"Scrotum" Measuring Stick

The size of testicles is directly related to sperm-producing ability in bulls but in order to get a measurement you have to stand dangerously close to the animal's hind legs and hooves.

"You can get hurt standing so close and, even if nothing happens, the measurement may not be accurate because of the way you have to take it," says Robert Rimmey, Millheim, Penn., inventor of a new "measuring stick" that lets you measure scrotal circumference from a distance.

The instrument consists of a tape measure fastened to two calibrated sliding rods. The tape is slipped around the scrotum and the rods slid together until the tape is tight. The reading can be taken after the instrument has been removed from the animal.

Rimmey's invention is already in use at the Dairy Breeding Research Center at Pennsylvania State University. He's looking for a manufacturer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert R. Rimmey, 103 Race St., 103 Race St., P.O. Box 375, Milheim, Penn. 16854.

Photo Courtesy Grainews

Low Cost Drill Marker

For just $10, Canadian farmer David Serediak of Andrew, Alb., built a neck-saving drill marker that mounts on the front of his tractor.

The 12-ft. long marker, same size as his drill, mounts on the loader arms and drags a chain along the last row of the previous drill pass so he doesn't have to look back to know that he's on track.

The marker consists of three plastic tubing sections clamped together. They fit through the pin openings for the hydraulic cylinders on the loader arms. Rubber hoses, 39-in. long, hang from each end of the pipe and are connected with an elbow. At the end of each hose, Serediak hung a section of chain.

He notes that the marker could also be fitted onto tractors without loaders, or with the bucket left on.

"Double Barrelled" Remote Hot Water Furnace

When Paul Jaecques and his wife bought a rural Indiana home a few years ago, they weren't prepared for the high cost of running electric-baseboard heating through even a mild winter. Clearly something had to be done.

Because the land around the house is heavily wooded, Paul decided that supplementary wood heat was the best answer. As a professional firefighter, however, he was well acquainted with the fire and smoke hazard that indoor wood stoves present. His solution? He built a wood-fired outdoor heating plant 80 ft. behind the house.

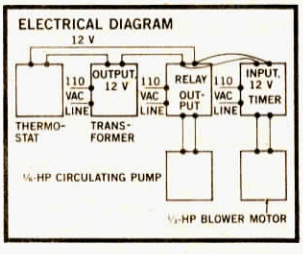
By welding together two used 500-gal. diesel-fuel tanks, Jaecques made a 1,000-gal. hot-water storage tank. Into the lower half of this tank he welded a salvaged 100-gal. tank to serve as a wood-burning firebox. The end of this tank was cut out to make a door for loading firewood, and a heavy-wall flue pipe was run from the top of the burner up through the water-filled main tank to the atmosphere.

Inside the large hot-water tank, he suspended two car radiators. These homemade water-to-water heat exchangers carry a heated mixture of 50% automotive antifreeze and 50% water to the house basement through two buried and insulated 1-in. pipes.

Once indoors, the hot solution runs through a water-to-air heat exchanger he built from a third car radiator enclosed in a metal cabinet and ventilated with an electric blower. A water pump controlled by the house thermostat circulates the heated solution through the system.

Because Jaecques cut his own firewood, his only energy costs are for electricity. Now, with the outdoor-furnace system heating the house, he's found that his electric bill runs about $10 less per month in the winter than it does in the summer, when he operates a dehumidifier. During the winter of 1984-'85 he burned about six cords of wood, keeping a hot fire going for six to 10 hours, then warming the house with stored heat for 14 hours to five days, depending on the weather.

For more information, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul M. Jaecques, 9679 W. 150th St., Russiaville, Ind. 46979.



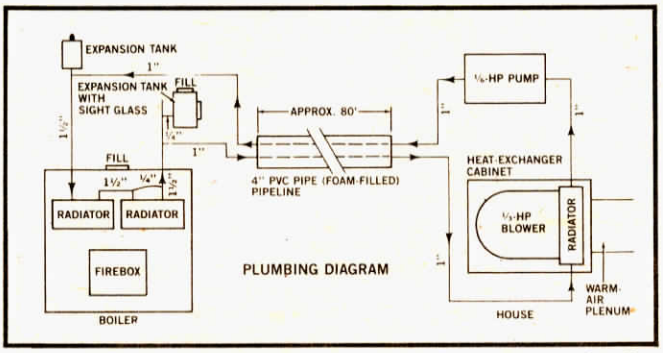


Photo at top shows double-barrelled stove before it was enclosed in protective metal-clad building. Top barrel contains two car radiators suspended in 1,000 gal. of hot water. Diagrams show details of plumbing (above) and electrical circuits (left).