

Ecodrum Composts Swine And Poultry Quick

The Ecodrum composter from Tri-Form Poly is designed to break down swine and poultry carcasses fast and completely. The active air exhaust system provides optimum conditions to ensure compost exceeds the 131°F EPA minimum for pathogen reduction.

"We looked at possible markets, such as food waste and manure, but decided to focus on the livestock industry," says Tim Epp, Tri-Form Poly. "We felt they needed the environmental technology Ecodrum could provide."

The Ecodrum features a molded, non-corrosive, polyethylene barrel. No metal contact with composted material ensures longer working life. Powered rollers run the length of the drum, easing stress on the drum compared to systems using a chain drive at one end. The design draws air through the composter with every turn. Polyethylene foam insulates the Ecodrum.

The Ecodrum is set to rotate 3 to 4 times a day; however, rotations can be added manually or automatically. Product claims include reduced energy compared to incineration or bin compost systems. The rotating unit also requires about half the shavings or other bulking material compared

to a bin composting system.

"Each day material can be added, and each day finished material (soil amendment) is kicked out at the other end," says Epp. "Our design provides a higher core temperature (131 to 160°F) than other systems."

No preprocessing is needed. Units vary in size with the model 260 designed to handle up to 300 lbs. per day. The 660 has a daily capacity of 950 lbs. Epp suggests that the 260 would be ideal for a smaller poultry or farrow to finish operation. Suggested retail price for the 260 is about \$32,000. Complete composting takes from 4 to 14 days depending on the material being composted.

"A key feature of the Ecodrum design is that it is expandable," says Epp. "If you buy one today that fits your size operation, you can add to it later if you increase your operation. You don't have to replace it with a larger unit."

Tri-Form Poly doesn't sell the Ecodrum directly. Various regional dealers throughout North America handle sales.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tri-Form Poly, Inc., P.O. Box 299, Pembina, N. Dak. 58271 (ph 204 746-6401; www.ecodrumcomposter.com).



Ecodrum composter uses a molded polyethylene barrel to break down swine and poultry carcasses fast and completely.

Chevette Engine Drives "Made It Myself" Tracked Tractor

Layman Cornelison could have built a "rat rod" out of his old Chevette. Instead he decided to build a Ratapillar, using the engine, transmission and rear axle from the 1980 Chevette. It wasn't the first one he built, but it's the best.

"The first one was dangerous," recalls Cornelison. "It used a 6-cylinder engine from a 1949 Plymouth. The frame was shorter, and it had a short driveshaft. It tended to tip over backward."

The Chevette Ratapillar is 8 ft. long and 4 ft. wide. Cornelison built the frame largely with 4 by 2 steel tubing. He reused the 2 master brake cylinders from the Chevette, installing them on the rear wheels for steering.

"I geared down the engine speed with the help of sprockets and roller chain," he explains. "I mounted a 12-tooth sprocket on the driveshaft coming out of the 4-speed transmission, and an 80-tooth sprocket on the rear end with 85 roller chain connecting them."

When Cornelison bought the Chevette,

he also bought a second rear end. He cut the axle up, retaining the wheel and axle stubs. To mount the wheel stubs, he dropped short lengths of steel tubing from each side of the frame. He attached them so each could pivot from a single point. Turnbuckles attached to the bottom of the verticals and forward to points near the front of the frame serve as tensioners. Wheel stubs were welded to the end of the verticals. He installed 15-in. wheels front and back.

Cornelison made tracks out of rear tires from a C-Farmall. He cut the beads off and placed one over each set of wheels. Tightening the turnbuckles stretched the track enough that the rear wheels could drive it.

"I used a radiator from an old Nissan and a grill from an old Deere tractor, cut in two and pieced together," says Cornelison. "The rest of the body is steel sheet metal."

He used expanded metal for the driver's platform and a cast aluminum seat. He installed a clutch, gearshift and a lever to activate each brake cylinder as needed.

"It steers like a charm, it doesn't jerk or



Layman Cornelison's "Ratapillar" is powered by a 1980 Chevette engine. Tracks were made from the rear tires off a Farmall C tractor.

anything," says Cornelison, who recently built a trailer specifically for his Ratapillar. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Layman Cornelison, 6731 Center St., Ira, Iowa 50127 (ph 641 792-3379).

Control And Check Seed Fill With One Remote

Fill the planter and check on seed remaining in the seed buggy and planter units all from the same controller. Intercomp offers a full line of standard and custom load cells with a wireless junction box for on-board weight solutions. With their RFX wireless seed tender system and its optional transceiver, you get control of all seed tender functions, as well as scales, in one wireless handheld unit.

"The operator can use the remote to simply check weights. However, with a compatible wireless control package in place, he can also start/stop motors, control augers/conveyors, start and stop actuators, and more - up to 16 tender functions in all," says Chris Zins, ag sales, Intercomp. "In the past, an operator may have been using multiple controls for tender functions and viewing weights. With ours, it is all in his hand."

Multiple boxes and bins can be numbered and tracked with the Intercomp wireless controller. It allows the operator to view individual weights for seed boxes, as well as the seed tender gross weight. The operator can also auto-dispense selected amounts of seed, shutting down the auger when preset

seed weights have been reached. The operator can shut down the auger or close a gate and let the auger clean out before shut down.

Zins says the company's RFX wireless technology has been used in other industries including aviation, military and inventory management. While the company deals primarily with OEM's, it plans to offer retrofitting packages in the future. Currently the remote only works with Intercomp's compatible transceiver when controlling tender functions. However, it can be used with a variety of different load cells to monitor weights.

"If you have a tender control system already in place, check with the dealer or manufacturer to see if it is compatible with our remote," says Zins.

Base systems start between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Intercomp, 3839 County Road 116, Medina, Minn. 55340 (ph 763 476-2531; toll free 800 328-3336; info@intercompcompany.com; www.intercompcompany.com).



Intercomp wireless controller lets you control and check seed fill on planters and seed buggies with one remote.