pull it with my Deere 1020 tractor, which has a 1,000 rpm pto."

The spray pump draws pesticide out of a 30-gal. plastic tank. Hoses lead from a pair of 12-volt electric valves to six nozzles mounted on a metal shroud just outside the fan. A bypass valve mounted above the pump adjusts spray pressure.

"The fan has a lot of power. I can set it to blow pesticide out to about 80 ft.," says King. "My sweet corn patch is narrow enough that even late in the season I can spray across all of it in one pass."

He paid \$120 for the squirrel cage fan, which had originally been used on a grain

dryer. The 2-in. Flow Max spray pump came off another pull-type sprayer that King had built 15 years ago. The pulleys and jackshaft and hoses came off a wet kit that was originally mounted on a Big A pull-type floater spray rig.

"My little Deere 1020 tractor is powered by a 3-cyl., 35 hp engine. It has all it can handle powering this sprayer," notes King.

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Shop Stove Doubles As A "Smoker"

"This wood stove heats my shop and doubles as a smoker, so I can smoke meat while working on equipment," says Del Stubbs, Leonard, Minn.

He made the stove from a 30-gal. water pressure tank mounted on four pipe legs and with a brake drum as a door. He bolted the smoker on top of the stove. It consists of an old 20-gal. oil barrel with a hinged metal door at one end that's made from 1/2-in. thick steel plate. A 6-in. dia. flue runs from the stove into the smoker and then out the top.

"Whether the top barrel is used to smoke meat or not, it adds efficiency to my wood stove by radiating more heat from the exhaust," notes Stubbs.

The brake drum door hinges on a long metal pin at one side of the stove. A metal baffle with a handle on it is used to control air intake. There's also a baffle on the flue above the smoker.

"I use it a lot to smoke sausages and chicken," says Stubbs. "I'd been using a small Weber grill but I wasn't very happy with it. I thought that since I use the wood stove to heat my shop half the year anyway, why not get double use out of it? Another advantage

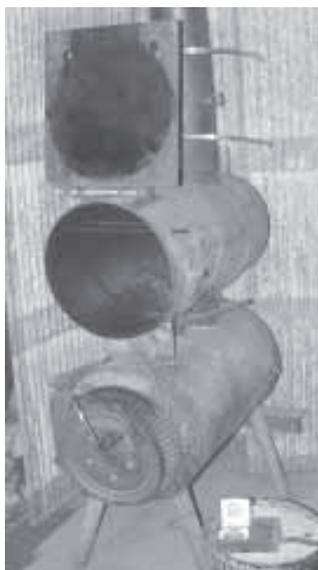
is that I don't have to light a separate fire.

"I think any wood stove would work with this idea. In fact, I'm amazed there's nothing on the market like it."

Stubbs hangs a string of homemade sausages from 1/4-in. dia. metal rods that extend through holes drilled into the smoker. To cook chicken, he just puts the chicken on a stainless wire tray and lays it inside the smoker. A meat thermometer with a cable attached to it makes it easy to monitor the process. An air temperature gauge extends through one side of the smoker. "At first I thought I'd need a middle baffle to keep more heat in the smoker, but I found it wasn't necessary," says Stubbs.

Stubbs says he used a brake drum for the stove's door "because it's made out of cast iron and won't warp when it gets hot". He placed fireproof rope - the kind made for sealing stoves - on the perimeter of the brake drum to make the door air-tight.

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Stove was made from a 30-gal. water pressure tank mounted on four pipe legs. An old 20-gal. oil barrel that serves as the smoker is bolted on top of stove. Homemade sausages hang from metal rods.