

Profit-Boosting Hog System Designed For Smaller Producers

Eighty-year-old Herman Tripp of Paton, Iowa, is considered by many to be the forefather of modern hog confinement thanks to his invention of the farrowing crate (patented in 1947), slatted floors, and his concept of early weaning, which he started in 1946.

Tripp helped to construct hundreds of confinement operations across North America and in nine foreign countries.

But now that his ideas have been used to concentrate hog production into a small number of hog operations, he has come up with a new concept designed to make it profitable again for smaller farmers to raise hogs.

"Our 'One Step System' turns back time, so that small farmers can once again succeed at raising pigs," says Tripp, who has patented his new system and much of the equipment used for it.

The system consists of build-it-yourself 20 by 260-ft. barns which are designed to house fifty 8-ft. sq. "birth to market" pens.

The main idea is to avoid the dangers of moving young pigs from one area to another area, three or four times during their growing period. The birth-to-market pens have removeable farrowing components for sows to farrow in. Once pigs are weaned, both the sows and the farrowing equipment are removed. The young pigs stay in the same pen with their littermates. This allows them to take advantage of the natural immunity they have to the bacteria in their pen, thanks to antibodies given to them by their mother through nursing.

"What you see with the One Step System is very happy pigs; they're never fighting, very friendly, playful, and they gain very fast. That's the way we think pigs should be raised," Tripp says, who adds that hogs raised in his system require virtually no antibiotics.

One important feature of Tripp's system is what he calls the "Filter Floor," a special brand of floor slats, made of fiberglass bars and spaced so that manure is worked through

by the pigs' activity, and then cut off cleanly by the edges. The slats are too narrow for a baby pig's foot to slip through and be caught.

In addition, special-designed feeders get pigs weaned fast, and integrated brooder-heaters draw them away from their mothers. Pigs actually wean earlier in his system, says Tripp.

A totally new ventilation system, which includes a 20-ft. tower at the center of the barn, does a better job removing foul air and drying out manure. The tower filters air through water-cooled curtains. Two 1,000-gal. tanks of water provide constant water supply and also serve as a vertical reservoir that, by creating its own water pressure, supplies each pen of pigs with drinking water and cooling, if and when needed.

Maybe the most radical component of Tripp's new system is the way manure is continuously composted, reducing odors and automatically producing a valuable, odorless byproduct that can be applied to crops or sold. Dead animals can be composted right along with the manure.

"I developed the One Step System so smaller farmers can raise pigs faster, cleaner and without using antibiotics," he says. "The One Step System greatly reduces birth to market time - a reduction of one to four weeks. Much labor is also saved by eliminating clean up time since pigs are not moved from building to building. It has taken me about 15 years to bring all of these ideas together in an integrated, patented system."

By not using antibiotics, it's possible to produce "chemical-free" hogs with this system, and Tripp is finding a specialty market for hogs produced in his system. He says sales of the system have really taken off.

"The family type of hog operation is coming back in droves," he says.

Tripp says conventional feeding systems yield hogs with a feed efficiency of about 3 lbs. to one (feed to gain), but the One Step



"One Step System" consists of build-it-yourself 20 by 260-ft. barns which are designed to house fifty 8-ft. sq. "birth to market" pens.

System has increased efficiency to just 2.4 lbs. of feed for every pound of gain.

The system is sold only as a complete unit including the pre-fab building for 50 sows, the various internal components, and a 10 by 50-ft. composting system. The total cost of a One Step System is \$120,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The One Step Corporation, Herman and Clara Tripp, 2047-100th St., Paton, Iowa 50217 (ph 515 968-4341; fax 515 968-4347; email: spring45@wceta.net; website: www.onestepsystem.com).



Manure from hog barn is continuously composted in drum-type composting rig.



One-man motorcycle loader attaches to bed of pickup and can also be mounted on a trailer. It consists of a frame with an electrical-powered mounting rail in it.



Load Or Unload Any Motorcycle By Yourself

Loading a motorcycle into a pickup, especially alone, can be dangerous, both to the cycle and to the would-be rider.

Gene Jacobsen, Jacobsen Trailer, Inc., Fowler, California, has solved that problem.

His One-Man Motorcycle Loader does just what its name implies. The loader attaches firmly into the beds of most pickups. It can also be mounted on a trailer. It consists of a frame with an electrical-powered mounting rail in it. He says he designed it with the biggest Harley Davidson in mind.

To load a motorcycle, the specially designed lift raises the front of the rail, pushes it back, and then gravity lowers the entire rail to ground level. One person can then roll the motorcycle into the rail. Specially designed braces that fit over the handlebars support the

cycle while the person locks the wheels securely onto the rail. After that, the braces are removed and the winch is reversed, raising the rail and up to 2,000 lbs. of motorcycle back into the pickup bed. No further ropes or chains are needed to secure the motorcycle to the pickup bed.

The loader's winch is powered by a 12-volt connection to the pickup's electrical system. A hand-held remote controls the winch.

Jacobsen's patented loader has just gone into production. It sells for \$2,900, plus shipping.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gene Jacobsen, Jacobsen Trailer, Inc., 1128 E. South Avenue, Fowler, Cal. 93625 (ph 559 834-5971; email: genej@jacobsentrailer.com; website: www.jacobsentrailer.com).

Mathew Hempel took an odometer like this one from a semi tractor and bolted it onto his ATV.



Hub Odometer Fits ATV

Don't have an odometer on your ATV? Mathew Hempel found a simple way to add one by simply bolting one onto the wheel hub of his Honda Rancher 350 cc ATV.

"I pulled it off a semi," he explains. "Truckers have to have them on the axle of their trucks, so police can check actual miles the rear axle has turned."

On the semi tractor, the odometer is attached to two axle hub bolts and mounted over the bearing cap.

Hempel found that the spacers that allowed the odometer to be attached to the tractor hub also fit two lug bolts on the deep hub wheel of the Honda.

"For it to work without modifications, you

have to have an ATV wheel with a deep hub like the Honda does," he explains.

Once attached to the ATV wheel, the center of the hub odometer floats. As the wheel rotates, it ticks off revolutions. Each odometer is specific to a certain circumference tire and indicates how many revolutions to a mile.

"The actual circumference of the Honda wheel is about half that of the semi tractor wheel the odometer was designed for," explains Hempel. "We just take the miles indicated and divide by two."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mathew Hempel, RR 1, Box 52, Semper Fidelis Ranch, Eldridge, Mo. 65463 (ph 573 363-5213).