

## “Made It Myself” Float Switch Controls Pump

Roger Thompson has a low-cost solution to solve problems with stock tank floats. His modified pressure switch gets the job done, and it doesn't cost \$50 or more like conventional float switches.

“I take a standard 40/60 pressure switch and remove the springs. I bolt a steel strap to the plate that activates the points,” says Thompson. “The float ball rod bolts to a hole in the end of the strap.”

Thompson welds another flat steel strap to a 1-in. plug underneath the original pressure switch. Holes at the end of this strap make it easy to mount the assembly to the stock tank. Once the switch is connected between the power source and the pump, the float is in control.

“When the water level raises the ball, the switch shuts off the pump,” notes Thompson.

Thompson installs the switch for customers of Bud's Pump Service, a well drilling and pump business that's been in the family for 115 years. He also sells the assembly through a local hardware store for \$36.

“They work great when paired with a small, propane-powered, auto-start generator for remote wells and stock tanks,” says Thompson. “I set them up so when the generator starts up, it sends a text to a cell phone.”

Thompson also has a simple solution to prevent freeze-up of the well pipe when it services a single large stock tank. He drills a small drain hole in the drop pipe at a point 6 ft. down.

“When the pump shuts off, the water in the pipe drains out well below the frost line,” says Thompson.

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Standard float pressure switch before modification is shown at top. Modified switch (above) has the springs removed and a steel strap bolted to the plate that activates the points. Float ball rod bolts to hole in end of strap.

## Hydraulic Kits For Farm Trucks

The folks who make DewEze big bale beds make customizing hydraulics on work trucks easy. DewEze clutch pump kits produce hydraulic power independent of the transmission.

“We use the same clutch pump kits to power our bale beds, but they can be used for other purposes,” says Mike Reber, Harper Industries, Inc. “We can pair up the clutch pump and valve tank to power dump bodies and augers or other hydraulic-powered options you might have.”

“The right hydraulic system depends on the truck engine, not the application,” says Jessica Reber, Harper Industries, Inc. “We have clutch pump kits for 3/4, 1-ton and super-duty trucks going back to 1973 and are adding more all the time. We recently released a clutch pump kit for new medium duty Chevy and International trucks.”

The clutch pump kits, starting at about \$1,400, are simple add-ons with a bracket and belt and any other parts needed. In the case of an installation on a 2016 Chevy 6.2 gas engine, simply remove the alternator and belt. Mount the cast bracket and reinstall the alternator. Mount the pump to the bracket and install the new belt. The machined cast brackets ensure easy installation and belt alignment. From that point on, live hydraulics are available on-the-go with the flip of a switch.

Jessica notes that with newer trucks, space under the hood can be at a premium. Models that have gone to double alternators offer another challenge. In those cases, she recommends the company's Electric/Hydraulic (E/H) power packs. Starting at around \$1,100, they are designed to serve as a main power source or back up for alternative



DewEze's electric/hydraulic power pack (above) comes with a cable package and a self-cooling fan on the motor. Their clutch pump kit produces hydraulic power independent of the transmission.



hydraulic applications. The simple-to-install systems come with a complete cable package and a self-cooling fan on the motor. They require minimal modifications. Jessica stresses that E/H motors need to be designed for the intended use.

“When it comes to farm and ranch needs, I wouldn't recommend a standard E/H,” says Jessica. “Clearing a field of hay bales would probably burn up the motor. With our Hybrid HD Pressure unit, we cleared a Kansas field of 709 big bales in a little over 3 hrs. in hot weather with no problem.”



Poultry Hawk was developed to move dead birds out of poultry houses, but it's being used with feed trays, egg carts and even a sprayer for applying vaccines, insecticides and disinfectants.

## Dead Bird Trolley Finding New Uses

The Poultry Hawk is a slick way to transport loads weighing up to 450 lbs. inside buildings. Developed by Innovative Poultry Products (IPP) to move dead birds out of poultry houses, it is quickly turning into a multi-purpose tool.

“We have added feed trays, egg carts and even a sprayer for vaccines, insecticides and disinfectants,” says Chad Brubaker, Innovative Poultry Products.

Brubaker knows the value of his trolley first hand. He is co-owner of a poultry operation that produces around 72,000 chickens a year. Very high summer temperatures the first year he was in the business led to high death loss. He found himself hauling out several hundred birds a day. He knew there had to be a better way than carrying them in buckets. What he came up with was a trolley that runs on rails suspended from the barn's ceiling.

The trolley on rails is available in automated (battery-powered) models with either dumping or fixed trays. It is also available in a manual model with a fixed tray. A wireless transmitter controls the automated trolley. It is equipped with a limit switch for preset stops, such as at exit doors or supply rooms. A diverter option automatically opens doors for load delivery outside the building.

“I started working on the ideas in the spring of 2015, and it progressed through the fall,” says Brubaker. “That's when we started Innovative Poultry Products and put the trolley on the market.”

The system caught on quickly with both chicken and turkey producers. IPP has dealers in 14 states and has sold more than 400 systems in the first 3 years. Systems have been installed from Minnesota to Mississippi and the southeastern U.S. to British Columbia.

While most clutch pump kits are plumbed into existing hydraulic systems, if a valve tank is needed, DewEze has the answer. Their VT Series provides a multifunctional power source for a wide variety of uses. Control can be customized with a choice of manual cables, electrical switch panel, electrical joystick or wireless remote. VT Series packages include hoses, valves, filter,



The trolley on rails is available in battery-powered models with either dumping or fixed trays.

The electric motor in the automated trolley is powered by a 23 Series, deep cycle 12-volt battery. While the battery isn't included in the system, a battery charger with quick-connects is included. IPP suggests that a single charge can last for several days, even under heavy use.

The automated Poultry Hawk trolley system starts at \$3,000. The manual system starts at \$1,450. The convenience and pricing is attracting non-poultry producers as well.

“I recently met someone who sees potential in the greenhouse industry,” says Brubaker. “We'll be exploring that and welcome FARM SHOW readers to find their own innovative uses.”

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