

# People & Places

# Small crane gives big lift to job

Brent Wing's new portable device aids in hoisting heavy posts for new barn

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

When building a new barn recently, Brent Wing didn't relish the prospect of wrestling posts up to 28 feet long into holes in the ground.

With each post weighing more than 200 pounds, simply getting them vertical would be a challenge — let alone positioning them correctly.

Since situating each of the 63 posts would require an hour or more, Wing realized he could save time and effort by putting some thought into the problem.

"It would have been 63 hours, probably, and a lot of broken backs," he said.

His solution was to construct a miniature crane mounted on a small tractor, outfitted with a winch capable of picking up objects weighing up to 2,000 pounds.

By attaching the winch cable to a post, it can be easily lifted and maneuvered, he said. "I can go up a quarter inch, wiggle the post over and set it down."

Wing has extensive experience in the construction industry and now works as a foreman at a sheet metal company, so he used that knowledge to design the crane, which consists of a long piece of tube steel reinforced with steel straps and gussets.

The all-terrain vehicle



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

Brent Wing, a sheet metal company foreman and small-scale farmer, stands next to a miniature tractor-mounted crane that he built. The invention saved time and money when he was installing posts for a new barn on his property.

winch he used is powered by a car battery, rather than the tractor's power take-off, so it can be operated independently of the tractor, if necessary.

Welding the crane's components together took about eight hours while getting the posts situated required another 12 hours — saving nearly two full days of work altogether.

At a total cost of \$300, the crane was half the expense of

renting a forklift for a day, and Wing can continue using the device for other projects he has planned, such as building a bridge over a creek.

"I can hook a cable to it and pick up pretty much anything I want," he said.

Wing has been building gadgets like the miniature crane his whole life, which comes in handy when living in a rural area.

"You can't afford to buy every specialty tool or piece of equipment, so you build what you need," he said.

A neighbor has expressed interest in using the miniature crane, and while Wing plans to lend it to him, he doesn't intend to build and sell additional ones.

The cost of getting the crane professionally engineered and certified for the

**Western Innovator**

**Brent Wing**  
Occupation: Foreman at sheet metal company, small-scale farmer  
Hometown: Salem, Ore.  
Family: Wife, Ginger, and their five children  
Age: 45  
Education: Graduated from Glencoe High School in 1988

market would probably be prohibitively expensive, Wing said.

He's also busy designing a similar implement to hoist and install trusses for the barn's roof, which will likely require a heavy-duty structure.

Once finished, the barn will include stalls for up to 20 horses and a 7,200 square-foot riding arena.

Wing and his wife, Ginger, currently own four horses and several goats that will be able to get out of the wet weather when the structure is completed later this year.

Wing also raises cattle on the 20-acre property near Salem, Ore., that he plans to sell for beef.

"Having property, you've got to find a way to offset the cost," he said.

## Calendar *Sponsored by:* **GASES / WELDING / SAFETY / FIRE** [www.oxarc.com](http://www.oxarc.com) *20 Northwest Locations* **1-800-765-9055**

To submit an event go to the Community Events calendar on the home page of our website at [www.capitalpress.com](http://www.capitalpress.com) and click on "Submit an Event." Calendar items can also be mailed to Capital Press, 1400 Broadway St. NE, Salem, OR 97301.

### Through Saturday Nov. 26

Open Alpaca Barn. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Alpacas of Oregon, 21345 SW Aebischer Road, Sherwood. In Washington County's wine country, just off Highway 99. Meet the summer's alpaca babies and their mothers. [www.easygofarm.net/AOOTHankingiving](http://www.easygofarm.net/AOOTHankingiving)

### Monday-Thursday Nov. 28-Dec. 1

Oregon Water Resources Congress Annual Conference. Best Western Hood River Inn, 1108 E Marina Drive, Hood River, Ore. [owrc.org/calendar](http://owrc.org/calendar)

### Tuesday, Nov. 29

Columbia-Snake River System Scoping Meetings. 4-7 p.m. The Grove Hotel, 245 S. Capitol Blvd., Boise, Idaho. [www.crso.info/](http://www.crso.info/)

Gaining Access to Farmland Workshop. 5:30-8:30 p.m. WSU Snohomish County Extension's Cougar Auditorium, 600 128th St. SE, Everett, Wash. Sponsored by Keller Williams Realty, American Farmland Trust and Snohomish Conservation District. Topics include lease agreements, succession planning, land trusts and unique farm shares along with tips and lessons learned when buying, selling or leasing land. Cost: \$15 per person, \$25 per family up to three. [AccessFarmland.eventbrite.com](http://AccessFarmland.eventbrite.com)

Hearing on proposed changes to agricultural worker protection standards. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Pine Grove Grange, 2900 Van Dorn Drive, Hood River, Ore. [www.oro-sha.org](http://www.oro-sha.org)

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### Tuesday-Thursday Nov. 29-Dec. 1

Idaho Farm Bureau 2016 Annual Meeting. Riverside Hotel, 2900 W. Chinden Blvd., Boise, Idaho. [www.idahofb.org](http://www.idahofb.org)

