

If you're looking for new ways to add to your bottom line, take a look at the money-making ideas featured here and on the next page.

If you've found or heard about a new income-boosting idea, we'd like to hear about it. Send details to: FARM SHOW Magazine, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665) or email us at: editor@farmshow.com.

Human "hamster wheel" powers an ice grinder positioned alongside a custom-built conveyor belt that produces a snow cone.



Human "Hamster Wheel"

Pennsylvania inventor Philip Baum combined the unlikely mechanics of a hamster wheel with those of an ice maker and snow cone machine to produce what he calls a "You Are The Hamster" snow cone machine. He got the idea after seeing a motor-driven ice cream maker.

Six months later he'd built a human-size wheel made out of wood and sheet metal, and learned through trial and error that it needed brakes and a stronger frame. Now his 4th generation metal frame versions have operator-activated brakes and a finely tuned ice making system.

Baum says the ride is a human-sized hamster wheel which powers an ice grinder positioned alongside a custom-built conveyor belt. "Stops along the belt include a mechanical ice filler, grinder, a rubber mallet ice compactor, flavor spigots made from shower heads, and a place to stop at the end for receiving a spoon before the participant is presented with their cold creation."

The business has proven to be a big hit and a worth-while financial investment. Weekend events in the Northeast last year brought in more than \$10,000. The minimum cost for booking the machine at an event is \$249 for two hours. Additional

hours are \$100. The Baums add travel charges if an event is more than an hour's drive. Baum says the device is so intriguing that people stop in to just watch it operate. They don't offer free rides. "You have to buy a cup of the refreshing shaved ice if you want to take a spin," says Baum. An 8 ounce cup is \$4 and a 12 ounce cup is \$5.

Baum says one wheel operator can handle up to 40 snow cones per hour and adding a second operator moves volume up to 60. "We find that events with lots of kids tend to do better, even though about 30 percent of our participants are adults," Baum says.

Now that Baum has business experience and a proven wheel concept, he's designing a wheel to sell and hopes to have it complete by early 2021. The equipment will be transported on a 5 by 8-ft. reinforced utility trailer with tie-downs. An assembly tool kit has spare parts. Baum says the wheel setup will cost about \$9,000 and the optional trailer and tool kit are \$1,000 and \$200. Buying one will include one day of training for the operator.

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Drawing on his experience as a full-time mechanic, Micah Moulin makes "pencil sketch" art of tractors and other farm equipment.

Mechanic Turns Equipment Into Art

If Micah Moulin isn't fixing equipment, he may be sketching it. A full-time mechanic, he works on all sorts of tractors and heavy equipment and then uses his work experiences to create art. His Facebook page says it all: Moulin Farm Art and Repair.

"I've done art since I was a kid," says Moulin. "I've also worked around equipment repair in my father's shop since I was a kid."

His degree in diesel technology and his work experience influence his artwork, as does his life experience. Initially he focused on pickups, trucks and semi rigs. After marrying into a farm family, his art has transitioned more to tractors and implements. Sketches for his own enjoyment have also transitioned into commissions. As more and more people see his work on his Facebook page and various farm machinery Facebook pages, demand has increased.

"I will do a picture and then post it to my page and to the IH group or Ford tractor group," says Moulin. "I get responses from people who see it, asking if I will do a piece for them."

One recent commission was for a woman whose son and husband had restored a tractor that her father had owned. The woman sent Moulin pictures of the tractor in front of the family's barn, as well as a picture of the grandfather's headstone.

"I suggested we combine all three elements into the one picture," says Moulin.

As with that commission, Moulin requests photos of the equipment. He has worked with enough farm tractors to know they are seldom as they came from the factory.

"Every tractor has been modified or set up differently, whether with weights or a



As more people see Moulin's art work on his Facebook page, demand for his drawings has grown.

different muffler and pipe," says Moulin. "I want to capture them as they are."

Moulin prefers to do his artwork in formats sized to the equipment. Smaller pieces, like a garden tractor, are done in 8 1/2 by 11 format. Larger equipment, like a tractor or tractor and implement, are done in 11 by 17 format.

Moulin works largely with pencil sketches, but is experimenting with digital platforms and often uses color in details. As an emerging artist, his prices are very reasonable. While commissions vary, he commonly sells a large format sketch of a tractor with a border for \$70.

Moulin and his wife Lindsay are currently working on building a shop and home in the country. The two hope to turn Farm Art and Repair into a full-time business, fixing equipment and illustrating it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Moulin Farm Art and Repair, 60673 732 Rd., Sterling, Neb. 68443 (@moulinfarmartandrepair; dieselfumes92@hotmail.com; <https://www.facebook.com/moulinfarmartandrepair>).

Round Whelping Den Safer For Pups

Safe for the puppies. Comfortable for the mother. That's what GDM Dens owner, Wayne Sensenig had in mind when he designed his Whelping Dens.

"The reason we invented this is that we needed them round," says the Golden Doodle breeder. "Square boxes are bad for puppies because they get in a corner and the mother lays on them." Mortality rate of the pups can be as high as 20 percent.

He also wanted the puppies to have a warm place to lay, without overheating the mother. After a few changes he came up with a 20-in. flat center that can be heated, and the rest of the unheated floor tapers uphill slightly. The pups naturally roll to the middle and the mother can lay comfortably on the unheated portion.

A popular version is an open bed that is 5-ft. in diameter with a 3-ft. ramp. It weighs 70 lbs. and is made of durable plastic that

can be easily cleaned with just a wet cloth. It comes with five mats made of outdoor carpet that can be replaced or cleaned and reused. It works well for breeders who want to raise their dogs in a house or building.

For those who prefer an enclosed shelter, the Whelping Den comes in a 5-ft. tall version with a roof and door that can open into a fenced area or other enclosed area.

"At night you can lock the mother dog in if she is close to whelping. She feels very much at home in there, and the pups will be born in there and not outside somewhere," Sensenig says.

He adds that pups potty train sooner if the door is left open when they are about 5 weeks old. Within 48 hrs. they often figure out to go outside the whelping den.

Prices range from \$485 (smaller open model) to \$1,475 (enclosed model). Various types of heaters can be used under the floor,



Round Whelping Den comes with a 20-in. flat center portion that can be heated for pups, and a 3-ft. long ramp.

which GDM also sells.

Sensenig is located in Dundee, N.Y., and has dealers in the Northeast. Call him for more details.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, GDM Dens, 1714 Porters Corners Rd., Dundee, N.Y. 14837 (ph 607 243-3796).