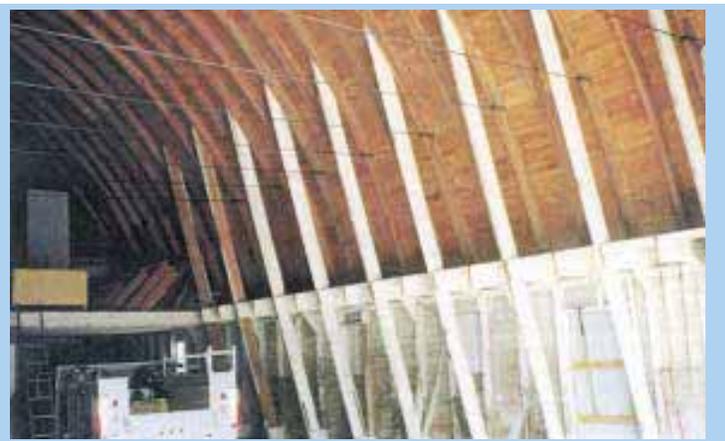




After he discontinued his dairy operation, Coudron converted this old 40 by 60-ft. dairy barn into a machine shed.



To keep the rafters from spreading when he removed the haymow floor, he bolted long rods to the rafters about halfway between the roof peak and floor.

Dairy Barn Converted To Machine Shed

"I made the decision to convert my old 40 by 60-ft. dairy barn to machinery storage after I discontinued my dairy operation. The barn was in good shape but, with the low-lying hay mow, impractical for anything but livestock," says Roger Coudron, who needed more machinery storage.

"I needed to find a way to get adequate bracing to support the sides and roof after the hay mow was removed. To do the job, we first went to the shop and welded clamps

onto long rods, which we then bolted to the rafters about halfway between the peak of the roof and the hay mow floor. These were to keep the rafters from spreading when we removed the floor.

"We removed the floor 4 ft. at a time, working from one end with a chain saw. As we removed the floor, we took out the stringers that were exposed. We then cut the stringers at an angle and used them as supports from the base of the sill to where they met the

rafters 22 ft. up from the sill. This provided the support needed for the side walls. We left 14-ft. of the floor at the back of the barn for an upper layer of storage. We filled in the gutters with sand.

"After we finished inside, we cut a large opening in the front of the barn for a door, adding extra bracing for support. We used materials salvaged from the hay mow to make two large sliding doors. The last step was to cover the barn with new metal siding.

"The only materials we bought for the conversion were the ties on the rafters, a walk-in door for the side of the barn, and tin for the outside. We did all the work ourselves at a total cost of under \$3,000."

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"Do-It-Yourself" Eave Troughs Made From Plastic Sewer Pipe

"They won't rust and are attached so well to the house that the wind can't knock them off," says Carmon Kaiser, Camden, Mich., who used lengths of 6-in. dia., 1/4-in. thick plastic sewer pipe to make his own low-cost eave troughs and down spouts.

Kaiser did the work three years ago when he reroofed his house. He cut sections of pipe in half lengthwise and bolted them together end to end, then used 1 1/2-wide, 1/4-in. thick strap iron to make hangers that he bent to fit the curve of the pipes. He drilled holes in the troughs to bolt them to the hangers and then nailed the hangers to the roof. He applied cement sealer around the bolts and tar over the nail holes before putting shingles on.

He used elbows and other PVC fittings to make down spouts at the ends of the troughs.

"They look nice and are built solid," says Kaiser. "A lot of people tell me that it looks nice. We've had several big windstorms since

I put them up, but in 70 mph winds the eave spouts didn't even wiggle. Some people spend thousands of dollars to put commercial eave spouts on their house, but then with the first little wind that comes up the spouts end up on the ground. There's about 235 ft. of eave spouts and 40 ft. of downspouts. The 10-ft. pipes cost \$17 to \$18 apiece. By cutting them in half I spent less than \$1 per foot of pipe. All together I spent slightly more than \$300 on materials because I got a bunch of pipe free from a friend. If I had bought commercial eave troughs and down spouts, and hired someone to put them on, I would've had to spend about \$1,300.

"The rafters are 2 ft. apart, and I nailed the hangers to every other rafter. I plan to cut metal gravel screen into 8-in. wide strips and use them to cover the eave spouts to keep leaves out. The screens will slip between the hangers and eave spouts, and will hook onto



Kaiser used lengths of 6-in. dia., 1/4-in. thick plastic sewer pipe to make eave troughs and down spouts, cutting sections of pipe in half lengthwise and bolting them together.

the underside of the roof edge."

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Mother Nature "Returns" Ring Three Years After Loss

Mother Nature must have a sense of humor. After taking care of a lost wedding ring for three years, She decided to return it wrapped around a tasty carrot.

Tammie Leopard of Erskine, Alberta, stopped looking for her lost ring long ago. "I kind of thought it would show up around the house," she says.

The too-large wedding band had slipped off her finger several times, but before she could have it resized, she lost it and had no idea where.

Leopard's mother Agnes Thauberger of St. Albert, Alberta, visited her daughter in September. One day she went out to the garden to get fresh carrots for supper.

Using a pitchfork to dig clumps of carrots, she shook them free of dirt. Suddenly, she saw something glittering.

"At first I thought it was a shiny staple since

they had been doing some house renovations," Thauberger said. Instead, she found her daughter's golden wedding ring with a medium-size carrot growing through it.

Thrilled with the discovery, she shared the news with Leopard's two daughters. The trio decided to add extra drama to the event by not revealing the news until the family sat down to supper.

"It was hard for those girls to keep quiet," says Thauberger of her granddaughters' giggling.

The meal began with shepherd's pie and fresh carrots. Leopard's daughters served their mother the "wedding ring carrot". "The look on her face was priceless," Thauberger says.

Leopard's husband, Glen, teased that she could have found the ring herself if she had spent more time in the garden.

Chances of finding the ring were the same

as "finding a needle in a haystack" said Tammi. The garden had been cultivated often over three growing seasons.

Although the \$200 ring cleaned up nicely, she's not sure if she will wear it again while gardening.

Thauberger suggests not. "I don't think I'm the finding type of person in the first place and now I've used up my luck," she says.

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Golden wedding ring was found with a medium-size carrot growing through it. The ring had been lost for three years.