

## Portable Wedding House Built To Travel

Instead of renting a tent for your on-the-farm wedding, how about a portable wedding house? The idea comes from Ideal Manufacturing LLC in Gordonville, Penn.

"It folds up, and you can pull it down the road. Park it in place, and in 35 to 40 minutes it's unfolded and ready to use," says Eli Ebersol, president.

What really sets it apart is its wood floor that provides a solid, even surface on any ground.

Ideal Mfg. built the first wedding house in 2017 with the Amish in mind. Families generally schedule weddings between October and March, hosting them at their farms. Since few people have large enough homes or barns to accommodate their guests, they often build temporary wooden structures.

The portable wedding house provides a less time-consuming option.

Built on two heavy I-beams, with light weight metal framing and polycarbonate windows, the 25,000-lb. building folds down to 9 ft. wide and 60 ft. long when pulled by truck on the highway. Unfolded, the portable house is 35 by 60 ft. and seats up to 400 people.

Ventilation and tinted polycarbonate windows keep it from getting too hot, and adding a heater warms it during colder weather. The panels can be reconfigured to place a door next to a home's door. Typically, people gather in the portable



**Portable wedding house measures 35 by 60 ft. and seats up to 400 people. It's built with light weight metal framing and polycarbonate windows.**

building for the ceremony, and then tables are set up for the meal, which is prepared in the house.

Side walls are 6 1/2 ft. tall, and the roof is arched for strength and appearance.

"The roof material is a 2-layer tarp. After the roof is strapped down, we inflate the roof between the layers to prevent condensation," Ebersol says.

Four hydraulic jacks and cylinders are used to unfold and level the floor along with 10 support posts.

Since purchasing the first portable wedding house, the buyer says his calendar for this October-March is filling up.

Other customers have expressed interest as well, Ebersol says. People can use them for lots of activities including craft shows, seminars and auctions.

"It's a portable structure, so you don't have to pay taxes on it, and it's something that



**Building folds to a 9-ft. width for transport.**

generates income," Ebersol says, with about a 3 to 5-year payback.

Sizes of the portable buildings can be customized, and he invites people to call him for a price quote.

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## Flavored Oatmeal Drinks

A Canadian inventor recently came up with new oat-based drinks that come in powdered form to mix up instantly with milk or in smoothies.

"It gets cold here in the winter, and we wanted something warm as an option to tea and coffee," says George Barreras, Oatdeal. Barreras and his wife Hiscay escaped the violence of Columbia with their 2 children 11 years ago and were resettled in Saskatoon. With nothing more than 2 suitcases and optimistic expectations, they settled in.

Hot oat drinks are popular in many Hispanic countries, and the Barreras thought they would find them in the country that produces the most oats in the world. When they didn't, they decided to do something about it.

They focused on making a product that tasted good and was good for you. In addition to cholesterol-fighting oats, the dry mixes contain added probiotics and inulin to promote good bacteria in the digestive system. However, it is the oats that are the focus.

"Oats contain beta glucans that act as a fertilizer for healthy gut bacteria," says Barreras. "They balance the bacteria ratio in the digestive system and are linked to protein and nutrient utilization."

However, the Barreras' goal was more than just a health drink. "We wanted to create a Canadian winter drink made out of a crop grown on Canadian soil," he said. "Drinks like coffee, chocolate and tea are all imported."

Four years ago they started Oatdeal with a little funding from the Saskatchewan government. Initial sales were largely to areas in the U.S. with large Hispanic populations. Barreras hopes Oat Boost will expand the market for the company.

FARM SHOW received product samples,



**Oat-based, single serving drinks come in powdered form to mix with milk or to make smoothies.**

and we tried them out. The single serving-drinks were easy to mix up and tasted great. They were filling, but not overly so. Mixed with a cup of milk and microwaved for 90 seconds or blended into hot milk, they had a smooth mouthfeel and stayed in suspension.

Adding the suggested 1 1/2 tablespoons of Oat Boost to milk and fruit put the smooth in smoothie. It gave the cold drink more body.

FARM SHOW readers can order the products direct from the company website or from Amazon.com. They are also available from a growing number of retailers.

"We have a lot of customers who buy online," says Barreras.

The single serving packets of Avena Ideal and Oat Boost are available in an introductory package of 8 units for \$12.99 with free shipping in Canada.

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## Persistence Pays Off For Meishan Pig Producer

After 3 years, hundreds of emails, and dozens of phone calls, a pair of rare Meishan sows finally ended up in the back of Rico Silvera's van in 2016. Safely aboard, Silvera drove them from Illinois to their new home in Tennessee on a cold February day in 2016. "I literally rescued these two 350-lb. animals from the slaughterhouse," Silvera says with pride. "They were offspring from 26 years of research that wasn't renewed, so their days were numbered."

During a phone conversation to buy the sows, Silvera learned of 5 boars that were also available. He bought that group as well, sight-unseen and unbeknownst to his wife and farming partner. "When I told Angelia I'd bought those animals she thought I was a madman. But you know, it was probably the best purchase I've ever made. These pigs have been absolutely wonderful."

Buying the Meishans meant the Silveras family had to disperse their herd of American Guinea Hogs (AGH), which they'd spent several years acquiring and developing. Satisfied that the AGH breed was on its way to recovery, they switched to the Meishans. Now they own the most genetically diverse herd outside of mainland China, where the breed originated.

"The Meishan is an amazing animal with an even more amazing background," Silvera says. "It's the oldest heritage swine breed in the world. They are docile and sedentary, with a pet-like demeanor."

Because the U.S. research breeds have been dispersed, it's up to independent breeders to maintain it. The Silveras do that by selling offspring to heritage farms who want to raise them as purebreds or to cross them with other breeds and replicate their positive qualities. Their herd, acquired from the University of



**Rico Silvera is bringing back the rare Meishan pig, which originated in China. It's said to be the oldest heritage swine breed in the world.**

Illinois and the University of Nebraska, has 7 unique boar lines and four unique sow lines.

Meishans are hyper-productive, often producing up to 20 piglets per litter. Sows have 16 to 20 teats and superior mothering qualities that allow them to easily raise the large families. They thrive on a diet high in fiber and roughage and they don't root, so they make excellent animals for pasturing.

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