



Auto Dry Track System stops ruts before they start by using half nozzles to spray water to the sides and back of tires.

How To Stop Center Pivot Ruts Before They Start

Here's a new concept in center pivot irrigation – spraying water behind the wheels to avoid deep wheel ruts.

Ryan McConnell's new Auto Dry Track System stops ruts before they start by using half nozzles to spray a half circle of water to the sides of the towers and behind the tires.

"A second advantage is that you don't spray water on gearbox seals or center drive seals, which extends their life. And you can harvest without deep tracks, which extends the life of field equipment," says McConnell.

He sells a complete package ready for installation that includes galvanized parts and brass solenoid valves, which attach to the pivot's frame. The system is electrically wired into the forward/reverse contacts of each tower, with no structural changes to the tower.

The system waters 100 percent of your farm ground and works automatically in both directions. "It automatically switches directions when your pivot changes directions. No manual switching is necessary," says McConnell.

The system can be used on all pivots – full circles, half circles, wiper and linear systems – and installed on all makes and models of new or existing pivots.

The Auto Dry Track System sells for about \$700 installed per tower.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Auto Dry Track Systems, Inc., 293 Roundhouse Rd., Lewistown, Mont. 59457 (ph Lloyd Parsons 406 366-3194 or Ryan McConnell 308 235-5187; autodrytrack@gmail.com; www.AutoDryTrack.com).



Lapp's 4-Wheel Barrow Dumper is designed to do double duty. Releasing the hand pull handle exposes a clevis end for towing behind an ATV or garden tractor.



Handy Dumper Does Double Duty

The 4-wheel Barrow Dumper from Lapp Welding is designed to do double duty. Release the hand pull handle, and a clevis end is revealed for towing behind an ATV, garden tractor or even a pony.

"It works great for hauling mulch or cleaning out stalls but you can also use it as a temporary livestock watering tank," says Steven Lapp, Lapp Welding. "It's heavy gauge aluminum, but still lightweight."

The wagon comes in three sizes – 6, 9 and 12 cu. ft. – with a maximum capacity of 2,000 lbs. on the 12 cu. ft. model. Sizes vary from 25 to 30 1/2-in. widths and 47 to 60-in. lengths. The smaller Model 1000 (\$315) has a 10-in. depth, while the Model 1027 (\$340) and Model 2000 (\$418) are 13 in. deep. A pony shaft is an extra \$67.

Four different wheel options are available

including smooth rib, heavy-duty saw tooth, turf tires and flat-free solid poly tires.

The wagon has a beveled rear end that extends well past the rear axle with a support system that allows for two-stage dumping. Release the latch, and lift the two handles on the front end. The center of gravity shifts making lifting easy.

In the first stage, the beveled end rests on the ground. Lift the tub farther, and the box pivots back on the top rear edge to empty out completely.

Lapp says the wagons are easy to clean between jobs and are available with a hand brake for parking loads.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lapp Welding Shop, 182 Cider Mill Rd, Ephrata, Penn. 17522 (ph 717 733-2117).

Low-Cost Vinyl "Chicken Saddle"

"Our new chicken saddle is much tougher than old-style saddles and much cheaper, selling for as little as 75 cents per bird. Made out of puncture-resistant vinyl, it's almost like putting armor on your chickens," says David Marsz, Conifer, Colo.

The chicken saddle covers the chicken's back and has holes in it where you fit the bird's wings through to hold it in place.

"It protects the hens' backs from rooster claws and spurs during mating, and if the hen has already been pecked the saddle covers the raw area giving it time to heal. Meanwhile, the rooster can still go about its business," says Marsz. "Old-style chicken saddles perform a similar function. However, since they're made of canvas or cloth with elastic straps, they're not made to last. Moreover, clasps and certain fabric designs attract even more pecking behavior. You can use a permanent marker to draw eye-spots on our vinyl saddle to scare off predators."

The chicken saddle comes in 2 sizes, small



Chicken saddle covers chicken's back. It's made out of puncture-resistant vinyl.

and medium/large, and both sell for \$2.50 apiece S&H included. For orders of 100 or more, they sell for as low as 75 cents S&H included.

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LeRoy Momper built this 2-wheeled, garden-sized fertilizer spreader using the plastic hopper off a pickup-mounted salt spreader.

"Made It Myself" Fertilizer Spreader

LeRoy Momper wasn't happy with the pull-type, garden-sized fertilizer spreader he bought at a local farm store. "The first time I used it the frame bent and the spreader collapsed, spilling 175 lbs. of fertilizer. That's when I decided to build my own," says the Fredonia, Wis., man.

A friend gave him a plastic hopper off a pickup-mounted salt spreader, and Momper designed and fabricated the rest of the 2-wheeled spreader from spare parts.

The spreader holds 300 lbs. and is gravity fed with 10 different settings, depending on the granule size. "It'll spread from 10 to 16 ft. wide depending on how fast I drive," says Momper.

The spreader rides on a pair of 13-in. car spare wheels. Momper built his own axles

and spindles out of bar shafts and used 2-in. sq. tubing to build the spreader's frame and bolted the hopper to it. The spreader's ground-driven spinner is mounted on a 90 degree gearbox that's chain-driven off a pair of sprockets – one with 40 teeth and the other with 10 teeth to make the spinner rotate faster.

"I use the spreader on my 40-acre wildlife food plot and pull it behind my ATV or garden tractor. I didn't spend more than \$75 to build it," says Momper. "I can change the fertilizer delivery rate without ever getting off the ATV by simply reaching back and grabbing a spring-loaded lever."

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Coal Auger Helps Burn Pellets In Barrel Stove

Marvin Bauer added parts from a coal stoker to a fuel barrel to burn wood pellets.

"It does a good job heating our 40 by 80-ft. shop," says the Ronan, Mont., resident. "Pellets are so much neater than messing with wood."

Bauer had first turned the 300-gal. fuel barrel into a wood stove, but decided he preferred to burn pellets, which are readily available in the area. He had an old coal stoker that came out of a school after it closed.

Bauer used the stoker's auger and blower. He improvised a pickup wheel and disc blade

inside the bottom of the stove welded to the end of the auger that moves the coal into the stove. A coupling in the middle of the wheel pushes pellets into the stove. A smaller barrel next to the stove has used crankcase oil that also drips into the stove.

With the coal stoker's blower, everything adjusts automatically, Bauer says, and the stove has produced a nice even heat for several years.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marvin Bauer, 50437 Rocky Butte Rd., Ronan, Mont. 59864 (ph 406 644-2793).