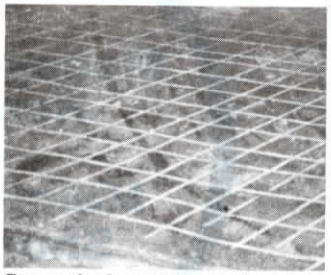
Pamper Your Cows With Grooved Rubber Flooring

"It reduces leg and health problems, saves on bedding and makes for easier cleaning," says New York dairyman Bob Gabel who's doing a booming sideline business in grooved rubber flooring for free stall and conventional barns.

Gabel buys huge rolls of used industrial rubber belting which is about 1 in. thick. He then runs it through a special machine he developed which cuts it into strips up to 500 ft. long and 4, 5 or 6 ft. wide. The machine also cuts horizontal grooves (1/4 in. deep, 1/2 in. wide and 5 in. apart) on the rubber surface side of the strips.

Gabel has also developed a portable machine for in-place grooving of rubber flooring. He says machines designed for grooving concrete won't work on rubber flooring.

"The grooves in our rubber flooring serve the same purpose as with grooved concrete — to reduce leg injuries by providing surer, slip-proof footing," Gabel explains. "Installing the rubber flooring over concrete has a cushioning effect to further reduce leg injuries. We supply a permanent slip-resistant rubber flooring for alleyways and stalls, made up of strips up to 500 ft. long and 6 ft. wide, that won't move or curl up. Because it stays put, we're able to groove it. Commercial rubber mats, on the other hand, don't lend themselves to grooving. They're too small and hard to keep in place."



Grooves in the rubber flooring can be made to run horizontally only, or both horizontally and vertically.

Costs for Gabel's grooved rubber flooring range from $1.50 to $2 per square ft.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Gabel, Route 16, Chaffee, New York 14030 (ph 716 496-6025, or 904 669-3566).

In addition to this front-mount tank, Agri-Products also makes easy-to-mount "drive over" side-mount saddle tanks that extend further out from the sides than normal.

Easy-To-Mount Front Saddle Tank

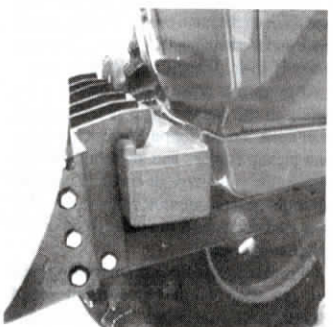
Mounting a conventional saddle tank on front of your tractor can be a time-consuming job.

Agri-Products, Inc., York, Neb., has designed an "easy-to-mount" front saddle tank that hooks over the tractor weight brackets, eliminating the need to do a lot of bolting. You remove the weights and use the weight bracket as the main attachment for the tank. The six hooks that slip over the weight brackets are made from 3/4-in. thick steel plate. Side braces bolt to the tractor frame.

Fits Deere 40, 50, 55, 60, and 7000 tractors as well as other models and is available in 200, 300, and 400-gal. capacities. A 300-gal. tank system sells for $1,100. Headlights (optional) sell for $130.

The company also offers new "drive-over" side mount tanks that extend outward further from the tractor than other saddle tanks for better visibility and easier access to the cab. They're also easy to mount, thanks to use of jacks equipped with caster wheels and a 5 by 7-in. steel drive-over support bar. Mounting time is less than 20 minutes.

Designed for Case-IH Magnum tractors and Deere 40, 50, 55, 60, and 7000 series tractors, as well as other models. Available in 200, 260, and 300-gal. capacities. A set of 300-gal. tanks sells for $2,125 to $2,625 depending on tractor model. High-clearance models also available.



Weights are removed and the weight bracket is used as the main attachment for tank.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Agri-Products, Inc., 1903 Division Ave., Box 542, York, Neb. 68467 (ph 800 288-1117 or 402 362-5500).

EASY TO MAINTAIN

"Tip-Over" Windmill

First-of-its-kind "tip-over" windmill built by Dick Carroll, La Junta, Colo., can be laid down on its side for easy access to the head, tail, and fan and is open on one side, making it easy to replace a worn-out "sucker rod".

