

Money-Making Ideas To Boost Farm Income

If you're looking for new ways to add to your bottom line, take a look at the money-making ideas featured here and on the next page.

If you've found or heard about a new income-boosting idea, we'd like to hear about it. Send details to: FARM SHOW Magazine, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665) or email us at: editor@farmshow.com.

Keith Wyndlow and his daughter have run as much as 800 lbs. of carrots per hour through his homemade veggie washer.



Veggie Washer Cleans 800 Lbs./Hr.

Cleaning carrots and other root crops is a dirty job, but Keith Wyndlow gets the job done easily. He and his daughter have run as much as 800 lbs. of carrots an hour through his homemade veggie washer.

"It also works great with potatoes, turnips, or any kind of root crop," says Wyndlow. "Produce feeds through the rotating drum and water sprays them where they meet the drum surface as they roll. The design makes efficient use of the water."

Effective water use lets Wyndlow get by with low-pressure well water delivered by garden hose. He sets up the washer next to the garden so wash water and dirt are recycled back into the garden beds rather than run down a drain.

Wyndlow's carrot cleaner is also energy efficient. Belt-driven rollers turn the cleaner with power from a 3/4 hp electric motor. A gearbox with appropriately-sized pulley wheels reduces the motor's 1,800 rpm's down to 10 rpm's.

The washer stands about 10 ft. long and about 5 ft. high. The bulk of the length is the washing and draining drum. It sits in a cradle of rollers. Two rollers drive it, while two sets of rollers at either end guide it. The cradle stands on 40-in. legs.

The washer is carpet-lined to cushion the tumbling of the drum, which is a steel pipe about the size of a 45-gal. barrel. A steel frame lined with recycled belting extends out from the drum. Drain holes in the belting allow dirt and water to drain off. Simple nylon ties hold the belting in place. Water sprays the carrots the length of the washer drum.



Water is sprayed onto vegetables as they feed through the rotating drum.

"The protective guards over the moving parts were the toughest part to devise," says Wyndlow. "I wanted to keep the weight down, yet make the machine childproof."

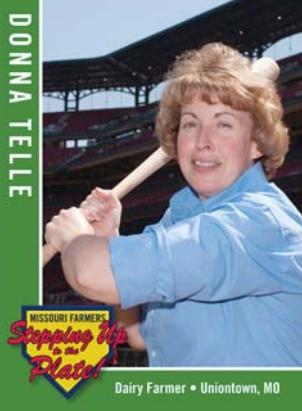
Wyndlow made one unit that he later sold to a neighboring vegetable producer. He and his family use the second one he made. At nearly 80, bad knees prevent him from doing the welding necessary to make more washers. "I would like to license my design for a nominal amount to someone to make," he says. "I would provide all my plans and exact specifications."

Wyndlow says the entire unit weighs about 800 lbs. He estimates it could be made and sold for around \$4,000. He says that is about 80 percent the cost of a similar sized commercial unit he had considered buying.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Keith Wyndlow, 13110 Doole Rd., Ladysmith, B.C., Canada V9G 1G6 (ph 250 245-4091; keith_kiyi@hotmail.com).



Belt-driven rollers turn the cleaner, with power supplied by a 3/4 hp electric motor.



"Our fantasy is to get kids to trade farmer cards the way they trade baseball cards," says Kimberly Clark, inventor of "Farmer Trading Cards".

Farmer Trading Cards Catching On Fast

An idea that got its start in Rhode Island and then quickly spread to Missouri and other states has brought a bit of fame and glory to the lives of the crop and livestock farmers featured on the new "Farmer Trading Cards".

"Our fantasy would be to get kids to trade farmer cards the way they trade baseball cards," says Kimberly Clark, who came up with the trading card concept.

Like many other states, Rhode Island has a Farm-to-School program, where farmers bring produce to schools and make presentations. Growers also contract with school lunch management companies. But Clark wanted students to have something tangible, and she recognized how popular all kinds of trading cards are with children. She developed cards with a photo on front and detailed farm information on the back.

"We started the cards a couple years ago and give them to schools to hand out," Clark explains.

They're given to children from grade two and up. Clark has been surprised by the response from older students and adults. So far, there are 20 trading cards. They continue to add new ones as more farmers become involved with the school nutrition program.

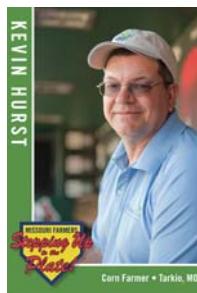
A coalition of Missouri farm groups (www.mofarmerscare.com) printed 6 trading cards featuring hog, corn, and dairy producers. Volunteers handed out the cards during 6 St. Louis Cardinals baseball games last year.

"We care about continuing the tradition of family farming while producing nutrient-rich milk."

DONNA TELLE

Raises: Holstein Dairy Cattle
Location: Uniontown, Missouri
Farming for: 27 years, a 5th generation farmer (her sons are 6th generation!)
Hobbies: FFA Alumni, Perryville Pirate Athletic Club

Meet other farmers and register to win the "Ultimate At-Home Tailgate" at FarmersFeedUs.org



Cards come with a photo on front and detailed farm information on back.

Other local Farm Bureaus and county extension offices have contacted Clark for information about starting trading card projects.

"We're happy to provide the template to anyone else if they would like it," says Clark, adding that they also offer the cards on their website so anyone can print them out.

For anyone considering making trading cards, Clark offers one piece of advice. "The kids love the ones with animals on them. Now as we create the cards, we ask producers to pose with pets or livestock," Clark says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kids First, 1005 Main St., Suite 1225, Pawtucket, R.I. 02860 (ph 401 475-9696; www.kidsfirstri.org).



Half-Sized Square Bales

"My customers really like my half-size square bales because they're easier to handle," says Verlis Smith, McCrory, Ark., who recently started making smaller size bales with his New Holland 278 Hayliner.

"Regular-size bales were too heavy to lift for some of my customers. Children and women can easily handle these smaller bales.

"All I did was set the bale length adjustment down until I got the desired size. I sell the bales for a little more than 1/2 the price of regular bales to cover the extra twine I use to bale them."

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