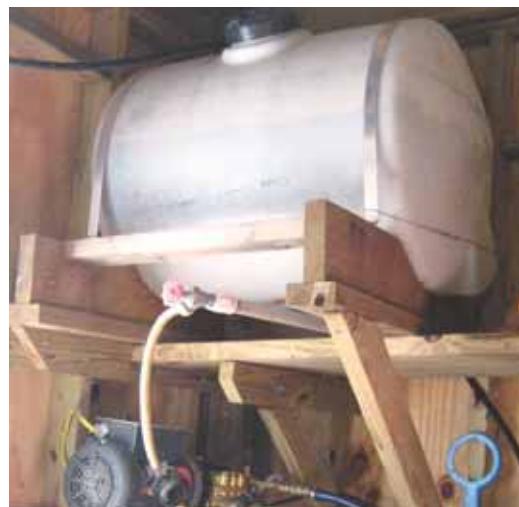




After he got tired of using buckets and sponges to clean cars, Jeffrey Yago set up this commercial-style "car wash" system on his farm.



He mounted a 50-gal. soap tank above a pressurized water line, with soap solution gravity flowing to a soap injector.

He Built His Own "Car Wash" For The Farm

Jeffrey Yago built a commercial-style "car wash" system on his farm after getting tired of using buckets, sponges, and other methods to clean cars, trucks and farm equipment.

"I tried a portable electric pressure washer, but it was low power and still required dealing with a hose, bucket, soap and an extension cord," recalls Yago. "I couldn't find a commercial car wash system sold as a kit."

What Yago did was to check out an area car wash and the components involved. They included a 2 hp, 1,500-psi pump with water hose fittings, a plastic chemical tank with concentrated soap and water mix, a 50-ft. pressure hose with hand wand and wall mount, and an extension cord with a built-in ground fault breaker. He later found a special high/low pressure nozzle and soap injector in a Grainger catalogue.

"I just ordered the equipment without really knowing how they worked," says Yago.

With some trial and error, he assembled the components and discovered he also needed an inline filter to protect the soap injector orifice in the nozzle. Grainger had one of those as well.

Yago mounted the hose, mount and wand on the outside wall of a garage with the rest inside. A water line connects to a sand/grit filter before hooking up with the 1,500-psi pump. A pressurized line leads to a soap injector and on to the pressure hose and wand. Yago mounted a 50-gal. soap tank above the water line to gravity flow soap solution to the injector.

The high/low nozzle controls the flow of soap into the line. On high pressure, back pressure from the water line blocks soap solution from entering the line. On low pressure, the soap injector pulls soap solution into the line.

"The documentation for the pump assembly

said I should have a filter in the water line supplying the pump, so I purchased an under-the-sink home water filter and selected a replacement cartridge that removes sediment and grit," notes Yago.

On the outside wall, he mounted a 10-ft. long pivoting hose arm above the window. With the help of two heavy-duty barn door hinges, the aluminum hose arm can swing 180° for easy access to far sides of equipment being washed.

For a washing pad, Yago laid down a thick bed of crushed rock. The pump is wired through a 15-min. timer mounted on the outside wall. Next to it is a section of pvc pipe to hold the spray wand.

"The pump and pressure hose package cost \$1,000, and the rest of the components were a few dollars each," says Yago. "The entire project took only a weekend to build."

Yago described the project in detail with a



A 10-ft. long pivoting hose arm mounts above one of the garage windows.

list of parts and supplies in an article earlier this year in Backwoods Home magazine. He's a licensed professional engineer and certified energy manager and has authored numerous energy and survival related articles and texts.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jeffrey Yago, P.O. Box 10, Gum Spring, Va. 23065 (ph 804 457-9566; www.dtsolar.com).



Calf Catcher attaches to front and rear of ATV and consists of a catch pen with spring-loaded gates. Operator opens the gates with a rope as he pulls up behind a calf.

Calf-Catcher Mounts On ATV

You can safely grab up a newborn calf from the seat of an ATV without worrying about mama cows. VH Mfg. says it makes working baby calves safer and easier than ever before.

The Calf Catcher is a mobile, 4 by 6 by 5-ft. high catch pen with spring-loaded gates. The operator pulls up to a calf, opening the gates with a rope. Once the calf is in the pen, a foot pedal on the operator's platform releases the gates to close and latch.

Initially designed for standard ATV's, extended hitches are available for use with larger 4 by 4 and 6 by 6 UTV's. The Calf Catcher attaches to the front and rear of the ATV with two-wheeled support on the far side.

A third wheel is available as part of a towing package. When not in use, it hangs

on the rear of the pen. For towing, the wheel slips on the ATV side of the pen and the rear hitch rotates into a tow position.

VH Mfg. also makes a sling for transporting calves. The sling can be used as part of a weighing option. A lift arm makes it easy to place a calf in the sling for either weighing or transport.

The Calf Catcher ranges in price from \$1,870 for standard wheelbase ATV's under 60 in. long to \$1,880 for UTV's with wheelbases greater than 77 in. The sling option is \$62, while the weighing system is priced at \$188.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, VH Mfg., Inc., 204 Westview Dr., Rock Valley, Iowa 51247 (ph 888 765-9846; sales@polytin.com; www.calfid.com).

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Expert Loves "Swan Neck" Hoe

A garden hoe that is a favorite of Eliot Coleman, well-known author and long-time market gardener, is back on the market. It has a blade with an angle of 70° and has been reintroduced by Purple Mountain Organics, a garden supply and equipment company.

"Eliot Coleman saw our other tools at a conference," recalls a Purple Mountain spokesperson. "He challenged us to recreate an old Dutch hoe that he prefers over any others. He loaned one to us, and we had them made by a Dutch company known for its forged garden tools."

A limited edition of the "swan neck" hoe has sold well. It has a 70-in. handle with a 7-in. wide edge beveled toward the user. The rounded shoulders slope to sharp points at either end of the blade.

"The angle of the head makes it easy to use," says the spokesperson. "It slides under the soil surface with a little chopping action. The angle of the blade ends lets you get in between plants. You can use one end to work in really small spaces."

The Coleman swan neck hoe sells for \$82.99.



Hoe has an angled blade with a 7-in. wide edge that's beveled toward the user.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Purple Mountain Organics, 7120 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912 (ph 301 891-2488; toll free 877 538-9901; www.purplemountainorganics.com).

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