

Shark Wheels airless tires feature bolt-on paddles made of spring steel covered by over-molded, natural rubber that can be replaced in only a minute.



Airless Wheel Minimizes Ruts From Center Pivots

"My business partner, David Patrick, reinvented the wheel," says Zack Fleishman, Shark Wheel CEO. "He discovered that everything in nature moves in a sine wave, like radio, ocean, or a DNA helix. People walk right, left, right; planets move around the sun, everything alternates in a sine wave."

The result of this discovery was the Shark Wheel, an airless, one-size-fits-all agricultural tire solution used largely in center-pivot irrigation systems. The unique 140-in. rolling radius wheel comes in both a standard style and a high traction model for the most challenging pivot operations.

To perfect their technology, Shark Wheel interviewed over 200 farmers, asking what would make a perfect wheel for their farm. The overwhelming answer was a tire that didn't cause rutting, followed by an avoidance of flat tires and fast repair capabilities.

With this information in mind, Fleishman says they tried to consider everything, first addressing flexibility without damaging drive trains and gearboxes like many other airless tires were known to do. Their distinctive wheel features bolt-on paddles made of spring steel covered by over-molded, natural rubber that can be replaced in only a minute.

The paddle's shape resembles flexing seagull wings as they move through a field. "Everything we do at Shark Wheel is based on nature," Fleishman says. "Our secret sauce is the shape. We consider ourselves a geometry company, solving problems through shapes. If you speed up the wheel it looks like a bird flapping its wings."



Tread design gives up to 55 percent reduction in rutting compared to conventional wheels.

He explains the distinct makeup leaves a left, right, left snake-shaped path in the soil. Trailing wheels work opposite, moving right to left, transferring soil back to where it was. Rather than digging and causing ruts, the ground is left virtually undisturbed. Independent studies have shown a 55 percent reduction in rutting when compared to competitors' wheels.

Shark Wheel hopes to continue progress toward use in other agricultural equipment.

Over 3,000 dealers in North America now have access to the wheels that began shipping to customers 2 mos. ago.

Fleishman says the cost of the Shark Wheel is slightly more than a standard radial tire but less than their airless competitors.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Shark Wheel Ag, 27285 Las Ramblas #220, Mission Viejo, Calif. 92691 (zack@sharkwheel.com; www.sharkwheelag.com).

Electronic trap is an alternative to poison and can be reused.



Heavy-Duty Electronic Rat Trap

The indoor/outdoor electronic traps from Owltra kill rodents within seconds with quick and powerful high voltage.

With the trap's magnetic latches, you never have to touch the rodent. Simply remove the trap's lid and empty it into the trash.

Electronic mouse traps are a safer alternative to rodent poison. You don't run the risk of a curious child or pet accidentally coming in contact with the poison.

Another benefit is that these traps are cost-effective since they can be cleaned and reused. One set of batteries can kill up to 90 mice. Electronic mouse traps only activate

when the rodent is inside the trap, which means they consume less battery power.

You can use either four D batteries or USB power for the trap.

The trap has a motion sensor that detects when a rodent enters and triggers a high-voltage shock, instantly killing it.

The Owltra trap has received 4 out of 5 stars with over 7,000 positive reviews from customers on Amazon.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Owltra (ph 866-293-1688; service@hiowltra.com; www.hiowltra.com).

Crush Mate Adds "Squeeze" To Chutes

Crush Mate is a handy chute accessory for restraining small cattle developed by Irish cattleman Seamus Dunne. It puts more squeeze in a standard squeeze chute or crush.

The 44-lb. Crush Mate slips over the bars of a standard pipe-style chute. Two adjustable length hooks drop down and are adjusted upward to lock on the underside of lower pipes.

Once attached to the sides of the chute, the operator pushes on the ram to telescope the Crush Mate's side against the animal, pressing it against the other side of the crush. Once the desired squeeze is achieved, it can be locked in place with a T-bar turnscrew.

The Crush Mate is designed to be used on either the right or left side of a crush. Simply remove and reposition two bolts on the ram.

While helpful for any type of animal care involving smaller cattle, Dunne reports the Crush Mate can also be useful when training heifers for robotic milkers.

The Crush Mate is being marketed in Europe for around \$350 but is not yet available in the U.S. or Canada.



44-lb. Crush Mate slips over the bars of a standard pipe-style chute. Two adjustable length hooks drop down and are adjusted upward to lock on the underside of lower pipes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Crush Mate Ltd. (crushmateltd@gmail.com; www.crushmate.ie).

How To Build A Shipping Container Home

More and more creative contractors are using shipping containers to build innovative homes. And in recent years, the rugged 8-ft. by 40-ft. steel boxes have also been showing up as farm shops and other farm buildings.

Containers are used for hydroponics, aquaponics, mushroom farming, and livestock and poultry production. They're excellent for food production because the growing environment, including temperature, humidity, carbon dioxide, light, moisture and nutrients, can be controlled.

A Wyoming farm has a multi-use structure with 14 shipping containers. It provides separately controlled environments for producing fruit trees, vegetables, tilapia fish and mushrooms. Additional containers are devoted to offices, living quarters, a conference room, a commercial kitchen, workshops, and RV or machine storage.

Container Home Hub, a website/blog headquartered in Texas, describes itself as "Your #1 resource when it comes to container home living. It's where you'll find the most up-to-date information on buying, selling, building, and living the container-home life." The site provides container home costs, floor plans, financing, time required for construction, design software programs, and lists containers for sale by state throughout the U.S. Shipping container home builders are also identified.

For people interested in building a container home or work environment but unsure of how to start the process, the Containerhomehub.com website offers a program for \$38 that includes a 154-page eBook, step-by-



Shipping containers can be made into homes, used for businesses, storage, and even farm shops. Many plans and other information are available on the Container Home Hub website.

step instructions for everything from land acquisition to move-in day, and 80+ container home floor plans.

The Discover Container website offers photos and descriptions of container farms around the world: a strawberry farm in France; a vegetable farm in Beijing, China; a biogas farm in Sweden that recycles food wastes into plant nutrients; a 14-container farm in Canada where plants grow to maturity in a serpentine chain system that moves through all 14 containers; and a Colorado mushroom operation that produces 300 lbs. of oyster, shitake, lion's mane and king oyster mushrooms per week.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Container Home Hub (www.containerhomehub.com); or Discover Containers (www.discovercontainers.com).

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