

He Shot His Well

The pressure of his well kept going lower and lower. "It got so bad," says Ken Helgeson, Richfield, Minn., "that when I turned the water on to sprinkle the lawn, the sprinkler would only go about 4 ft. high!"

Ken considered putting down a new well. But a co-worker gave him a better idea: "Why don't you shoot it?" he asked.

The friend explained his idea: Open up the top of the well pipe and shoot straight down. Ken's first question was whether the bullet would hurt the sand point. The friend told him that when you shoot into water the bullet slows considerably. Thus reassured, Ken borrowed a rifle and that night he tried it.

"I opened her up and plugged one shot down there. Just to make sure, I shot the well again. Then I went outside and turned on the water sprinkler. It shot up as high as the house!"

Ken says the technique works this way: The impact of the bullet shakes the well point and breaks loose sediment that's plugging it up. He says water coming out of the well was a



Photo courtesy Home Shop

dirty brown for several days. During that time the screens on all the faucets in the house plugged up and had to be cleaned out. "But in a couple of days the sediment stopped coming and we had good pressure," he says.

Story and photo reprinted with permission from Home Shop, 2028B Ford Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55116.

FARM SHOW

"Best Ideas"

Editor's Note: Have you got a "best idea" you'd like to share with FARM SHOW readers? It might be a new wrinkle in cropping, livestock, machinery or whatever. Maybe it's still experimental but looks promising. Or, maybe you've already proven it works. We'd like to hear about it. Write to: Best Ideas, c/o FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

Wheat Straw Kitty Litter

Gary and Lynda Turco are putting a new twist to the concept of using straw as livestock bedding. They're taking wheat straw and making it into "Mountain Meadows Kitty Litter".

Last year, the Lewistown, Mont. couple used 100 tons of wheat straw baled off local farmers' fields to make their kitty litter. This year, they'll need about 2,000 tons, says Lynda.

The kitty litter the Turcos developed uses wheat straw, plus 7 other "classified" organic ingredients, which is pelletized at a local livestock feed processing plant.

Lynda explains that the specially developed litter is all organic — unlike most kitty litters which have a clay base. She notes that the material's special composition absorbs odors as well as moisture. The litter



lasts twice as long as others, says Lynda.

A 20-lb. bag sells for \$3.50, plus shipping.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary and Lynda Turco, P.O. Box 867, Lewistown, Mont. 59457 (ph 406 538-2906).

Automated Chopper Controls

"We used air valves to automate hard-to-reach controls on our 1969 Fox Super 1000 field chopper," says Frank Cawrse Jr., Lebanon, Ore.

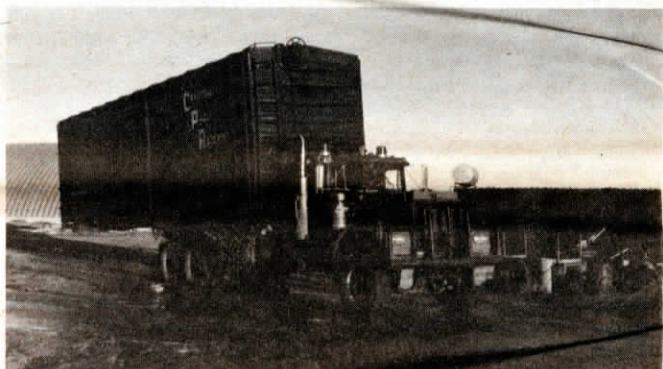
Cawrse says the manual controls on the chopper were especially hard to reach when using a cab-equipped tractor. His method of automation, he says, would work on other manually-controlled equipment.

Cawrse first installed an old auto air conditioner compressor on the chopper, powering it off a pulley he installed on the chopper pto shaft. The compressor works as a small but powerful air compressor, and stores its compressed air in a section of the chopper framework. Cawrse simply tapped into a piece of sealed-off heavy steel tubing. The make-shift storage tank is connected to electric solenoid valves, controlled from the cab, that channel air to air valves.

"We can control forward, reverse and neutral on the feed chain. It also engages the idler on the feeder pickup so you can stop the pickup while the feed chains still operate, which lets plug-ups feed through without picking up more material. That's a feature that we still don't have on our new self-propelled chopper but which we plan to add," says Cawrse. He also put an air valve on the tongue pin to swing in and out of transport, and automated the blower spout with a small hydraulic motor.

"We did it all at a very minimal cost compared to the \$1,000 or more that manufacturers want for optional electric controls," notes Cawrse.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Frank Cawrse Jr., 35930 Providence School Road, Lebanon, Ore. 97355 (ph 503 451-2508).



Farmer Finds Many Uses For Discarded Boxcars

Old boxcars make great cattle shelters, grain bins, bunk silo walls, and have a hundred other uses according to a Canadian farmer who owns 36 discarded freight cars.

George Sinnott, Pincher Creek, Alberta, says the cars are only 30 years old but that the Canadian railway got rid of them to make room for hopper bottom grain cars. Each weighs 15 tons after the running gear is removed (the railways keep the running gear). The 40 by 10-ft. cars with 10-ft. high ceilings are all metal and completely water and rodent proof.

Sinnott uses the cars as calf shelters

by simply parking them alongside corrals. He also uses them to form the walls for an above-ground bunk silo. But the primary use for the cars is as grain storage. Each car holds 3,000 bu. and they can be "automated" by cutting a fill hole in the top and installing an auger under the floor.

Sinnott says availability of the cars from railway companies is uncertain. He plans to sell some of his extra cars.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sinnott Farm Services Ltd., P.O. Box 426, Pincher Creek, Alberta, Canada T0K 1W0 (ph 404 627-2001).