Extra Beater Added To Deere Spreader

Arne Eissner, Souris, Manitoba, added an extra beater to his single-beater Deere 680 manure spreader and beefed up the drive components at the same time.

"It works much better than the original model because it spreads lumps more evenly. It's also a lot stronger now so I don't have to worry about breakdowns," says Eissner.

The new beater mounts above and slightly ahead of the original one. He made it by welding 5-in. long angle irons in a spiral pattern onto a length of 7-in. dia. steel pipe, 1/4-in. thick. The pipe is supported on each end by a 1 1/4-in. dia. steel shaft that mounts inside a round steel plate.

He replaced the original 1-in. dia. shaft that came out of the gearbox to drive the bottom beater with a heavier 1 1/4-in. dia. shaft. The heavier shaft is fitted with a sprocket that chain-drives the top beater. He bolted a heavy piece of L-shaped steel plate onto each side of the spreader to support both beater shafts. He also bolted 1-ft. high extensions onto the sides of the spreader, allowing him to increase capacity from 350 to 400 bu.

"It really spreads nice and is built stronger than anything on the market," says Eissner. "The single beater didn't spread manure lumps very well so we often had to come back with a field cultivator and

spread them out. The double beaters break up the lumps and spread evenly so we never have to make an extra tillage trip. I paid $30 for the pipe and $40 for the angle irons. The rest was scrap we had on hand. My total cost was about $300. Deere offers an add-on kit for installing a double beater but it sells for $1,800 to $1,900 and isn't as strong as mine."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arne Eissner, Box 1044, Souris, Manitoba, Canada R0K 2C0 (ph 204 483-3694).

Hog Farmer Boosts Profits With Smoked Hams

Smoking as many as 40 hams at a time in a home-built portable cooker has helped Kentucky hog producer Marion Crowdus boost net profits.

"It has large double doors on each side and a pair of slide-out racks which makes it easy to load and inspect hams and to add firewood. I made it mostly from materials that I already had and spent less than $450," says Crowdus.

He made a firebox by cutting a steel water trough in half and welding it to a steel frame that he welded to a car axle. A 4-ft. sq. commercial oven with slide-out racks mounts on top of the firebox. A 6-in. dia. oil well pipe on top of the oven serves as a smokestack. Draft is regulated by three lever-controlled doors on one end of the firebox and by a crank-operated baffle on the smokestack.

"It works a lot better than barrel-type barbecue cookers because it doesn't have a large lid on top that has to be raised," says Crowdus. "When loading wood into the firebox I push it all the way into the trough. I can also load wood into the trough through about 10 in. of open space on each side of the racks. A steel tray over the

trough has a 2-in. high lip all the way around it allowing me to load charcoal on it.

"A combination of wood and charcoal gives the hams a unique flavor that allows us to get more value out of our hogs. We sell our hogs to the meat packer and after they're processed we buy them back, then barbecue them in our cooker and resell them directly to the public. We use the cooker year 'round but especially during the holidays when we sell our hams mostly in larger cities. Our ham business has added about 10 to 15 percent to our net pork income. We also use the cooker in our catering business."

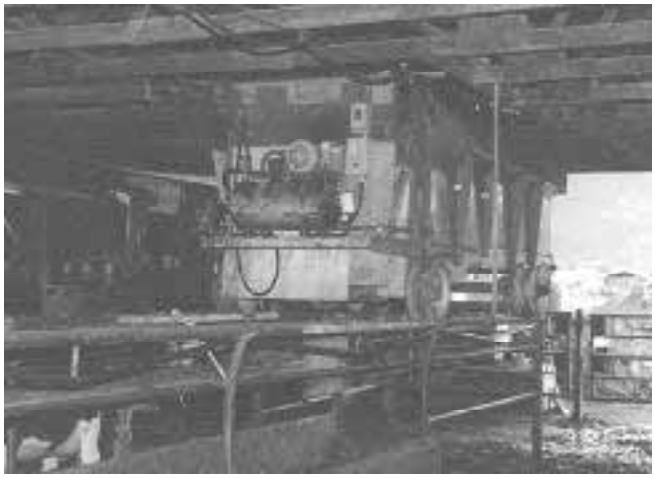
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marion Crowdus, 1799 State Rt. 141 North, Morganfield, Ky. 42437 (ph 502 389-1795).

FARM SHOW

"Made It Myself"

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmer's workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 1-800-834-9665.

Mark Newhall, Editor



Feed Wagon Rolls On Pipe Through Barn

"Our cattle feed out of both sides of a feed bunk located in our cattle shed. To fill it with a tractor and wagon, we had to kick all the cows out. To solve the problem, we modified a Schuler feed wagon to ride on 2 1/2-in. dia. pipe rails above the bunk," says John Van Esch, Chilliwack, British Columbia.

"The wagon runs above a belt conveyor that delivers corn silage from an upright silo. We use a tractor loader to fill the wagon with grass silage from a bunker silo.

"We removed the cross auger from the wagon and replaced it with a chute that goes the width of the wagon. The ends of the chute are hinged, so I can feed out either side, or both. I moved the rear axle back and mounted a pickup axle on front. All tires were removed. The rims ride on the rails.

"There are two hydraulic motors. One drives the pickup axle and the other operates the wagon. A 5-hp. electric motor powers a hydraulic pump. To supply electricity, a steel cable runs the length of the feed bunk. An electric cable is strapped to steel rings which slide along the cable so it can follow the feed wagon. All controls are on one corner of the wagon so I can operate everything from one spot.

"At the far end of the feed bunk, the lever control on the drive motor is flipped by a bar so the wagon reverses automatically.

"I can run the belt feeder and wagon at the same time. Because of the low ceiling in the barn, I had to to modify the trusses so we could fill the wagon with the loader."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Van Esch, 8905 Upper Prairie Rd., Chilliwack, B.C. V2P 6H4 Canada (ph 604 794-3222).