A 2-in. pvc pipe lined with inexpensive showerheads mounts on the side of Lehman's front-end loader and is connected to a sprayer pump.

Lehman drives through his orchard, raising and lowering the loader to control width of area to be watered.

Modified Field Sprayer Converted To Orchard Waterer

FARM SHOW reader Jerry Lehman sent us photos of a 200-gal. field sprayer he converted to water his orchards and gardens three ways - boom spraying, gravity-fed slow soak, and via garden hose.

The main impetus for building his "water wagon" was the 20 acres of persimmon and pawpaw trees the Terre Haute, Ind., breeder planted.

"During the summer, watering a seedling tree can require as much as 5 gallons per tree every week. Irrigation systems are very expensive and the hose is an impediment to cultivation. Carrying water in containers was time-consuming and not practical," he explains.

Lehman recognized a labor and time-saving opportunity when his neighbor wanted $125 for his field sprayer, complete with a power takeoff pump. Lehman bought it and removed the field spray booms, feed hose, pressure gauge and regulator. He kept the in-line filter and hose to the pump and added valves and hose barbs to the pump output to turn each outlet on and off. He made the watering wand out of 2-in. pvc pipe, lined with inexpensive showerheads. The pipe mounts on the side of his tractor's loader and is connected to the pump with a 1-in. ID flexible hose.

"By raising and lowering the tractor boom I can control the width of the area to be watered. Now instead of filling buckets and carrying water to each tree I sit on the tractor and drive along the rows while the tractor does the work for me," Lehman says.

Using a trash water pump, he fills the 200-gal. tank with water from his farm's pond in less than 3 minutes. Water-soluble fertilizers poured in the tank are mixed and dissolved by the force of the water filling the tank.

When he wants to trickle water on his mature pawpaw and persimmon trees or his wife's flower garden, he opens the valves under and at the back of the tank to slowly gravity-feed water. To water areas where he can't drive, he unwinds 50 ft. of hose on a garden hose reel and uses the pump to spray water at 60 psi, the same as if it were connected to the house's water system.

"I have very little money tied up in it," Lehman says. "It isn't pretty, but it works extremely well."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jerry Lehman, 7780 S. Persimmon St., Terre Haute, Ind. 47802 (ph 812 298-8733; jwlehmantree@gmail.com).

EconoPanels were recently installed on the walls and ceiling of this new 2-story repair shop.

"Quick And Easy" Insulated Panels

"They eliminate the labor and cost of putting in stud framing and fiberglass batts, and are also very heat efficient," says David Stoltzfus, Marshall, Ind., who's a dealer and installer for Econo-Panel insulation panels. He installs the panels within a 100-mile radius of his home, but says a lot of customers also install their own panels.

The panels come with a 2-in. Styrofoam insulation core with a white metal surface and interlocking tongue-and-groove edges, with a weather strip inside to seal out all air. They're available in 18, 21, and 24-in. widths and lengths from 8 to 24 ft. Special "pan head" screws are used to attach the panels directly to wooden posts or 2 by 4's.

The panels can be used to insulate interiors like basements, shops, and garages, but are also designed to use in exterior applications such as exterior siding on farm shops, pole barns, garages, and sheds.

"We're finding new uses for these panels all the time," says Stoltzfus. "They've been used to line cold-storage rooms and are even strong enough to be used as shelving. They work great for insulating pole buildings. Instead of having to install 2 by 4 studs and then adding fiberglass batts between them and some kind of plywood or metal on top, you just screw the panels onto the side girders or posts."

Stoltzfus says the panels were recently used on a wall partition built to divide the unheated warehouse portion of a customer's building from the heated shop portion. "They installed 2 by 6 posts every 9 ft. and then screwed the panels to the posts. It eliminated the need to put studding in every 2 ft. the entire width of the building."

The panels are available in several different R-values. "The lowest R-value of R-8 is about the same price as regular metal siding and much stronger. If you take advantage of our quantity discounts, the cost drops to quite a bit less than regular metal pricing," says Stoltzfus.

"Econo-Panel insulation panels replace studding, fiberglass batts, and a top covering at a fraction of normal material costs and also reduce labor costs dramatically," he adds.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Stoltzfus, Econo-Panel Insulation, 5605 East High Bridge Road, Marshall, Ind. 47859 (ph 765 597-2016).

Vinyl flap doors on front of "community-style" nest box provide the darkness and quiet hens prefer when laying eggs. Eggs roll out into a covered galvanized mesh egg tray.

Egg Producers Call It The "Best Nest Box"

After setting up their first Rollaway Nest Box, Joe and Tammy Foose were instant believers. Egg production increased because there were almost no damaged eggs, and the eggs were not dirty, greatly reducing cleaning time. The couple was so impressed that they purchased more boxes from the local Ohio manufacturer and worked out an agreement with him to sell them.

"We believe it is the best nest box in the U.S.," Tammy Foose says. "The quality of materials, unique design and easy assembly sets it apart."

She admits first time buyers who are used to divided boxes are skeptical that their hens will adapt to a "community-style" box. Vinyl flap doors on the front provide the privacy, darkness and quiet hens prefer when laying eggs. And, Foose says, hens quickly adapt; multiple hens lay eggs in the 2 and 4-ft. boxes at the same time.

The nests are comfortable, lined with cut-to-fit AstroTurf® Poultry Nesting Pads that can be removed easily and shaken or washed to clean. Eggs roll into the covered galvanized mesh egg tray so they stay clean and are out of the way when more hens lay eggs. Simply lift the cover to gather the eggs.

The galvanized boxes work for birds on pasture or in coops and have an enclosed back so they can be used freestanding or mounted to a wall. The Fooses place them on bales in the greenhouse in the winter and on trailers in the summer for their pastured flock.

"These boxes are so versatile. They can easily be converted from a front to a rear nesting box," Foose says.

Another great feature is the multi-purpose roost bar.

"After the hens are done laying for the day, the roost bar can be closed, and the hens will be prevented from entering the box," she says. "The bar can be opened after the chickens have roosted for the night."

The nesting boxes come in two sizes – 2 ft. for $170, which accommodates about 20 hens. Up to 50 hens share the 4-ft. model at $230. Discounts are offered for quantity purchases.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tammy Foose, 7860 Brandywine Rd., Hudson, Ohio 44236 (ph 330 558-1120; www.bestnestbox.com; support@bestnestbox.com).