California Alfalfa and Forage Symposium. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Peppermill Hotel, Reno, Nev. The symposium is organized by the University of California Cooperative Extension Alfalfa Workgroup, extension scientists serving the agricultural community and sponsored by the California Alfalfa & Forage Association. <http://calhay.org/symposium/Tuesday-Thursday>

### Wednesday-Thursday Nov. 30-Dec. 1

Oregon Board of Agriculture Meeting. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Holiday Inn Redwood Room, 25425 SW

95th Ave., Wilsonville, Ore. A public comment period is 9:45 a.m. on day one, followed by reports on cannabis, sage grouse, the Ford Foundation and ODA's Agricultural Water Quality Program. In the afternoon the board will tour Oregon State University's North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora. On day two, the board will hear reports on ODA's budget, key legislative issues and ODA's strategic plan. [www.oregon.gov/ODA/AboutUs/Pages/](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/AboutUs/Pages/)

### Wednesday-Friday Nov. 30-Dec. 2

National Women in Sustainable Agriculture Conference. Doubletree by Hilton, 1000 NE Multnomah St., Portland, Ore. The 5th National Conference for Women in Sustainable Agriculture will bring together farmers, educators, technical assistance providers and activists engaged in healthy food and farming to share educational and organization strategies, build technical and business skills, and address policy issues aimed at expanding the success of women farmers and ranchers. <http://2016wisa.org>

### Thursday, Dec. 1

Columbia-Snake River System Scoping Meetings. 4-7 p.m. Town Hall Great Room, 1119 8th Ave., Seattle. [www.crso.info/](http://www.crso.info/)

Hearing on proposed changes to agricultural worker protection standards. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Woodburn Grange, 908 N. Settlemier Ave., Woodburn, Ore. [www.oro-sha.org](http://www.oro-sha.org)

### Saturday, Dec. 3

How to Do Farm Taxes Workshop. 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. WSU Snohomish County Extension's Cougar Auditorium, 600 128th St. SE, Everett, Wash. Sponsored by Moss Adams LLP and Snohomish Conservation District. What to do throughout the year in order to have the data needed when tax time rolls around. Step-by-step instructions for completing forms as well as one-on-one coaching sessions. Cost: \$15 per person, \$25 per family up to three. [FarmTaxes.eventbrite.com](http://FarmTaxes.eventbrite.com)

Hearing on proposed changes to agricultural worker protection standards. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Pine Grove Grange, 2900 Van Dorn Drive, Hood River, Ore. [www.oro-sha.org](http://www.oro-sha.org)

### Sunday-Wednesday Dec. 4-7

California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Hyatt Regency Hotel, Monterey, Calif. <http://cfbf.com>

### Tuesday, Dec. 6

Columbia-Snake River System Scoping Meetings. 4-7 p.m. The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, River Gallery Room, 5000 Discovery Drive, The Dalles, Ore. [www.crso.info/](http://www.crso.info/)

The Nuts and Bolts of Ag Management. Salem Convention Center, 200 Commercial St. SE, Salem, Ore. What you didn't learn growing up on the farm, an Oregon Farm Bureau Leadership

Conference presented by the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee. [oregonfb.org](http://oregonfb.org)

CORE Private Pesticide Applicator Training. 8-11:40 a.m. OSU Extension Service-Lane County, 996 Jefferson St., Eugene, Ore. Four CORE credits anticipated. Pre-register by Dec. 1. Cost: \$30. <http://extension.oregonstae.edu/lane/farms>

### Tuesday-Thursday Dec. 6-8

84th Oregon Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Salem Convention Center. Open to voting and supporting Farm Bureau members. [oregonfb.org](http://oregonfb.org)

Oregon Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium, Oregon State University, LaSells Stewart Center, 875 SW 26th St., Corvallis, Ore. <http://bit.ly/2dQBQOp>

### Wednesday, Dec. 7

Oregon Clover Commission meeting. 6-8 p.m. Golden Valley Brewery, 980 NE Fourth St., McMinnville, Ore.

Hearing on proposed changes to agricultural worker protection standards. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Medford City Hall, Suite 340, 411 W. Eighth St., Medford, Ore. [www.oro-sha.org](http://www.oro-sha.org)

### Monday, Dec. 12

Internal Auditor Workshop. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Idaho Water Center, 322 E. Front St., Boise, We will teach you how to conduct internal audits in your facility against one of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) Audit Schemes, which are becoming a standard for the food industry as a tool for assuring food safety and regulatory compliance and has become a customer requirement for many processors. <http://bit.ly/2etdxP6>

Oregon Fine Fescue Commission meeting. 7-9 a.m. Salem Convention Center, 200 Commercial St. SE, Salem, Ore. [www.oregonfinefescue.org](http://www.oregonfinefescue.org)

### Monday-Tuesday Dec. 12-13

Oregon Seed Growers League Annual Convention. Salem Convention Center, 200 Commercial St. SE, Salem, Ore. The agenda includes industry speakers, educational sessions, displays, trade show and an industry reception. [seedleague.org](http://seedleague.org)

### Monday-Wednesday Dec. 12-14

Far West Agribusiness Association 57th Annual meeting. Three Rivers Convention Center, 7016 Grand Ridge Blvd., Kennewick, Wash. Featured speakers are Chuck Conner, president and CEO of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and Chris Jahn, president of The Fertilizer Institute. [www.fwa.org](http://www.fwa.org)

### Wednesday-Friday Jan. 4-6

Potato Expo 2017. Moscone Center West, 800 Howard St.

