



Bunk system attaches to side of building and comes with hinged polymer bins and a roof. Operator pushes a button to open roof and then loads feed into bunk.

“Feed From Outside” Bunk System

With the Barron Feed System, producers have the convenience of feeding livestock from the outside of a building, wasting less feed because of a protective roof and speeding up cleanup time with hinged polymer bins.

The system attaches to the side of a building. At feeding time, the producer simply pushes a button to open the feeder’s roof and fills the bunk with hay or from a TMR.

Besides saving time, there is less wasted feed because the roof can be closed when it rains or snows. The hinged 6-ft. long trough sections can be tipped to the outside for easy cleaning.

The system is the most recent innovation by Tom Barron, who has come up with other equipment to feed calves on his Ruthton, Minn., farm. He and his son, Andrew, worked with engineers to manufacture the user-friendly bunk system.

“We custom fit to the length of the building,” Andrew Barron says, noting the system works on all types of structures including wood, metal and hoop buildings. Their longest system was 228 ft., with the roof divided in two sections. “They’ve been geared for sheep and cattle so far, but it would work for dairy cattle and goats too. We can set the bunk as low as 12 1/2 in. off the ground and as high as needed.”

Customers appreciate the time they save feeding and the fact that they don’t have to get in the barn with the animals to feed them. At the same time, while the animals are eating, producers can check them out and treat them immediately if they see any health issues.



Photo shows sidewall open and bunk tipped upside down for cleaning.

Producers also use the feed system roof to improve ventilation by keeping it open for good cross-ventilation. Plus it provides shade for feeding animals.

Costs vary according to length and design and options, such as a wireless remote to open and close the roof. Call for an estimate.

Barron Built also sells a full line of livestock feeding equipment including free standing as well as pull-type hay and self-feeders.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Barron Built, 7-221st St., Ruthton, Minn. 56170 (ph 507 658-3391; info@barronbuilt.com; www.barronbuilt.com).

“Cultipacker” Wheel Weights

“My Kubota B6200 tractor, which I sometimes enter in pulling contests, has a light front end. I tried hanging weights on front, but it didn’t really help,” says David Simpler, Elkton, Md. “So I found two new 16-in. dia., cast iron Brillion cultipacker wheels weighing 25 lbs. apiece. They fit perfectly just inside the lip of the wheel rim on the tractor’s front wheels.”

He drilled the necessary holes, and made stud stand-offs to keep the cultipacker wheels tight against the tractor’s wheel rim so they don’t pressure and crack the cast iron.

“The cultipacker wheels help hold the tractor’s front tires on the ground now and to improve the traction,” says Simpler.

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David Simpler’s Kubota tractor was light on the front end, so he mounted two 16-in. dia., cast iron Brillion cultipacker wheels at 25 lbs. apiece on the front rims.



“A gas-powered wheelchair can take you places you might otherwise not be able to go,” says Paul Scholand, who built 2 wheelchairs powered by 110 cc motorcycle engines.

Gas-Powered Wheelchair Conversion

Put a motorcycle engine on a wheelchair and it’ll be equally at home on city pavement or driving on a country lane, says Paul Scholand, Ypsilanti, Mich. He built 2 gas-powered wheelchairs that are powered by 110 cc motorcycle engines with automatic transmissions and electric start.

“A gas-powered wheelchair can take you places you might otherwise not be able to go. I’d like to make them available to vets,” says Scholand.

He used kits from www.motivechair.com that are designed to attach motors to wheelchairs. The kit includes everything you need except the wheelchair, engine, and starter battery. No modification to the wheelchair is necessary. It comes with a 2-qt. gas tank.

The engine mounts on a subframe below and behind the wheelchair’s seat. The subframe clamps in 4 places to the wheelchair frame. The engine chain-drives an axle fitted with 2 friction wheels, which rub against the wheelchair’s wheels. The kit comes with levers that are used to brake and steer.

“The wheelchair steers and brakes much like a skid loader,” says Scholand, who installed a pair of wheelie bars on back to keep the wheelchair from tipping over backward.

“It’s a self-starting, self-shifting engine so you don’t have to work the clutch or shift any linkage. There’s just a throttle and a kill button which makes it easy to use,” says Scholand. “I went with gas power instead of batteries because the battery-powered systems I’ve seen don’t provide the same speed, range, and off-road capability. They cost more, too.

“The engine comes with a carburetor restrictor plate to limit its maximum power. You can drive up to 20 miles on a single tank of fuel. Top speed is 15 mph.



Engine mounts on subframe below and behind wheelchair seat.

“You can remove the engine in 5 min. and use the wheelchair conventionally,” says Scholand.

He later added a FreeWheel caster wheel system that turned the Invacare A4 wheelchair into a 3-wheeler for off-road use (www.gofreewheel.com). He also reinforced the wheelchair’s foot platform supports to take the twisting force off the large third wheel.

“With the FreeWheel installed, your wheelchair caster wheels can roll right over any obstacle including curbs, and go on dirt trails, grass, gravel, snow, and sand,” says Scholand.

“I’d be glad to help anyone who wants to build their own gas-powered wheelchair. I can also train you on how to use it, as there is something of a learning curve,” notes Scholand, who’s selling the larger Invacare wheelchair for \$3,000 and a smaller Quickie GTI powered chair for \$1,400.

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Song Lures Sparrows To Trap

With a few chirps and a piece of bread, a new sparrow trap from Bird Barrier captures sparrows inside or outside buildings, says Cameron Riddell, co-developer of the trap and president of Bird Barrier.

The trap is usually set up high, with bread held in place by 2 wires as bait. “The main thing that makes it work is the audio component, a sparrow call. Sparrows land on top of the trap out of curiosity,” Riddell says.

That releases a lever and the bird falls into a box.

The trap is humane and hygienic, Riddell notes. Currently the trap only works for one bird at a time, but Bird Barrier expects to offer a multiple catch model soon.

The Sparrow Trap Door sells for about \$150 through Bird Barrier. The audio traps are powered by three AA batteries that last



Recorded call causes sparrows to land on top of trap out of curiosity. That releases a lever and bird falls into box.

up to a week, or by an optional power cord.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bird Barrier, 20925 Chico St., Carson, Calif. 90746 (ph 800 503-5444; www.birdbarrier.com).