All that's needed to lay the windmill onto its side is a handyman jack, cable, sawhorse or 55-gal. barrel, and a pickup or tractor.

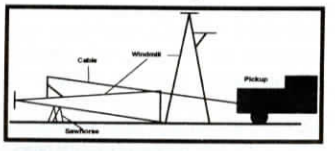
Carroll used 2 3/8-in. dia. oilfield drill stem pipe and heavy-duty angle iron to build the tower, which is fitted with a large rectangular catwalk. One side of the windmill is hinged at the bottom. A 4-ft. long steel "leverage bar" mounted just below the catwalk hooks up the cable that runs to the pickup or tractor.

To lower the windmill, Carroll releases the locking hinges and jacks up the opposite side of the windmill until it's over center. Then he slowly backs up the pickup or tractor to lower the windmill onto a sawhorse or barrel. To raise the windmill, he simply drives the pickup forward until the windmill is in a vertical position, then locks the bottom of the tower in place.

"It works great for changing major parts such as gearboxes, ring and pinion gears, clutches, brake drums, etc.," says Carroll, a professional welder. "It's much safer than having to stand half-balanced 30 ft. up in the air on top of the windmill, holding on with one hand while you try to move the parts into place. I built it for a lady who manages a cow-calf operation by herself. She wanted a windmill tower as big and safe as possible so that her neighbors wouldn't get hurt servicing it. I salvaged the head, tail, and fan from an old windmill and spent about $1,400 to build the tower. I welded V-braces inside the tower to give it more strength.

"The open-sided tower really comes in handy for replacing worn-out sucker rod. You can remove each section of sucker rod by simply letting it fall to the ground instead of having to snake it through the top of the tower or bend it out through the side.

To drop windmill to the ground, Carroll releases the locking hinges and jacks up one side, lowering it to the ground with a cable hooked to a pickup.



"If desired, a winch can be mounted on the pickup and used to raise or lower the windmill. A sawhorse or barrel is needed to keep the fan off the ground and to keep the leverage point high enough so that the windmill can be easily raised back up."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dick Carroll, 30937 Hwy. 109, La Junta, Colo. 81050 (ph 719 853-6538).

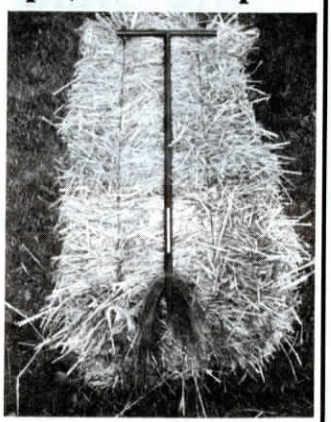
Hay Probe Pulls Sample, Takes Temp

"We learned the hard way about spoiled hay last year when we had over 60 in. of rain in this area, more than twice our normal rainfall," says Howard Dickey, a Missouri farmer-manufacturer who's designed a new hay probe that takes a temperature reading inside bales and also pulls out a sample.

"It's great for anyone buying or selling hay. If you're buying, you can get a true picture of the product. If you're selling, farmers don't have to bust up your bales to get a look at what's inside," says Dickey.

The T-handled probe has an industrial grade thermometer embedded in a slot near the point on the shaft that takes a reading deep inside a bale. A sharp-edged notch just above the point of the probe, cuts off a sample of hay by twisting the handle 360° before pulling the probe out.

If you just want to pull a sample, you can slip the probe in and pull it right out. To get an accurate temperature reading, you leave the probe in for about 15 min. "A reading of 150° indicates hay is approaching danger, at 160° you should check the hay every 4 hrs., at 175° hot spots or even fire pockets are possible, and at 185° flames will probably develop as you move hot hay out into open air."



T-handled probe has an industrial grade thermometer embedded in a slot near the point on the shaft.

Hay probe sells for $45. Dickey is also just completing work on a design for a new core sampler that gives relative feed values. "It'll be easy to use and unlike anything on the market," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Howard Dickey, Dickey Farms, Rt. 1, Box 120A, Lathrop, Mo. 64465 (ph 816 740-3641).