



Arlo Anderson turned an old grain drill's rusty press wheels into an attractive trellis that welcomes visitors to his home.

“Press Wheel” Trellis Graces Rural Yard

Arlo Anderson found a use for the old Minneapolis Moline grain drill that was rusting away in his junk pile. He turned the drill's rusty press wheels into an attractive trellis that welcomes visitors to his home.

After removing the wheels from the drill, Anderson went to his machine shed and used a gas welder to remove the rust from the wheels. He placed a shaft in his vise and slipped the wheels onto it to make them easier to clean. “My wife and son helped clean the wheels with a wire brush and painted them white,” he says.

He started the construction process by welding 2 wheels together at a time and then welding pairs of wheels together. He hung the top wheels from the rafters when attaching the lower wheels.

Anderson used a loader tractor to move the trellis from the shed to the sidewalk in front of their home.

To anchor the trellis he dug holes, poured cement into them, and attached rebar anchor bolts to angle iron brackets that he welded to the bottom of the trellis. Steel posts on each side keep the trellis steady in high winds.

“We dug sod out from around the base of the trellis and planted vines, which should look nice next summer,” says Anderson. “My brother-in-law in North Carolina says old press wheels like mine sell for about \$50 apiece at auctions there. If so, we have a thousand dollar trellis.”

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Bathtub sets up about 2 ft. off the ground. The 4-ft. long open grill inside it can be easily raised and lowered by turning a big wheel located at one end of the tub.

Bathtub Barbeque Grill

Benjamin Baughman wanted a big barbecue grill that could handle large chunks of wood, so he converted an old bathtub into a 4-ft. long open grill.

The tub sets up about 2 ft. off the ground, and the grill inside it can be easily raised and lowered by simply turning a big wheel located at one end of the tub.

The tub stands on 4 rebar legs. Baughman turns the flywheel to raise the grate up out of the tub, then loads the tub with wood and starts the fire. After the fire is going he lowers the grate back down into the tub.

“It's big enough to feed a baseball team,” says Baughman. “It's not all that heavy. Two people can move it around quite easily.”

“I came up with the idea because I cut up old dead trees in our area to use as firewood. I didn't want to have to cut all the branches into small pieces.”



Baughman cut a rectangular opening in the bottom of the tub and installed a metal plate over the opening, attached to a rod that runs the length of the tub and has a horseshoe fastened to one end of it. When he turns the horseshoe, the bar rotates the plate and the ashes fall out.

A pair of holes cut into the side of the tub serve as vents. Metal plates welded onto horseshoes can be rotated to partially cover the holes and regulate the air flow.

“Some people said I'd have trouble with the enamel on the tub getting too hot and breaking off, but that hasn't been a problem,” notes Baughman.

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FARM SHOW®



Sheep-To-Shawl contest is a popular event at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show. Within 2 1/2 hrs., teams shear a sheep, card and spin the wool, and weave the yarn into a big shawl.

Photos courtesy of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Crowds Love Sheep-To-Shawl Contest

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

If you're looking for a popular event to add to a farm show or fair, Tom Knisely suggests you consider a Sheep-to-Shawl contest. Within 2 1/2 hrs., teams shear a sheep, card and spin the wool, and weave the yarn into a 78 by 22-in. shawl. 4-H youngsters have a version of their own, transforming a shorn fleece to a shawl in 3 hrs.

As they plan their 37th event for next January's 100th anniversary of the Pennsylvania State Farm Show, Knisely and co-coordinator, Joann Evans, note that with local TV coverage, the contest is more popular than ever.

“It's stronger today than it was 20 years ago,” says Knisely, who teaches spinning and weaving and once competed in the event. People take off work on a Wednesday to watch anywhere from seven to 10 teams compete.

One person shears the sheep, then helps card and prepare the wool for 3 spinners who pass the finished thread off to a weaver. Three judges offer several awards based on accumulated points for speed, spinning uniformity and the weaver's difficulty, evenness and accurate size. Another judge ranks the quality of the shearer's work.

Shawls are auctioned off for average bids of \$300 to \$1,000, although a few bring as much as \$4,000. The teams use the money raised to defray costs and/or donate to favorite charities.

The weavers take the event very seriously and meet regularly to practice as a team. Instead of purchasing yarn to set up the warp ahead of time on the looms, many dye and hand spin that yarn too, to add color to their finished shawls.

“Some of the patterns are very complicated,” Knisely says.

The youth 4-H contest added 8 years ago, has also become a very popular attraction at the farm show. With Knisely providing a running commentary and answering questions from the crowd, it's a good way to educate as well as entertain.

For information about regulations for a Sheep-to-Shawl contest, check out the Pennsylvania State Farm Show website (www.farmshow.state.pa.us).

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Completed shawls are auctioned off for as much as \$4,000.