



Dog house is elevated 3 ft. above deck, with “dog stairs” providing easy access. There are large windows on all sides and an electric heating pad to keep it warm inside.

## Elevated House Gives His Dog A Great View

“My black lab used to love to sleep outside on top of a picnic table. He liked to have a good view of any skunks, rabbits or other critters who might wander through the yard at night. The problem was that he wouldn’t come inside on cold nights because he didn’t want to miss any of the action. I solved the problem by building a dog house that’s elevated 3 ft. above our deck, with ‘dog stairs’ for easy access. I installed large windows on all sides for good visibility and an electric heating pad to keep it warm inside,” says Larry Ahlman, Morristown, Minn. “Everyone who sees it says I must really love my dog.”

The 2 by 4-ft. doghouse extends slightly beyond one corner of Ahlman’s house and is attached to it. Made from plywood over

a 2 by 4 frame, it has 3 plastic windows and a front door. Rubber-rolled roofing stapled onto plywood forms the roof. The floor is carpeted, with the dog sitting on an electric heating pad. The stairs are made from 2 by 6’s and are also carpeted so the dog can dig its nails in for easier climbing.

“My dog loves it. So much that I have a hard time getting him to leave when it’s time for his dinner,” says Ahlman. “The front door is open and loses a lot of heat, so I might cover it with hanging plastic strips to help keep the heat in.”

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This longhorn cow named Shadow Jubilee recently set a world record for the world’s widest set of horns. They measure 88 in. from tip to tip.



## World’s Widest Set Of Horns

A longhorn cow named Shadow Jubilee recently set a world record for widest horns, measuring 88 in. from tip to tip at the World Championship Horn Measuring event in Texas.

Her owners, Jim and Barbara Steffler of Lapeer, Mich., expect the 12-year-old cow’s horns will reach 90 in. soon because she added 1 7/8 in. last year.

“She’s a very attractive cow with good conformation,” Steffler says, besides having a record horn spread. “She’s 1,200 lbs., which is large for a longhorn. She’s white with black spots. Most longhorns are white or red. What makes her super is that she is a very gentle cow.”

The former builder started raising longhorns as a hobby about 13 years ago, buying stock from the Dickinson Cattle Co. in Barnesville, Ohio. He was impressed by Shadow Jubilee’s parents, a bull named Shadow and a cow named Kentucky Blue. He almost bought the cow, but at \$4,000, she was priced much higher than the typical \$1,000 pregnant cow in 1999. The Stefflers watched Shadow Jubilee break horn records

for her age, and they wanted to buy a heifer from her. Instead the cattle company offered to sell her to them.

“I paid a good price for her because I knew she had potential,” Steffler says.

Now his hobby herd has grown to 30. He built 8-ft. wide chutes and 10-ft. stalls to protect the wide horns. He feeds them hay, a grain mix and a good mineral mix.

Horns have grown longer over the years, Steffler says, because of selective breeding and good feed.

He’s had other longhorns with impressive horns, including one that set a record public auction sale. A bidder paid \$170,000 for Candy Cane, a 3 1/2 year old with a 72-in. horn spread.

Shadow Jubilee’s genes continue through embryo transfer and natural breeding. Steffler sells her breeding stock and has two young calf bulls that he plans to use in his own breeding program.

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Tornado shelter simply consists of a schoolbus buried in a hillside and covered with dirt.

## Schoolbus Tornado Shelter

Storm shelters don’t have to be complicated or expensive. Ask Jerry Moore of Ohatchee, Ala. Last April, he and 13 members of his family rode out a lethal tornado in a schoolbus that he buried in a hillside and covered with dirt nearly 20 years ago. After 6 hrs. in the bus, the family stepped outside to a tangle of downed trees and power lines. Moore’s two daughters and son’s mobile homes were wiped out. Moore’s frame home also had extensive damage.

“We had always wondered if the bus would hold up in a storm,” says Jerry’s wife, Faye.

A few miles away, Moore’s brother, Larry, and his family found shelter in a van he had covered with dirt. They also survived untouched though they lost three mobile homes in the tornado.

Jerry Moore decided he needed a shelter after a series of tornadoes ripped through the area in 1994, including an F4 tornado that destroyed a church and killed 20 people on Palm Sunday in nearby Piedmont, Ala.

The old bus didn’t run and the seats had been removed. Moore covered all the windows with scraps of tin and hired a backhoe operator to dig a hole in a bank on his property. The backhoe pulled the bus into the hole. Moore covered it with tarps, and the operator covered everything with dirt – 3 to 4 ft. on the sides and about 1 1/2 ft. on top. The back was left open to use the emergency exit as a door. The whole project took just a couple of hours.

After nearly two decades, Moore says the bus is still stable and enough air comes in through the back door for short-term stays. He keeps water, food, blankets, flashlights and basic supplies in the bus, and the family uses it every time there’s a tornado warning. That’s pretty much every year in Alabama, Moore says.

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## Antique Fold-Up Ruler Collector

“As far as I know it’s one of the biggest collections of antique fold-up rulers anywhere,” says Mickey Arnold, Valley Station, Ky., who recently sent FARM SHOW photos of his unique collection of rulers.

Arnold has acquired about 120 fold-up rulers from many different states and also England. The rulers range in size from a 6-in. long, 2-fold model that’s small enough to fit into a pocket, to a 4-ft. long, 4-fold one. The rulers are made out of boxwood, Ivory, or metal.

“These rulers were made primarily in the 1850’s to the early 1900’s, before tape measures were invented,” says Arnold. “They were designed to be used by skilled tradesmen such as brick layers, tailors, carpenters, machinists, engineers, and so forth. I’m fascinated by the workmanship of these tools. There were many different



Mickey Arnold has about 120 fold-up rulers in his collection, all made out of boxwood, Ivory, or metal.

manufacturers, such as Stanley, Lufkin, Craftsman, Keen Kutter, and Stearns.”

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