

"Our home-built, two-story cement-mixing facility has saved us a lot of money," says Joel Waldner.

"WE CAN MIX UP A LOT OF CEMENT WHENEVER WE NEED IT"

They Built Their Own Cement-Mixing Facility

Joel Waldner of Lethbridge, Alberta, is a member of a Hutterite colony with a large farm operation. Since they do all their own building, they go through a lot of concrete.

Waldner recently sent FARM SHOW photos of the colony's own home-built, two-story concrete mixing facility.

"It's not as sophisticated as a commercial mixing facility but it works beautifully for us and has saved us a lot of money. We make our own concrete for about half as much as it would cost to have it delivered to our farm," says Waldner.

It consists of a large I-beam frame mounted above 16-ft. high, 1-ft. thick concrete walls set 12 ft. apart. A large hopper bin on top holds up to 50 tons of dry cement. Cement gravity feeds out the bin through a long rubber boot into a compartment in a steel tank that mounts below the bin. A second compartment holds sand and gravel, which is loaded into the bin by a payload loader that drives up a dirt ramp.

The tank stands on four legs fitted with weigh scales so cement and sand can be weighed as it's dumped into a mixing truck.

A small shed mounts next to the bin and contains an air compressor and hydraulic pump, as well as the controls for them.

"It took a lot of thinking and work but we're well satisfied with it," says Waldner. "We made it when we moved to a new location and had to put up 16 buildings. It was the first thing we built. The cement tank holds 5,000 lbs. while the sand and gravel tank holds up to 30,000 lbs., which is equal to 9 to 10 yards. We usually mix in 8-yard batches.



The tank stands on four legs fitted with weigh scales so cement and sand can be weighed as it's dumped into a mixing truck.

"Last year we used it to put up the foundation for a new shed and to install cement floors in two 20 by 20-ft. buildings. This year we're putting up a 100-ft. dia. liquid manure storage building with a cement floor. We've also used it to make basements in our houses, to make the foundations for hog and cattle barns and shops and even to make cement walkways. It takes only about eight minutes to make an 8-yard batch of cement.

"We can pump calcium in with the cement as it goes into the truck in order to keep it from freezing during the winter."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joels Waldner, 67 Tudor Crescent, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada T1K 5C7.

Do Friends & Neighbors Borrow Your FARM SHOW?

You probably don't mind sharing your copies of FARM SHOW with friends, neighbors, relatives or co-workers, but wouldn't it be nice if they all had their own subscriptions? Now you can "gift" a year of FARM SHOW to anyone and renew your own subscription at a cut-rate price. What's more, we'll send you a FREE copy of our just-published "Book Of Do-It-Yourself Plans". See the order envelope enclosed with this issue, or call 1-800-834-9665 to order by credit card.

A YARD FULL OF CREATIONS

He Makes Sculptures Out Of Odds And Ends

Nebraska farmer Eric Pekarek spends a good deal of his free time making yard art out of odds and ends he finds around his place or at garage sales.

He took up the hobby five years ago, making things strictly for family and friends. So far, he's finished nearly 20 of the metal sculptures, which take a half day to two days to complete from welding them together to giving them the final coat of paint.

Here's a sample of Pekarek's handiwork.



Owl - Built from a combine drive wheel rim and disc blade, it camouflages Pekarek's Mom's trash burner. Wings are windmill fins. Feet are rebar. Eyes are carriage bolts with washers. Beak is a sickle section guard.

Cowboy - Six-foot cowboy has a milk can for a body, a freon tank for a head and pipes for arms and legs. Hat is a fan shroud off an old Moline combine. Lariat is rebar as are hands.



Pig - A 10-lb. freon tank is the body of this 1-ft. tall oinker. Head is a front wheel hub off an old Chevy car. Ears were bent from tin, tail is length of rod heated and twisted and legs are pipe.



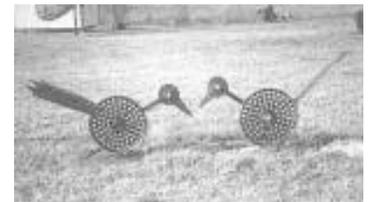
Turkey - Has a 30-gal. barrel body and windmill fins for wings and tail feathers. Beak is a sickle guard. It has rebar for feet, pipe for a head, and a neck from a part of a late 1960's Moline 3496 combine. About 4 ft. tall.



Sunflowers - Constructed out of rasp bars off the old Moline 3496, they stand 6 ft. tall on pipe stalks and with pipe leaves.



Grasshopper - "Johnny Hopper" is 11 in. long by 6 in. wide and sits atop Pekarek's garage. Body and head are made out of 6 in. tubing. Eyes are lug nuts off a truck. Antenna are #9 wire and legs are out of rebar. Wings are windmill fins.



Pheasants - Bodies built from a pair of 12-in. dia. packer wheels off Deere drill. Heads are worn out drive sprockets from grain elevators on old combine. Tails are windmill fins. Necks are 1-in. sq. tubing.



Guinea Hen - Body is Deere packer wheel. Wings are windmill fins. Neck is sq. tubing. Head is guard off mower sickle section.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eric Pekarek, Rt. 1, Box 193A, Valparaiso, Neb. 68056 (ph 402 784-3793).