

AmeriWind's heavy-duty fans can be up to 30 ft. dia. and weigh over 400 lbs. thanks to the heavy-duty direct-drive motors.



Giant "Auto" Fans Help Keep Barns Cool

The giant 24-ft. dia. fans made and sold for livestock barns by AmeriWind offer a couple of extra features not found with other brands of big overhead fans.

"We build the fan heavier than normal," says Kevin Hoover, sales and account manager for the Pennsylvania company. The aluminum extrusion blades are thicker and the fan weighs 450 lbs., well over industry standards.

The best feature however is the weather station controller that Hoover designed to automatically turn the fan on and off according to temperature as well as humidity and windspeed.

"The long and slender blades can break off when it's windy," he explains, and it can be difficult for producers to get to them in time to manually turn them off.

AmeriWind offers wired and wireless automatic controllers starting at \$600 as well as manual controllers to go with their fans (T-series, starting at \$2,000).

Self-taught in electronics, Hoover's experience goes back to creating an automatic ventilation controller for opening and closing barn curtains based on humidity and temperature.

After successfully creating the weather station to work with other company's fans, he decided his business could make better fans in 2018.

"We sell all over the U.S.," Hoover says, mostly to dairy and beef producers.

"Scratch & Dust" Walk-Through Arch

Todd Terwilliger created a "scratch and dust" walk-through arch that works great for fly control. Worn out street brooms on either side let cattle scratch while an overhead bag dusts them as they pass through. Best of all, the arch is rugged enough to stand up to bull, and cows alike.

"I had draped fence posts with tubes to apply diesel fuel for fly control, but the cows kept snapping the posts off," says Terwilliger. "I decided to make something that wouldn't break."

Terwilliger's solution was a set of 4 by 4-in. steel tubes for the sides and top of an archway anchored to 4 by 12-in. channel iron skids. Braces to reinforce the butt-welds are 2 by 5-in. channel iron running from the ends of the base plates to the vertical 4 by 4's.

"I welded a length of 4 by 4-in. steel tubing for a cross bar at about an 8-ft. height and reinforced the joints with gusset plates," says Terwilliger. "I wanted the structure to be bull-proof."

He mounted the repurposed street brooms to solid steel strips welded perpendicular to the bases and the verticals. "I used all scrap steel I had laying around," says Terwilliger. "The strips had holes in them, and I used trailer hitch balls on the bottom strips for the brooms to slide over. I drilled out slightly



AmeriWind's fans can be controlled with a weather station controller that automatically turn them on or off.

"Beef farmers like them because it reduces respiratory problems, and they need less bedding. There's lots of airflow on the bedded pack so it dries it out."

General guidelines suggest that a 24-ft. fan works well in a 60-ft. wide area, while a 30-ft. fan is needed for spaces up to 80-ft. wide.

Lumber producers also use the fans to help dry lumber. And AmeriWind offers lighter weight E-Series fans that are used indoors at warehouses and other large buildings.

Hoover works with customers to find the best fan to suit their needs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, AmeriWind, 11 Speltz Lane, Oley, Penn. 19547 (ph 610 987-0488; contact@ameriwind.net; www.ameriwind.net).



An arch made from steel tubes and anchored with channel iron using old street sweeper brooms with a hanging bag makes a useful cattle scratcher and duster.

larger holes in the top strips and dropped hitch pins in to hold the brooms in place."

Terwilliger hung a standard dust bag from the cross member. The vertical posts extend an additional 2 ft. above the cross member.

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They Still Make Solid Rubber Tires

If you need authentic vintage rubber tires for an old work truck or carriage, Overman Cushion Tire Co. can help you out.

The process of making the tires is lengthy and demand is high, says Dave Richards, who owns the company with his wife, Candy, since purchasing it in 2005. The company dates back to the 1890's when it made solid rubber bicycle tires for Columbia.

Richards, who also owns a 60-year-old tire retread business, says the process includes starting with a clean sandblasted metal tire ring and bonding rubber to it in two 1/2-in. layers at a time. The rubber is cured with heat and time in a pressurized chamber and run through retread equipment to build it up to the right height. Sidewalls are molded with all the original markings and secured with uncured gum. Finally, there is more curing.

"It takes 6 to 8 weeks to do 4 tires," Richards says.

The business customizes every order, mainly for work trucks built up to 1925. The last solid rubber truck tire was built for a Mack truck in 1933.

In addition to truck tires, Overman makes tires for steam tractors, carriages, museum pieces such as luggage carts, old military equipment such as cannon wheels, and bicycles and small carts. He also works with a wheelwright on wooden spoke wheels.

The company's most famous project was making tires for an 1898 Ryker car that Henry Ford and other dignitaries rode in and that that been shipped to Paris for the 1900 Exposition race.

The company carries metal rings in many sizes. Truck tires average \$800, Richards says, and they ship to customers all over the



Overman Cushion Tire specializes in vintage rubber tires. A set of 4 tires can take 6-8 weeks to make as they are bonded to a metal ring 1/2 inch at a time.



U.S. and Canada.

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The Float-a-Cow portable trailer allows for downer cows to be rehabbed in a warm water bath to speed recovery.

Portable Float Tank For Downer Cattle

"I started selling Float-a-Cow mobile tanks in 1994 as a sideline to my dairy business and I'm still at it today because it's a worthwhile venture that can save downer cattle," says Pennsylvania farmer Leroy Martin. "The units I sell now resist corrosion because they have stainless steel flooring and an aluminum door. Even though they're lighter weight than the first all-steel units, they're still plenty strong enough to hold 750 gals. of water and a cow that weighs a thousand pounds or more."

The Float-A-Cow portable tank is about 4-ft. wide, 8-ft. long and about 4 1/2-ft. tall. The front panel is slightly shorter and has a feed trough so the cow can eat and drink while being rehabbed in the water. The unit is transported on two wheels with a tongue hitch that's held in place by two pins during transport. When the pins are removed the tank rests on the ground, the wheels pivot free, and the hitch raises above the tank.

Martin says that a winch on the front of the tank is used to pull a mat into the tank while the downer animal is laying on it. "It's important to move the downer animal as gently and humanely as possible, and this

system does that," he adds. With the mat and animal in the tank, warm water that's 90 to 95 degrees F is slowly added.

"Cows that will recover usually stand within a few hours as the warm water regenerates their leg muscles," Martin says. "We recommend that they stay in the tank about 8 to 10 hrs. until they're standing freely and are able to get their strength back." Martin adds that if an animal doesn't stand within a few hours, it's probably not going to recover.

Over the years Martin has sold units in several states and will ship them anywhere, including the far western and southwestern U.S. The price is \$7,500 plus shipping.

"A larger dairy operation can usually pay for this tank in a year or two by saving downer cows that might otherwise not make it," Martin says. "I've also had customers buy a tank and have it available for rent in an area that has several dairies nearby."

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