

## A "NEW" BUILDING AT MINIMAL COST

# Truss Technique Makes Old Barns Useful Again

Do you have an old dairy barn on your farm but no cows? If so, you might want to talk to Dave Ciolek, a building contractor who converts old barns with low-lying lofts into spacious clear-span buildings with as much as 17 ft. of headroom for storage of big equipment.

"When we're through the farmer has a virtually new barn that costs just a fraction of the cost of a new building which, if built, might add as much as \$200 per year to his tax bill," says Ciolek.

Here's how Ciolek's barn-saving technique works. First, his crew builds 2 or 3 trusses into the existing barn. Most trusses are constructed at least 13 to 14 ft. off the ground but they can be as high as 17 ft. Building and installing the trusses is tricky because Ciolek must take into account

the strength of the existing sidewalls and the weight each truss will carry. "It takes years of experience to learn how to make a successful conversion," he says.

Once the trusses have been installed the crew removes all or part of the lofts below and they're either rebuilt at a higher level or discarded. Then all support posts, walls and anything else obstructing the floor of the building is removed. The last step is to widen existing barn doors up to 20 ft. and raise them to accommodate bigger equipment.

"A 36 by 44-ft. barn costs anywhere from \$2,200 to \$4,200 to rebuild. That's about 1/4 the cost of a similar size pole building and you maintain the appearance of your farmstead while avoiding any new taxes," Dave points out, noting that the cost varies



Photo Courtesy Michigan Farmer

**Installation of truss allowed Ciolek to remove the loft in this old dairy barn.**

because of the varying conditions of each barn. Some must be straightened before they can be rebuilt and some must be partially or totally disassembled. If the farmer does part of the work himself — such as raising the lofts — the price can be reduced.

It takes Ciolek's crews about a week to complete most jobs. He has two crews operating full-time throughout the Midwest.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Ciolek, 1940 E. Curtis Rd., Birch Run, Mich. 48415 (ph 517 777-5316).

## REAR TRACTOR TIRES PROVIDE POWER TO DRIVE WAGON WHEELS

# Powered Farm Wagon Doubles Pulling Power

Here's a new idea in farm power that you may soon see at farm shows and at your local dealers. Developed by Trucspe Marketing Ltd., a British manufacturer, the new drive system for farm wagons doubles the pulling power of farm tractors.

The idea consists of adding a powered axle to any wagon, trailer or manure spreader, then powering it by cage wheels driven by the rear tractor tires. The cage wheels are connected to a 3-pt. mounted gear box that drives a driveshaft connected to the powered trailer axle. The drive system leaves the pto free for use on the

trailed equipment, if needed. It can be changed to different gears to match tractor speeds. "It lets you pull equipment with a smaller tractor and makes use of spare power off the rear tractor tires that might otherwise be wasted due to tire slippage. It can be fitted to most tractors and provides about 5 times the traction of a 4-WD tractor that might be used for extra pulling power," says John E. Colman, marketing representative for Trucspec.

Existing trailers, tankers and other equipment can be converted to the new traction drive which will work



**Rear tractor tire drives a cage wheel that powers the trailing wagons.**

off any tractor. The system sells for \$2,500 to \$3,000 in Britain and is starting to show up as original equipment on trailers manufactured there. Colman hopes to find a U.S. distributor.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John E. Colman Associates, Elm Lodge, Cornard Tye, Sudbury, Suffolk, England CO10 0QA (ph 0787 72233).

## FIRST OF ITS KIND CHISEL-MOLDBOARD

# New 'Ripper Plow' Does Two Tillage Jobs At Once

"It's the first plow that's ever combined both a chisel and moldboard plow into one machine," says George Moore, president of M & M Plow & Equipment Mfg. Inc., San Angelo, Tex., manufacturer of the new Ripper Plow.

According to Moore, the Ripper Plow pulls just as easily as any moldboard plow on the market even though it's fitted with a chisel shank that runs anywhere from 4 to 8 in. deeper than the leading edge of the moldboard.

"Farmers who've seen it are ex-

cited because it provides the benefits of deep chiseling and yet also turns the soil over. Many farmers who need a chisel to break up hardpan want this plow so they don't have to make an extra trip to turn the soil. Chiseling shatters the subsoil so roots of plants can reach deeper for better growth," says Moore.

The moldboard and chisel shank are mounted as a one-piece unit on the new plow. The moldboard works down to a depth of 12 in. and the chisel can be adjusted from 4 to 8 in. below the leading edge of the

moldboard bottom by changing ripping teeth on the end of the shank. When set at an 8-in. depth the shank will be working a total of 20 in. below the surface.

"There are many areas of the country where farmers already make two passes to both chisel and turn the soil while in other areas farmers wish they could do both but can't justify the expense of two pieces of equipment and two passes through the field," says Moore.

The new plow is not available as an add-on unit to existing plows. A 4-bottom unit, with room for expansion to 5 bottoms sells for about \$10,000.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, M & M Plow & Equipment Mfg. Inc., P.O. Box 831, San Angelo, Tex. 76902 (ph 915 653-7231).



**Each shank on the bi-directional plow is fitted with a moldboard bottom and a chisel shank. A one-way version of the 2-in-1 plow will be introduced soon.**