

Auger Attachment Supports Hopper

"It holds the hopper and auger together so you don't have to handle them separately every time you move to another bin," says Darwin Johnsgaard, Stardust Farms Ltd., Stewart Valley, Sask.

The hopper support consists of a hinged metal frame equipped with a tube clamp, which is attached about 3 1/2 ft. from the intake end of the auger. To remove the hopper for cleanout, simply pull a lock pin and lower the frame to the ground.

"It lets you move the auger and hopper together, even if the hopper is full of grain or tools," says Johnsgaard. "A lot of farmers use straps to attach a hopper to an auger. Every time you move to the next bin you have to remove the straps and dump the grain out of

the hopper, then set the hopper back under the new bin and strap it back on. With our hopper support system, the only time you have to detach the hopper is when you want to switch to another commodity or do a complete cleanout.

Johnsgaard offers 2 different frames – one for large Agri Hoppers (\$280 plus S&H) and a smaller one for triangular hoppers (\$250 plus S&H). Prices may vary depending on different auger types and the need for additional brackets.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Darwin Johnsgaard, Stardust Farms Ltd., P.O. Box 5, Stewart Valley, Sask., Canada S0N 2P0 (ph 306 773-9047 or 306 741-7061; stardust1@sasktel.net).



"It lets you move your auger and hopper together, even if the hopper is full of grain," says Darwin Johnsgaard about his hopper support system.

How To Turn Manure Into Charcoal

You can make charcoal out of horse, cattle or donkey manure in a modified 55-gal. drum, says Jeff Hoard, Austin, Nevada.

"In less than an hour you can convert a 55-gal. barrel into a charcoal kiln with just a hammer and a cold chisel," says Hoard. "The manure charcoal looks and burns just like ordinary charcoal. I burn it in our wood stove for home heat."

Here's how he does it.

"First, I chisel off the barrel's lid and straighten it out. Then I pull out the 1/8-in. lip, which allows the lid to be put back later on without falling into the barrel. I turn the barrel over and chisel about 20 sq. in. worth of vent holes into the bottom.

"I like to use donkey manure because it's briquette size, but horse and cattle manure or chunks of wood work fine, too. The first step is to put chunks of manure on a tarp to dry.

"Once the manure is dry enough to burn, I dig a hole about 4 in. deep and a little bigger in diameter than the barrel. Then I put 3 or 4 bricks inside the hole and place the barrel – open end up – on top of the bricks. I put some paper and kindling into the barrel, along with a few buckets of manure, and light it. Then I slowly add manure until the barrel is completely full.

"As I fill the drum with manure the fire will fluctuate from a flame to a smolder, but eventually it returns to a flame. Once the fire is burning hot enough that it won't go out, I cover the bottom of the barrel with loose dirt to restrict air flow, leaving a 3 or 4-in. gap. Then I put the barrel lid on cockeyed so smoke can exit.

"As the moisture burns off, a thick white smoke will come out of the barrel. After the smoke dies down some, I use a 2 by 4 to



Barrel stands in a shallow hole. Note small opening, lower right, to let air into bottom of barrel.

smack the barrel a couple of times to settle the contents. The white smoke will come back for a little while but I watch it carefully. When the smoke turns to a transparent blue, it's time to seal the barrel and let it cook.

"First, I cover the bottom of the barrel on the outside all the way with dirt. Then I put the lid all the way on and cover it with dirt so the barrel is completely airtight. After 24 hours, I dump the barrel and screen the chunks from the ash."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jeff Hoard, HM Ranch, HC 61, P.O. Box 6108, Austin, Nevada 89310 (hm ranch@wildblue.net).

Horse Barn Goes Up In A Day

You can put up and install a 36 by 72-ft. horse barn in less than a day thanks to the modular pre-built design from Rocky Ridge Builders Inc. They deliver and set up the barn.

The Markerville, Alta., family operation builds the components in their shop, delivers them using 3 trucks, and sets them in place using a picker truck. The barns consist of three main pieces – two outside pieces and an upper level that goes between and above the outer sections. The upper level can be used as a hay loft, cozy loft apartment, studio, art gallery or guest room.

The barns are built with pine board and batten siding, and have stalls lined with pine tongue and groove kickboard from floor to ceiling. Each box stall has a sliding door, a window, and powder-coated grills and partitions. Barn size ranges from 30 by 24 ft. to 36 by 72-ft., so there are 3-stall, 5-stall and 11-stall versions, all with a tack room. Many options, such as tie stalls, are also available.

Pricing is dependent on location, but

company owner Karl Derstine says, "sales close to home start with prices of about \$30,000 for the smallest model, and can go up to \$100,00 for the biggest size."

Customers need to provide a level site, which is 10 ft. bigger on all sides than the barn's perimeter. It needs either a gravel or concrete pad, or concrete footings.

Derstine has had orders from all over Alta., as well as other provinces.

"The design is about a year old, and there's been tremendous demand for it," Derstine says. "Right now we're booked into the fall of 2010."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rocky Ridge Builders Inc., R.R.#1, Markerville, Alta., Canada, TOM 1M0 (ph 403 373-3419).

Modular pre-built horse barn consists of 2 outside pieces and an upper level between and above them. Builder sets pieces in place using a crane.



Modified fertilizer spreader is equipped with 3 ports on one side, allowing 3 workers at a time to fill sandbags.

Sandbagging Machine Built From Fertilizer Spreader

When a local highway construction contractor needed to fill 5,000 sandbags in a hurry, Bob Brown went to work. The Perryville, Ark. man converted an old fertilizer spreader into a high-speed sandbagger.

The spreader is equipped with three ports on one side, allowing three workers at a time to fill bags. The operator sets the sandbag on a metal table that's welded onto the spreader frame below the ports. Then he opens the mouth of the bag and pulls a lever that controls a slide gate.

"It works 10 times faster than using shovels

and, since I fitted it with a ball hitch, it can be pulled behind a pickup down the road at highway speeds," says Brown.

"The spreader holds enough sand for 500 to 600 bags. Each worker can fill about 100 bags per hour, without having to bend over. It works so fast that with 3 workers you need someone working full-time on a loader tractor, filling the spreader with sand, just to keep up."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Brown, 1026 Cherryhill Loop, Perryville, Ark. 72126 (ph 501 432-5358).

