

DIY Alert Systems Improve Home Convenience

FARM SHOW contributor Tony Bunniss is always looking for simple ways to make life easier. One such innovation involves an alarm system in his mailbox.

"I can't see my mailbox from the house, even though it's only a couple of hundred feet from it," says Bunniss. "There are too many trees on the road."

His solution was to install a driveway alert on the back of the mailbox. "I drilled a hole in the back of the box, made a bracket to hold the sensor, installed a spring to hold it in place, and put silicone on it so it wouldn't leak."



Alert stays silent until the mailbox door is opened. Then, it sends a signal to the receiver that Bunniss has set up in both the garage and living room.

The alert stays silent until the mailbox door is opened. Then, it sends a signal to the receiver that Bunniss has set up in both the garage and living room. Now, the whole family knows precisely when the mail arrives.

Beyond announcing the mail delivery, Bunniss has found his sensor solution will alert him to the occasional human error.

"One time, it warned me that the mailbox was open. (Evidently, it hadn't been closed properly.) The sensor chimed every time a car



Another system that has simplified life for Bunniss is a pass-thru in the garage. Says Tony, "I built it in the '80's because I was sick and tired of finding wet packages that had been delivered unknown to me."

went by. I knew it wasn't the mail because it was going off around midnight."

Another system that has simplified life for Bunniss is a pass-thru door in the garage. Says Tony, "I built it in the '80's because I was sick and tired of finding wet packages that had been delivered unknown to me. I was also finding them dropped all over the place."

He uses the same type of receiver as is installed on the mailbox for the pass-thru door, as it can connect with numerous transmitters, each with a different programmable chime.

Since the garage is heated, Bunniss can order liquids and not worry about them freezing. Likewise, it helps him get to frozen food fast.

"I had ice cream delivered in July, and without the alarm on the pass-thru, we would have just had milk," says Bunniss. "The delivery time was supposed to be the next day, but they delivered the groceries at 10 PM instead. Thanks to my alert system, I had the ice cream in the freezer in about 5 minutes."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tony Bunniss, Webster, Minn. (glennlee1964@gofast.am).

A Hard Hat With Style

Gemplers Farm and Home Supply Company offers a Cowboy Hard Hat. It's shaped like a classic cowboy hat but offers the safety needed on a job site.

Described as a "great, stylish alternative to conventional hard hats," it's made of durable, high-density polyethylene.

Most people won't know it's a hard hat unless they touch it. It looks like a traditional cowboy hat and features a low-profile, pinched-style front and top. The curled, extra-wide brim provides excellent UV and rain protection.

The ratchet suspension lets you dial in your size in 1/8-in. increments for a custom fit. It also comes with a cotton sweatband.

The cowboy hard hat meets all the specs for Type I, Class G, E, and C hard hats. The full-brim hard hat is not dielectric (won't prevent shocks), and it's not vented.

The cowboy hard hat is available online and sells for \$26.99 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gemplers Farm and Home Supply Company, 401 S. Wright Road, Janesville, Wis. 53546



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(ph 800-382-8473; customerservice@gemplers.com; www.gemplers.com).



ACX-Retractor Kit doesn't telescope out. Instead, the 10-ft. extension sits on top of the cart's OEM auger until needed

Kit Extends Air Seeder Cart Augers

Rodono Industries makes filling an air seeder cart faster and easier, especially from hopper bottom trailers. The Rodono ACX Retractor Kit is an easy retrofit for standard commodity cart augers and conveyor belts. It adds a 10-ft. auger with 10 ft. of extension and +/- 80 degrees of pivot.

"More and more farmers are wanting to load their air seeder cart from a Super B or hopper bottom trailer, but if the OEM auger isn't designed for that type of trailer, it can be really hard to get the auger under it," says Darren Grose, Rodono Industries. "Our ACX-Retractor Kit extends the auger and allows it to pivot under the hopper bottom trailer."

Rodono has been making auger extensions that telescope out and swing under hopper trailers for a dozen years. The family-owned company made their first one for use on their farm as they started using hopper bottom trailers at harvest.

"We found that simple swing augers didn't work very well with the Super B trailers," says Grose. "We made a few prototypes before coming up with one that worked as we wanted. The telescoping part took a bit to get reliable."

Rodono sells the Xtend retracting swing as a retrofit. It has also been licensed to several

major auger makers in the U.S. and Canada.

The ACX-Retractor Kit doesn't telescope out. Instead, the 10-ft. extension sits on top of the cart's OEM auger until needed. At that point, it travels down the installed rail, to the ground with its discharge end directly over the OEM's intake.

The kit consists of a standard hopper/electrical/tube assembly and an air cart, model-specific, rail/collector assembly. The hydraulic screw motor is sized to match the auger motor on the cart auger. It's available with manual or remote controls.

"The kit is still pretty new," says Grose. "The price varies some based on the kind of cart it's going on, but usually runs over \$20,000 by the time it's installed."

Grose explains that the kit does alter the balance of the OEM auger. This can require adding hydraulics to move the arm in and out and tilt it.

He notes that the kit itself is easy to install. "It's meant to be a bolt-on kit," says Grose. "We recommend the customer install it themselves."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rodono Industries, 40216 Range Rd. 250, Clive, Alta., Canada T0C 0Y0 (ph 403-784-3864; contact@rodono.ca; www.rodono.ca).

Dogg Catcher Is Affordable Game Caller

If you've got predators you need to eliminate, the Primos Dogg Catcher 2 can help get the job done for less than \$100.

Under 2 1/2 lbs., the game caller is designed to be portable and blend into the environment, so coyotes and predators don't notice it. Set up about 50 yards away from it, the hunter remotely controls the sounds coming out of the Dogg Catcher's speaker at about 100 decibels.

The remote has 12 options for distress and coyote calls created by Randy Anderson, a well-known and experienced predator hunter. To up the success rate, two calls can be played at once, which is not common for inexpensive units. The remote works up to 150 ft. away from the unit, which is powered by four AA batteries that last about 60 hrs.

Primos has been making game callers since the mid-1970's and is well-known in the industry. The Dogg Catcher 2 can be purchased through the company as well as



Game caller can be operated by remote up to 50 yards away.

many retailers and online. YouTube videos can also be found of the Dogg Catcher in use.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup: (www.primos.com).



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