



Greden Welding custom builds attachments such as this large log splitter.

## Welding Business Is Geared To Farming

When Brent Greden and his son Adam quit dairying, a welding business was a natural next step. It used skills they had honed doing welding around the farm and that Adam learned in school. When a local welding shop came up for sale, they jumped at it.

"Adam left the farm about a year before me," says Brent Greden, Greden Welding Service. "He and his wife met with the owners and were interested. He worked with them for about 3 mos. to try it out, and then we bought out the owners."

Three years later the Gredens are enjoying their new trade. Brent handles the orders, quotes and bookwork, helping out in the shop as needed. Adam is the backbone of the shop and does the more technical work.

They like the variety, with every job

being different. They also like having weekends off, even if they are always on call for emergency work.

Although local farm repair is their bread and butter, they get plenty of larger commercial jobs. "We had 48-ft. and 52-ft. trailers taking up most of our bays as we put new racks on them," says Greden.

"We built a 20-yard dump truck box with new a tailgate, sides and bed, and we've replaced axles and steering axles on 7,200 and 8,000-gal. manure tankers."

Sometimes jobs can be similar and at the same time very different. They've fabricated steel posts to repair local pole sheds and built 27-ft. stainless steel posts for a food processing company 80 miles away.

Little jobs aren't turned away either. "We've repaired walkers, made a piece for a

broken recliner and fixed yard ornaments," says Greden.

When they get the chance, the Gredens get busy with their sideline, building attachments for skid steers. These include mega log splitters, loader buckets and grapples, tree/post pullers and more, everything built from scratch. The product line is based on what they used when farming or would like to have had available. As such, the attachments are extra heavy-duty and tested first on the family farm.

"We use them all ourselves and make any improvements needed," says Greden. "We built a splitter with a 36-in. stroke and a 5-in. bore and tried it out on some knotty oak at home. We brought it back to the shop and reinforced the 12-in. I-beam."



Greden uses the attachments working on improvements needed.



Heavy-duty attachments are farm tested.

They built their first tree/post puller nearly three years ago for their own use. Since then, they've gone through multiple revisions, each one improved.

They've built skid steer buckets from 50 in. widths to 100 in. with headache racks. What they don't do is build up a big inventory of any single attachment.

"We have the equipment we need, and as a farmer, you are always thinking about how to do things or make things better," Greden says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Greden Welding, 15687 County Road 25, Rollingstone, Minn. 55969 (ph 507-689-4200 or 507-450-7499; gws welding@hotmail.com).

## Nebraska Wool Mill Open For Business

Kelsey Patton's journey to owning and operating Nebraska's first woolen mill, The Fiber Mill, began when she decided she wanted to knit at 13. That led to raising Icelandic sheep and learning how to spin and weave. In 2011 she opened Spindle, Shuttle, and Needle, a yarn shop. By 2017, she was ready to diversify, and in 2020 she and her husband purchased The Fiber Mill business (Wellington, Colo.) and its equipment, relocating it to a remodeled creamery building in Stromsburg, Neb.

After replacing the motor and other parts on the 1929 carder machine, the mill was ready for operation in late 2020. Since then, she and family members who work with the business have fine-tuned how they process wool and maintain equipment.

"There are so few of these old carders. It can do 100 lbs. of wool in a day, so it's productive," Patton notes.

Because of its efficiency and because they are a new business, The Fiber Mill can process orders in three or four months. They've already developed a good reputation for quality work.

Like other mills, Patton offers a variety of services - washing, picking, carding, spinning, roving, batts and felting. The business website includes pricing for each service. She has milled fiber from many breeds of sheep and goats, alpaca, llama, buffalo, Angora rabbits and even muskox from customers all over the U.S.

Each type of fiber needs to be treated differently based on its thickness and how greasy it is.

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Patton continues to sell yarn and other items at her shop, along with working in the mill.

"My favorite part is spinning, and it's important for me to be involved as it's the end product," she says.

She also purchases fleeces for up to \$1.50/lb. for good fleeces. New customers selling fleeces or who want wool processed must contact her ahead of time for an appointment as she is limited on storage space.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kelsey Patton, 214 E. 3rd St., P.O. Box 36, Stromsburg, Neb. 68666 (ph 402-405-1971; kelsey@spindleshuttleandneedle.com; www.thefibermill.com; www.spindleshuttleandneedle.com).

## They Sell Portable Walk-in Coolers

A Michigan company known for its lightweight, portable hunting blinds has expanded into offering portable walk-in coolers that can be used for more than storing hunting carcasses.

These coolers can reach interior temperatures of 39 degrees in just 20 min., offering a practical, affordable way to store and age harvested meat. They work without ice and provide consistent air circulation for precise aging. This makes it possible to hunt whenever convenient, without worrying about processing space or fly larva contamination.

The cooler provides space for hanging up to five deer or a large quantity of meat or garden produce. It operates off 110 volts and pulls 5.9 amps while running. It can be powered by a small generator if it's used in a remote area.

Exterior thermometers make it easy to check interior temperatures. A drain in the center of the floor makes for easy and sanitary cleanup once processing is complete. Doors are fitted with keyed locks.

The cooler is made from commercial SIP panels that are manufactured from two coated aluminum sheets that enclose an insulating foam panel. Assembly takes approximately 2 hrs.

Once assembled, the cooler weighs about 250 lbs. It's designed for mobility so you can haul it with a pickup, even without an



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attached trailer.

Some owners use the coolers to keep garden vegetables fresh when selling at a farmer's market.

Blinds coolers are made in Galesburg, Mich., and sell for \$3,250.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Blinds UltraComfort Hunting Blinds, Galesburg, Mich. 49053 (ph 269-277-9200; www.UltraComfortBlinds.com).

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