San Francisco, Calif. [potato-expo.com](http://potato-expo.com)

### Friday-Wednesday Jan. 6-11

2017 AFBF Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show. Phoenix Convention Center, 100 N Third St., Phoenix, Ariz. <http://annualconvention.fb.org>

### Tuesday, Jan. 10

Idaho-Eastern Oregon Alfalfa and Clover Seed School. Caldwell Elks Lodge, Caldwell, Idaho. Contact: [benjamin@amgidaho.org](mailto:benjamin@amgidaho.org)

### Thursday-Friday Jan. 12-13

Oregon Mint Growers Annual Meeting. Salishan Lodge & Golf Resort, 7760 Hwy 101 North, Gleneden Beach, Ore. [oregonmint.org](http://oregonmint.org)

### Tuesday-Thursday Jan. 17-19

38th Annual Eastern Idaho Ag Expo. Idaho State University Holt Arena, 921 South 8th Ave., Pocatello, Idaho. [www.spectraproductions.com](http://www.spectraproductions.com)

### Wednesday-Thursday Jan. 18-19

49th Annual Idaho Potato Conference. Idaho State University's Pond Student Union Building, 921 South 8th Ave., Pocatello, Idaho. Speakers include Idaho Potato Commission President and CEO Frank Muir, Potatoes USA President and CEO Blair Richardson and National Potato Council Executive Vice President John Keeling. <http://bit.ly/2fayqPE>

Idaho Noxious Weed Conference. Riverside Hotel, 2900 Chinden Blvd., Boise, Idaho. [www.idahoweedcontrol.org](http://www.idahoweedcontrol.org)

### Thursday, Jan. 19

Oregon Tall Fescue Commission meeting. 6-8 p.m. Cascade Grill restaurant, 110 Opal St. NE, Albany, Ore. [www.oregontallfescue.org/](http://www.oregontallfescue.org/)

### Tuesday-Thursday Jan. 24-26

Northwest Agricultural Show. Portland Expo Center, 2060 N Marine Drive, Portland, Ore. The hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Tuesday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. on Wednesday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Thursday. [www.nwagshow.com](http://www.nwagshow.com)

### Wednesday-Friday Jan. 25-27

FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food Course. Idaho Department of Labor, 600 N. Thornton St., Post Falls, Idaho. The new Food Safety Modernization Act regulation requires

every processing facility to have a trained resource person or "Preventive Controls Qualified Individual" who has completed a specialized training course (such as this one) developed by the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance that is recognized by the FDA. This person will oversee the implementation of the facility's food safety plan and other key tasks. <http://bit.ly/2f6cogT>

### Wednesday-Saturday Jan. 25-28

American Sheep industry Association Convention. Denver Marriott City Center, 1701 California St., Denver, Colo. [www.sheepusa.org/About\\_Events\\_Convention](http://www.sheepusa.org/About_Events_Convention)

### Wednesday, Feb. 1

California Prune Industry Summit. Orchard Creek Lodge, Lincoln, Calif. [www.californiadriedplums.org](http://www.californiadriedplums.org)

### Tuesday, Feb. 7

Pesticide Short Course-IPM. 8 a.m.-4:10 p.m. Lane Community College, Center for Meeting and Learning, Bldg. 19, 4000 E. 30th Ave., Eugene, Ore. \$85 if registered by Jan. 23; \$95 after. <http://extension.oregonstae.edu/lane/farms>

### Tuesday-Thursday Feb. 7-9

Spokane Ag Expo and Pacific Northwest Farm Forum. Spokane Convention Center, 334 W Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, Wash. Spokane Ag Expo is the largest farm machinery show in the Inland Northwest. <https://greater-spokane.org/ag-expo/>

### Wednesday-Feb. 8

Oregon Clover Growers Annual Meeting. Noon-1 p.m. Holiday Inn, Wilsonville, Ore.

### Wednesday-Thursday Feb. 8-9

The 8th Annual Organic Farming Conference. Canyon Crest Event Center, 330 Canyon Crest Drive, Twin Falls, Idaho. The event is organized by the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides. [www.pesticide.org/events](http://www.pesticide.org/events)

### Tuesday-Thursday Feb. 14-16

Practical Food Safety & HACCP. The Riverside Hotel, 2900 Chinden Blvd., Boise, Idaho. HACCP or Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points, is a preventive system for the control of health threatening food hazards during food processing. The comprehensive three-day workshop is designed for individuals responsible for implementing and managing a HACCP system in a food processing facility. Participants who pass a final test will receive a certificate of completion. <http://bit.ly/2f2iJ9Q>

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