



Ray spent about \$12,000 turning an 8 by 8 1/2-ft. shipping container into a live floor trailer that he pulls behind his semi tractor. He uses the trailer in his custom hauling business.

Live Floor Trailer Made From Shipping Container

James Ray, Jr., Higley, Arizona, converted a 40-ft. shipping container into a fifth wheel, live floor trailer that unloads itself. He pulls it behind his Volvo semi tractor equipped with a Cummins diesel engine.

"I use it to haul silage, as well as solid manure that I pick up at local dairy farms," says Higley, who operates a custom hauling business.

He paid \$2,000 for the 8 by 8 1/2-ft. shipping container and mounted it on a set of axles off a wrecked semi trailer. He cut the top off the container and mounted a fifth wheel underneath the front end.

Ray installed three sets of homemade slatted chains on the container floor with 2-ft. wide chains on either side and a 3-ft. chain down the middle. He used 2-in. channel iron to make the slats and welded them onto roller chain. He mounted a steel shaft and a pair of large drive sprockets on back of the trailer and put idler sprockets on front.

A hydraulic pump on the semi tractor powers the chains. The pump operates a hydraulic motor that runs through a reduction transmission.

"I've used it for four years and couldn't be happier with it," says Ray. "Last year I used it to haul about 20,000 tons of corn silage and 4,000 tons of solid manure. Shipping containers are built from heavy gauge steel so



He installed three sets of homemade slatted chains on the container floor. A hydraulic pump on the semi tractor powers the chains.

they're built tough.

"Building it myself saved a lot of money. A friend of mine paid \$38,000 for a new 35-ft. fifth wheel live floor trailer, whereas I built mine for about \$12,000. I bought the chains from a local bearing and chain dealer, and the sprockets from an Oregon company that builds trailers."

Ray says he has used the trailer to haul as much as 110,000 lbs. of corn silage at a time. "Corn silage is heavy, so the trailer is a little too big to be filled up with corn silage and still be road legal. However, I can fill the trailer up completely with haylage, which is a drier material. I've also used the trailer to haul scrap metal and used tires," he notes.

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Nachamkin used 3-in. dia. PVC pipe to make an 8-ft. deer fence around his half-acre garden.

PVC Deer Fence Protects Garden

Retired physicist Jack Nachamkin of Glen Mills, Penn., found a simple solution to the pesky deer that kept finding ways to nibble on his garden.

An 8-ft. high fence with 3-in. dia. PVC pipe posts spaced 10 ft. apart, provide the framework for his barricade. Each of the posts are buried 2 ft. down in concrete, and capped so water can't get in, freeze and crack the bases.

"Initially, we just had barbed wires spaced 18 in. apart going up the fence, but we actually saw deer jumping right between the wires to get into the garden," Nachamkin says.

"Then we added chicken wire all the way

around to fill up the gaps, and since then the worst varmints we've had are mice."

There is a regular metal gate made with two 4 by 8-ft. commercial gates, allowing tractor access, the happy gardener says. To support the gates' extra weight, the gate posts have guy wires for re-enforcement.

Nachamkin says his 140 by 160-ft. garden plot is roughly a half acre. The posts cost only about \$3 each.

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Door Closer Keeps Chickens Safe

After losing half his young flock to raccoons, Mike Bard knew he needed a better way to keep his hens safe. His auto door opener does the trick.

"I wanted to be able to let the hens out during the day, but keep them safe at night," says Bard. "With the timer, I don't have to worry about whether I shut them up or not before I go to bed."

Putting a timer on the door also means the chickens don't have to wait for Bard to let them out at dawn. He has it set to open an hour before sunrise and close an hour after sunset.

"The timer is just a simple calendar timer that I can reset as day length changes," says Bard. "The opener is an electric motor-driven ball screw. Its threaded shaft screws into a nut on the door."

Bard hinged the "ball screw" unit to the outside wall above the door. The nut mounts on a hinged bracket on the chicken-sized door to the hen house. As the shaft turns, it draws the nut toward it, lifting the door. After sunset, the shaft turns in the opposite direction, and the nut and door are pushed down and closed. The two hinges allow the mechanism and the door to adjust for the different angles as the door opens and shuts.

"The timer and all the wiring are on the inside of the chicken coop," says Bard. "An electrician friend of mine wired it. He wired in a relay that switches the mechanism to forward or reverse to close or open the door."



"The timer is just a simple calendar timer that I can reset as day length changes," says Bard. "The opener is an electric motor-driven ball screw. Its threaded shaft screws into a nut on the door."



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Easy-To-Install Seal For Deere No-Till Drills

Anyone with a Deere 750 or 1850 series no-till drill knows that the cast iron closing wheels can lock up, due to dirt and moisture getting into the bearing seals. This new Seal Sealer is designed to solve the problem on the estimated 750,000 closing wheels on Deere no-till drills around the world.

The Seal Sealer is an injection molded plastic cap that's designed to fit over the closing wheel's original bearing seal. "The original bearing wears out because moisture and dust get in and lock up the wheel," says inventor Rick Heintzman. "The spindle that supports the closing wheel has a dust cap with a nut inside it that holds the wheel on. Unfortunately, on the other side of the wheel, all of the seal is exposed which allows moisture and dirt to enter into the bearing and eventually lock it up."

He came up with the idea after being frustrated at having to constantly replace the seals on his Deere 42-ft. no-till drill. "The drill is equipped with 68 closing wheels, and I was constantly installing replacement parts on those wheels. If the bearing locks up and the wheel falls off before you get a chance to replace the seal and bearings, then you have to spend \$70 for a new wheel."

The Seal Sealer installs on the back side of the closing wheel and consists of a plastic seal and a large washer.

"It's easy to install. If the wheel is still good



Seal Sealer is an injection-molded plastic cap that's designed to fit over the closing wheel's original bearing seal. "It's easy to install and if the wheel is still good when you spin it, there's no need to replace the bearings," says inventor Rick Heintzman.

when you spin it, there's no need to replace the bearings," notes Heintzman.

The Seal Sealer has a lifetime guarantee. Orders of 1 to 15 sell for \$25 apiece delivered; orders of 16 or more sell for \$16 delivered.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rick Heintzman Mfg. Inc., 710 11th Ave. N.E., West Fargo, N. Dak. 58078 (ph 877 213-7325 or 605 380-8600; Heintzman@seal-sealer.com; www.seal-sealer.com).

"No Cost" Way To Dry Lumber

More and more people are sawing their own lumber with mini-mills. But once it's cut, how do you dry it?

If you can't justify your own kiln, you might like this idea from Bill Reeks, Cromwell, Ky., who's well-known for his do-it-yourself bandsaw mills.

Reeks says you can put together a "no cost" kiln anywhere with some plastic and a dehumidifier. Just stack fresh-cut wood together and wrap the stack tightly with plastic. Black is best because it'll help heat up the pile. Then

put a dehumidifier under the plastic so it's sucking in air from around the stack and sucking out the water.

Reeks says it might take a little longer than a commercial kiln but it'll cost thousands less. Another way to do it is to buy an old school bus, seal it up, and paint it black. Then put a dehumidifier inside, or a set of blower fans.

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