

Damon Carson cleaned out old hay from his hay yard by turning a 275-gal. tote on its side, then hooking a chain on and dragging the tote behind his pickup to fill it with hay.



Another Use For 275-Gal. Totes

Damon Carson, the “RePurpose Guy”, recently sent FARM SHOW photos of an idea sent to him by one of his customers. His Denver-based company, “RepurposedMATERIALS” (ph 720 583-4873; www.repurposedmaterialsinc.com) recycles industrial materials.

Carson is always on the lookout for what he calls over-engineered waste, and likes to put customers together with products that can be used for other purposes. Used 275-gal. chemical totes are another popular item.

Here’s how the customer, Kristin Campbell, repurposed the metal cage surrounding one of the 275-gal. totes she bought from RepurposedMATERIALS.

“We had to clean out the old hay from our

hay yard before we could stack new hay in there, in order to help prevent mold,” says Campbell. “We turned the tote cage on its side and weighted it down, then hooked a chain on and dragged the tote out to our pasture and unloaded it for the animals to sort through and sleep on, and then we dragged it back again for another load.

“We did 6 loads this way in less than 5 hrs. Normally, it would have taken all day to fork the hay into the back of the pickup, and then we would’ve had to fork it back out again when we got to the pasture. Using the tote cage saved us a ton of elbow – and shoulder – grease.”



A garage door opener is the “brains” behind Bernie Coulthorst’s remote controlled “dumbwaiter”. He uses it to move heavy objects from his basement up to his office.

Remote Control Makes “Dumbwaiter” Smart

Moving heavy objects from his basement is easy for Bernie Coulthorst, thanks to his “smart” dumbwaiter.

“I built it for less than \$150 to relieve the burden of carrying things up and down the steps,” says Coulthorst. “Now we just put things in the basket or on the shelf and push a button.”

Installation was easy. He pulled up the carpet and cut a hole in the closet floor in his wife’s office. He didn’t even have to cut a floor joist; his design fit between the wall and the nearest joist.

“I bought a new Sears garage door opener from K-Mart and installed it vertically between the joists,” recalls Coulthorst. “The lever that is normally attached to the overhead door is used to support a permanent shelf. It can easily handle 20 to 30 lbs.”

Coulthorst installed the chain drive motor in the upper part of the closet and anchored it to a frame installed in the basement. The wired button for the motor is mounted near the motor. The remote control is mounted to the dumbwaiter frame in the basement.

“A cable-driven unit would work, but I think the chain drive is best for this use,” says Coulthorst. “We use it for everything

from food to tools, potting soil to cat litter. It is the best thing I ever built, and my wife Carolyn loves it.”

Coulthorst says it has made life easier and safer. He prints a square dancing magazine in his basement, so carrying paper up and down the steps was something he wanted to eliminate.

“Both of us can go up and down the stairs without carrying anything, and are able to use the railings for safety purposes,” says Coulthorst. “We’ve been using it for about 10 years without a problem. It’s an idea that worked.”

Coulthorst says he would be happy to advise FARM SHOW readers interested in installing their own “smart” dumbwaiter. He’s also glad to share information about square dancing.

“If you want information about square dancing in your area, we can help,” says Coulthorst. “We have worldwide square dance connections.”

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Photos by Hilary Murphy Photography

Kiko goats are especially superior in 2 big areas - pounds of kid produced per doe, and worm resistance.

Kiko Goat Herds Growing In U.S.

If you ever get serious about raising goats for meat production, you need to know about the Kiko breed, says PJ Murphy, who raises goats and is on the performance and marketing committees for the American Kiko Goat Association (AKGA). FARM SHOW first reported on the New Zealand breed 10 years ago (Vol. 30, No. 6).

“The breed has excelled over the last 10 years, outperforming other meat breeds,” Murphy says. Research at Tennessee State University as well as feedlot and forage-based testing shows Kiko goats are especially superior in two big areas - pounds of kid produced per doe and worm resistance.

Both are important to producers like Murphy, who raises goats in Pittstown, N.J. Hardiness and their adaptability to thrive on everything from scrub and pasture to a commercial feedlot makes them a hot commodity.

Some producers are breeding them with Boer goats to improve ease of kidding, mothering ability and worm resistance.

While top-of-the line Kiko goats can auction for more than \$5,000, good quality purebreds average \$1,000 to \$2,000. For commercial, unregistered bucks, the price range is \$300 to \$700. Mature males weigh 200 to 300 lbs., and females weigh 100 to 160 lbs.

Murphy notes that though the breed originated in New Zealand, it is becoming more American as Kikos adapt to different parts of the U.S. They can handle both cold and heat, but like other ruminants don’t like to be cold and wet.

Because there is more than one Kiko association and other pedigree recording services and owners often register goats in more than one, it is difficult to know the exact number of Kikos in the U.S. But according



Kikos are hardy and can thrive on everything from scrub and pasture to commercial feedlots.

to the AKGA, there are about 25,000.

Besides increased numbers of Kiko goats in the U.S., marketing of all meat goats has also changed beyond the ethnic markets in the past 10 years.

“Goat meat has less cholesterol than chicken and is very lean. There is demand for locally produced foods, and more consumers are buying directly from producers,” Murphy says.

People interested in breeding Kiko goats in their herds should check out the AKGA website and Facebook page to review data and find animals for sale.

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Laser Scarecrow Chases Away Pesky Birds

Carpe Diem Technologies has introduced a new laser light system for chasing birds away from crops. Tony Bhullar of the company says the laser system is more effective and certainly less noisy than propane-powered cannons or “birds in distress” electronic noise makers. With those methods, birds can become used to the noise.

Bhullar says the laser system, which mounts on a 15-ft. tall mast, has 2 lasers that are adjustable to any direction. It can also be adjusted for leveling up or down. The unit deters birds with a laser pattern that repeats at different speeds on a horizontal and vertical plane. The operator using the device can create his own pattern and speed to deal with the bird problem.

The P-3 Anti-Avian System is powered by 2 gel pack batteries in a control box. During daylight hours it’s recharged by a solar panel. The P-3 can be set to turn itself on at dawn and off at dusk so as not to be a nuisance to



Laser light system mounts on a 15-ft. tall mast and includes 2 lasers that can be adjusted in any direction and up or down.

neighbors.

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