

Four Season Awnings

On the north wall of the pole-barn blue barn are six openings in the building's steel skin, all horizontal rectangles about three-feet wide by two-feet high (pole buildings run 2x4s horizontally on 24-inch centers, for structure). Someone had earlier trimmed-out the inner stall wood, and the outer skin between these 2x4 supports. Three of the old openings were open, and three had slider-storms-with-screens. In winter, one fastened corrugated fiberglass pieces to the outside of the cut-outs with roofing nails.

The fiberglass covers always leaked, rain and snow, come winter. Ran down the building's steel skin, behind these six oddly-shaped covers, down between the wall layers, and very most often down onto the mats of the north row of stalls. Not pretty. With this design, the horses get a view (illus. 1), and the interior of the building is protected from snow and all but virtually horizontal rain (illus. 2, see also 4).



The idea is to get a shed-the-rain shape outside the building. Two-by-four trimmed so that there is a slanted, outside edge (to shed rain, to follow the awning's slant) is nailed-up to the underside of the barn's 2x4 structure (illus. "detail"). Two-by-two is nailed vertically to stretch between and beyond the upper and lower pole-building 2x4s that make up those elements of the opening's shape/structure (illus. 3 and 2). Then an awning is made to rest on this upper support, and on plywood sides. To finish, strips of wood can hold wind-stops for plywood covers for winter.



Nail-up the 2x4 and 2x2 (ten-penny spirals are great). Make awning tops of 2x2 and 1x4 (with a center support, as in illus.3), securing this frame to itself with screws, nails, and exterior glue. Roofing-nail the fiberglass to the wood. For these six windows two sheets of 26-inch by ten-foot fiberglass material were more than perfect.



Seems to me I'd made cardboard templates for the 1/4 inch plywood sides (gussets), and remember that the top-point of both sides of each window gusset is trimmed-off squarely (for clearance, and do remember that the 2x2 covers any weather-leak (illus. 3). Caulk or use expanding foam to seal the top of the awning to the barn. I'd later trimmed strips of wood and fastened them just in from the lower edges of these gussets (illus. 2, 4).

Now, in summer, ventilation through the barn is not bad, is as good as can be.

For winter, I use six all-weather screws (three to each side) to hold plywood pieces to cover the underside openings of the awnings (illus. 5). The fiberglass awnings give a little daylight, and it's comforting, orienting, to have daylight, even the little winter allows.

John Sepich.

