Loy Robinson drilled his own well for $400, and sells a book that explains how you can drill a low-cost well, too.

Do-It-Yourself Well Driller

Like Loy Robinson, you can drill your own well. With luck, you may even be able to do it for $400 like he did. You can do the research and figure out how to fabricate a drill bit, rig a pole and boom, learn how to install screens, casing and other essentials. Or, you can buy his book, *Drill Your Own Water Well*, and just follow the instructions.

"For years, I dreamed of drilling my own well, studying every book and CD or internet source I could find on drilling a well," says Robinson. "Most of the rigs I priced ran from half to the full cost of what a professional would charge to dig the well."

Robinson needed cheap water for his greenhouse and nursery operation. What he discovered was a method called percussion drilling, a simple age-old system. He designed and built his own tools and even came up with a novel method using a cement mixer to power the lifting of the tools.

"The idea is a simple one," he explains. "You raise and drop a weighted chisel blade into a hole to which a few inches of water have been added. The chopping action breaks up and blends the earth into a slurry. Then you remove the chisel and lower a bailer tool that removes the slurry.

"I drilled two wells myself with this method," he says. "The first hit a natural spring at 17 ft., but I went down to 39 ft. My second well is at just 80 ft., but this method has been used to drill wells hundreds of feet deep. All you need is enough pipe, a leaf spring from an old automobile, rope, bolts, gasket material and a pulley."

Robinson has his book on a CD priced at $11.49 plus $3.50 shipping, or it can be downloaded from his website for $9.99.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lost Creek Greenhouse Systems, 245 C.R. 2651, Mineola, Texas 75773 (ph 903 569-8541; herbs@lostcreek.net; www.lostcreek.net).

Reader Inquiry No. 48

Machined-Steel Grain Mill

Bitterroot Tool & Machine's GrainMaker mills are formed, not cast, in their Montana machine shop. Every part of the mill including the body, handle, hopper, stainless steel GrainBreaker auger and high quality alloy grinding burrs are made on-site, so owners Randy and Bonnie Jones can guarantee the quality. Many of the GrainMaker's parts are machined from solid material, including the dust cover, adjustment knob, main shaft and GrainBreaker auger.

The burr designs – one stationary and one that rotates - are owner Randy Jones' unique design. They've proven to be a great choice; in more than ten years of selling the mills, the company has yet to replace a part. The GrainMaker has sealed roller bearings for smooth, maintenance-free operation, an adjustable pressure control knob for coarse to fine grinding and a handle extension for better leverage. It takes about four minutes to hand grind a four cup hopper full of wheat berries.

The mill easily handles all types of grain and seeds, from tiny flax seeds to kernels of corn. It also makes quick work of oily products like coffee and peanuts. The powder coated finish and hardened steel burrs clean up easily. The mills weigh twenty pounds and must be bolted or clamped to a surface before use. They can be operated with a motor if you prefer.

Solid steel GrainMaker is built for heavy use.

GrainMaker mills come with a lifetime warranty. They can be ordered direct online at www.grainmaker.com for $425; the optional clamp is also available. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

For more information, contact FARM SHOW Followup, Bitterroot Tool & Machine, PO Box 130, Stevensville, Montana 59870, call 406-777-7096 or email sales@grainmaker.com.

Reader Inquiry No 120

Windmill Ceiling Fan

It's difficult to miss the full-size windmill mounted on the ceiling of the Kenny Bush family farm museum in Milan, Ill. The Baker windmill has a 10-ft., 38-vane fan mounted on a 32-ft. tower complete with ladder and work platform.

Bush had fond memories from his boyhood of windmills that pumped water for cattle, hogs and horses, as well as their house. About 12 years ago he found a Chicago Aeromotor windmill with an 8-ft. fan on a 30-ft. tower similar to the one he grew up with, and he installed it on his farm. Two years later he installed one on his daughter and son-in-law's property.

Eight years ago, he spotted the Baker windmill while attending an Indiana windmill convention. "It caught my eye and I decided it would make a great ceiling fan for the meeting room at our family farm museum," he says.

Lifting the tower with a forklift and bolting it to the ceiling wasn't difficult. Bush's main concern was safety in mounting the several hundred pound fan over the dining area.

A full-size windmill, with a 10-ft.dia., 38-vane fan and 32-ft. tower, is mounted on the ceiling in Kenny Bush's family farm museum.

He took a cone type variable speed friction drive honey extractor and powered it with a 3/4-hp gear motor to allow slippage for a smooth start, and when shut off allows it to coast to a stop. A lever controls the desirable speed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kenny Bush, 6706 78th Ave. W, Milan, Ill. 61264 (ph 309 787-1926).