

Corn Crib Converted Into Heated Shop

"In 2010 I bought a small acreage that came with an old drive-through corn crib. After my brother and sister-in-law helped us move in we were looking at the crib, and my brother told me I'd better do something with it or it would be junk in a few years. He and his wife offered to come help me for one week the next summer, and that's when we converted it into a nice large shop equipped with radiant floor heating," says Duane Claussen, Wanatah, Ind.

"We bought new trusses and tinned the roof, as well as 3 sides of the building. Then we installed radiant floor heating and put in a 10 by 12-ft. overhead door as well as a walk-in door. We've still got more work to do, but we're satisfied with the results so far."

The shop measures 34 ft. long by 24 ft. wide and was originally 30 ft. high with an asphalt shingle roof, which Claussen replaced with a low-angled metal roof. That lowered the building to just 14 ft. 3 in. The building originally had 8 overhead bins and a 12-ft. wide, drive-through alley running all the way through. The cement floor was 1 ft. higher than the ground and had a 1-ft. deep alley running down the center where a corn sheller's dragline could be laid down. Workers would then rake ear corn into the dragline.

"In January 2011 I started removing the overhead bins and the decking above the alley," says Claussen. "The goal was to get

the upper half of the building off before my brother came over to help. I knew that if I was going to make the building useable I'd have to take the inner walls out in order to open the building up. I nailed 2 by 6 boards across the opening over the corn crib to the floor of the old bins over the alley and laid plywood over them to serve as scaffolding. We used the scaffolding to install new trusses."

The building's walls were made from 2 by 8's and some of them had rotted away, so he replaced them with salvaged wood and then installed tin over it. "We didn't tin the front side of the building because I wasn't sure what kind of doors we were going to install," says Claussen.

The crib's interior walls were originally supported by a 2 by 8, but the sill plate was poured into the floor. Claussen rented a diamond cutter and jackhammer to remove the sill plate, then laid rebar in the alley and tied it to wall bolters. He put 6 in. of polystyrene on top of the old cement, then installed radiant floor heating and poured 8 in. of cement on top of it. He also installed floor drains.

He used the 14-ft. tall, 4-in. wide panels from a large meat freezer, which he got at work, to insulate the walls all the way around the interior of the building. He says he plans to insulate the roof.

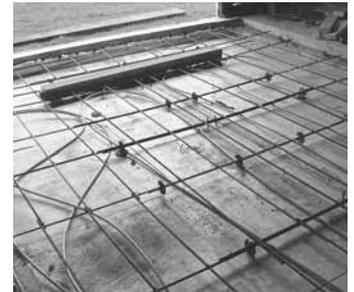
"I never figured my total cost to convert the barn, but I know it's less than I'd have paid



Duane Claussen converted this old drive-through corn crib into a large heated shop.



He put in a 10 by 12-ft. overhead door as well as a walk-in door, and added radiant floor heating.



to put up a pre-fab garage," says Claussen. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Duane Claussen, 11301 S. 1025 W., Wanatah, Ind.

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Old Washing Machines Get Big Crowds

Tim Matlack has gone to shows with old tractors and hit-and-miss motors, but his old washing machines draw the biggest crowds. Matlack says it is kids who get the biggest charge out of the old machines, especially one hand-powered washtub. He has had more than 6,000 people, mostly kids, use it.

"They have to plunge it 20 times and then run the T-shirt through a wringer," says Matlack. "The kids will come back 2 or 3 times to do it."

Matlack started collecting washing machines after picking up a gas-powered Maytag motor. Once he got it running, he found it kind of boring just sitting there. He started looking for equipment it could run.

"I looked around locally and ran across a former dealer whose father and grandfather had been Maytag dealers," says Matlack. "I found out they had thrown old machines into

a dump on their farm. I went down and started pulling old machines out."

Matlack also gets machines from people buying an old house and finding a heavy old washer left behind by the former owner. Today he has 10 Maytags with 5 in working order with gas-powered motors. He also has washboards and other old washing machines, including one built in 1900. In addition to Maytag washing machines, he has a butter churn and a meat grinder sold by the company to be powered by their motors.

"Maytag motors are considered collectible, but they are still in demand for use by the Amish," says Matlack. "They've offered me as much as \$800 for a restored motor. A lot of the time you find them for \$350 to \$400."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tim Matlack, Felton, Del.



Photo courtesy, Delmarva Farmer

Tim Matlack says his old washing machines draw big crowds at antique farm shows. Five of his Maytags have working gas-powered motors.

Rare Polaris Straw Chopper

Polaris is a big name in ATV's and snowmobiles, but did you know that at one time they made farm equipment, such as this 1962 Polaris straw chopper? Bill Thelemann had the straw chopper on display at a recent antique tractor show near LeSeuer, Minnesota.

"Polaris started out building grain elevators, corn cribs, sprayers, steam cleaners, grain vacuums, etc., in the early 1950's. They didn't start building snowmobiles until 1954," says Thelemann. "The chopper attached to the back end of the combine and was belt-driven. It worked well as long as the straw was dry, but often plugged up in tough straw. The company decided to recall their early straw choppers and rebuild them to work in all conditions.

"I got my straw chopper from a local farmer who had stored it on his farm. Polaris choppers are quite rare today, as most of them got scrapped out with the combines they were

mounted on many years ago."

According to Thelemann, Polaris developed a great reputation and a loyal following among farmers.

"If someone had a problem with a piece of equipment the company would rebuild it at no charge, even though at one time they were almost in financial bankruptcy. They didn't walk away from a problem and proved to farmers that they could always be relied on. They weren't afraid to recall products, or to build next generation products with features that made them work better."

How did Polaris get into snowmobiles? "The company founders were big hunters and trappers and wanted something they could drive back into the woods during winter," notes Thelemann.

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Polaris is best-known for its ATV's and snowmobiles, but at one time the company made farm equipment such as this 1962 Polaris straw chopper.