



Photos courtesy University of Maryland, College Park

Delp's portable milking parlor is built on a 24-ft. long trailer frame and consists of three partitioned-off sections.

First-Of-Its-Kind Portable Milking Parlor

A Whiteford, Md., dairyman eliminated the expense of a permanent milking parlor by taking his milking parlor to his cows.

Dan Delp is believed to have the only portable milking parlor of its kind in North America. He pulls it from field to field, following his cows which rotate between 30 to 40-acre pastures.

"It's a super economical way of milking," says Delp who's used the system to milk 60 cows twice a day for the last year and a-half. "My electricity bills for the barn are only about \$50 a month because the only time you use power is when you bring the system in to wash it and early in the morning to turn lights on before the sun's up. In the past, I had electric bills of \$400 to \$800 a month for the barn."

Delp's system is housed on the 24-ft. long frame of an implement trailer he bought at an auction. The frame is built of 4 in. sq. tubing.

It consists of three parts divided by partitions: a power station, a milking parlor, and holding tank.

Power is supplied by a front-mounted 3-cyl. Deutz diesel engine that burns about 5 gal. of fuel in two days of milking. It operates the pumps, compressors and a 1/2 KW electric generator. The 9 by 15-ft. parlor section is covered. Eight cows are milked at a time and each is fed 5 1/2 lbs. of grain through a floor-level 4-in. auger. A 40-gal. water tank and pressure hose is used to clean the parlor after milking. Finally, there's a 300-gal. vacuum-sealed stainless steel milk tank on back.

The unit is hydraulically raised to 18 in.



Milking units raise so cows can enter.

off the ground for transport, either with Delp's 1986 Ford 4-WD pickup or a 8160 Belarus tractor. It's positioned next to a fence so cows can exit through the front into an adjoining field.

Milking units raise so the next group of cows can enter.

After milking, the unit is returned to the barn where milk is emptied into a stationary bulk tank and the system is cleaned and sanitized by equipment in Delp's permanent milking parlor.

Delp uses the system up to three miles away from his home, and neighboring farmers offer him free grazing in the fall in return for removing late-summer regrowth in their fields and pastures. This helps to reduce his feed costs.

Cows, he says, adapt easily to the system which has been virtually trouble-free.

Delp says a portable milking parlor like his can be built for around \$28,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dr. Robert Peters, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. 20742 (ph 301 405-1401).

"Round Caps" Improve Drill Press Wheel Performance

You can get more flotation and better seed depth control with these new replacement caps for your grain drill's press wheels.

"The problem with most conventional press wheels is that they have a tendency to cut in too deep on wet ground and ride on top of hard ground," says Don Yung, manufacturer.

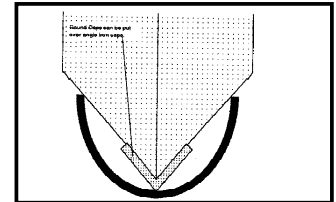
Yung's replacement "round caps" weld to Noble, International, Versatile, Edwards and other drills equipped with V-shaped press wheels and Deere drills equipped with rounded press wheels. The 1/8-in. thick steel caps come in four sections to fit the entire face of the wheel and can be sealed with automotive caulk after welding them in place.

Sell for \$37.95 per wheel.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Yung Distributing, HC 54, Box 3A, Kimball, Neb. 69145 (ph/fax 308 235-2718).



Caps weld to press wheels in sections.



Horizontally mounted cylinder provides 5:1 mechanical advantage.

Heavy-Duty Press Break Built From Scrap

"It's one-of-a-kind and it works as well as any commercial high dollar machine," says Randy Keck about a heavy-duty, 150-ton press break he built out of scrap to bend metal sheets for floors and sides of his company's ensilage beds.

"We used a hydraulic cylinder mounted horizontally in the frame, instead of vertically, which gives us a greater, 5 to 1 mechanical advantage," notes Keck.

The 12-ft. long machine's frame is built of channel iron and I-beams, with a 27-in. I-beam serving as its base. Its blade is made from 3-in. thick steel. The press operates hydraulically, with an electric solenoid valve controlling flow. It uses a two-stage

pump offering a choice between high volume-low pressure or low volume-high pressure flow.

The press weighs 12,000 lbs., features a 9-in. throat and is powered by a 15 hp electric motor.

"We've bent 12-ft. lengths of 10-ga., 10-ft. lengths of 1/4-in. thick, and 6-ft. lengths of 3/8-in. thick steel," says Keck.

Scrap metal was purchased for 10 cents per lb., so Keck's out-of-pocket expense was \$7,000 to \$8,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Randy Keck, GRK Enterprises, Rt. 1, Box 56, Fairview, Okla. 73737 (ph 405 227-2903).

Update On "Bird Proof" Building

"Since the first report in FARM SHOW, we've put up buildings all over North America for all kinds of uses," says Bruce Meidinger, designer and builder of Eagle Rigid Span "bird proof" wood-frame buildings that have no trusses for pest birds to land on and which have a number of advantages over steel-frame buildings.

The buildings can be built up to 120-ft. wide without support posts and without trusses. One key feature of the building design is that it's easy to insulate and finish because it's framed on 2-ft. centers. Saves on labor and material costs. The roof can be insulated to R-38 and the sidewalls to R-19. What's more the

steeper roof pitch allows faster cooling through roof vents in summer.

"They're very popular for farm shops, machine sheds, dairy barns and other farm structures. They're also used for churches, gyms, manufacturing plants, schools, offices, hockey rinks, airplane hangars, retail malls, and more. They're built far stronger than any pole-type wood building and cost less than most steel-frame buildings yet have twice the roof load capacity at 40 lbs. per sq. ft.," says Meidinger.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bruce Meidinger, Eagle Rigid Spans, Inc., 3113 E. Broadway, Bismarck, N.Dak. 50501 (ph 800 279-7726 or 701 224-1877).



Eagle's wood frame buildings with no trusses boast many advantages over steel frame buildings, including leaving no place for pest birds to land on.