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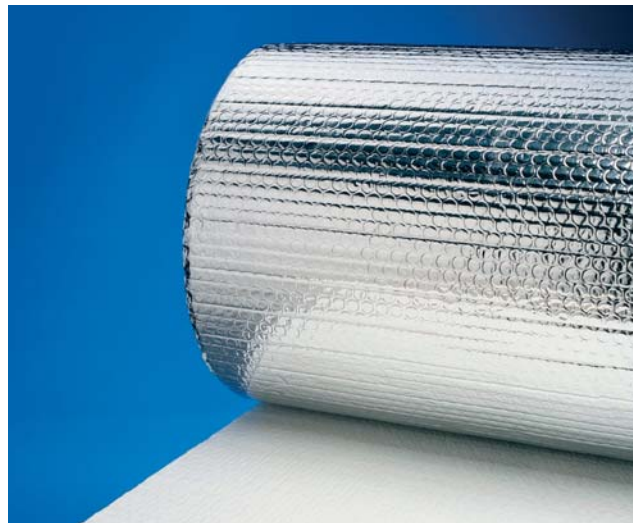
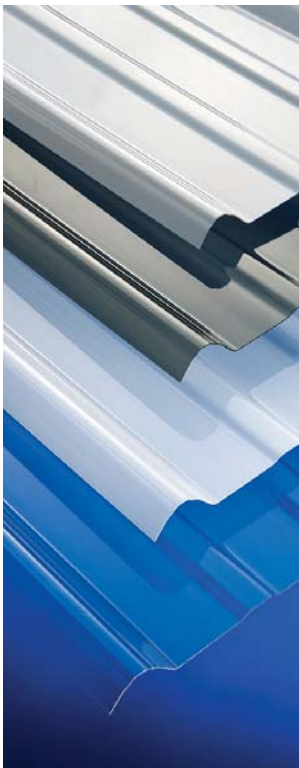
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Policies that
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p. 6

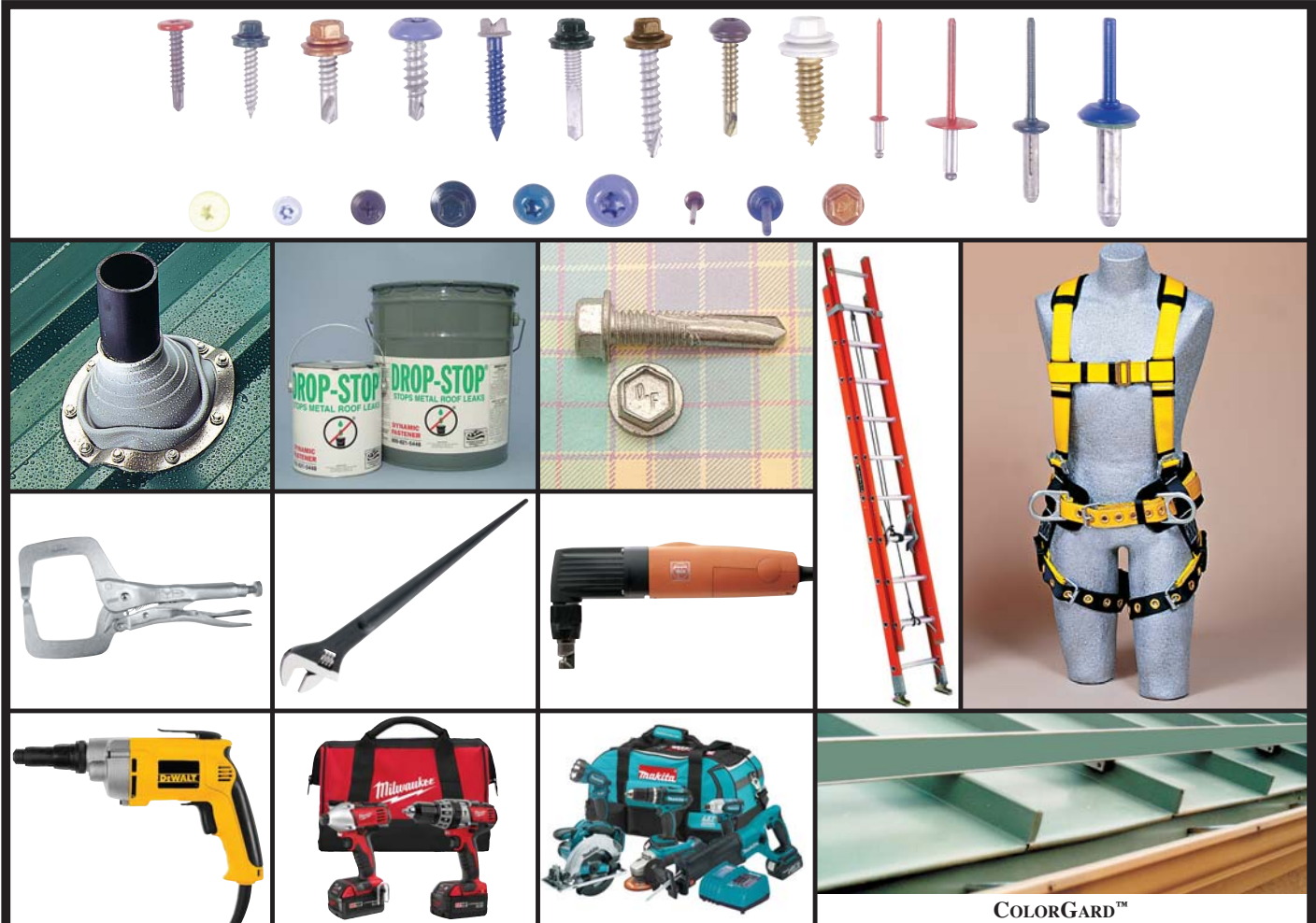


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PRODUCT PROFILE

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Both provide a winning combination for Minnesota farm brothers



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DECEMBER PREVIEW

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Treated lumber
■ Product profile:
Construction tools
and equipment

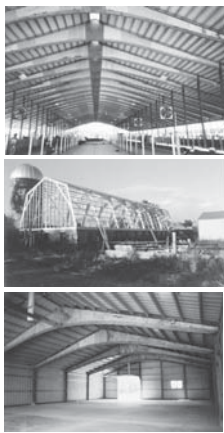
[ON THE COVER]

Photos courtesy of (from top left, clockwise) Stanley National Manufacturing, North Star Metals, MFM Building Products, and MWI Building Components (bottom center and bottom left). Cover design by Nicole MacMartin.



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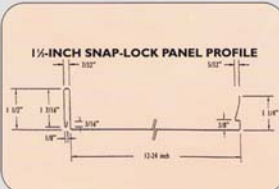
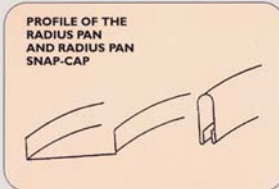
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editor's note

Welcome to a fall tradition and the show season

WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL RURAL BUILDER BUYERS' GUIDE. A lot has changed since we first began publishing a guide for builders decades ago, and the most significant change is access to a free online version. We hope you will hold with tradition by keeping this magazine issue on your desk for future reference. But when you are out in the field and need supplies, turn to rbbuyersguide.fwmedia.com. You can go directly to the site from that URL, or go to our main website, which can be reached at ruralbuilder.com and click on the buyers' guide link.

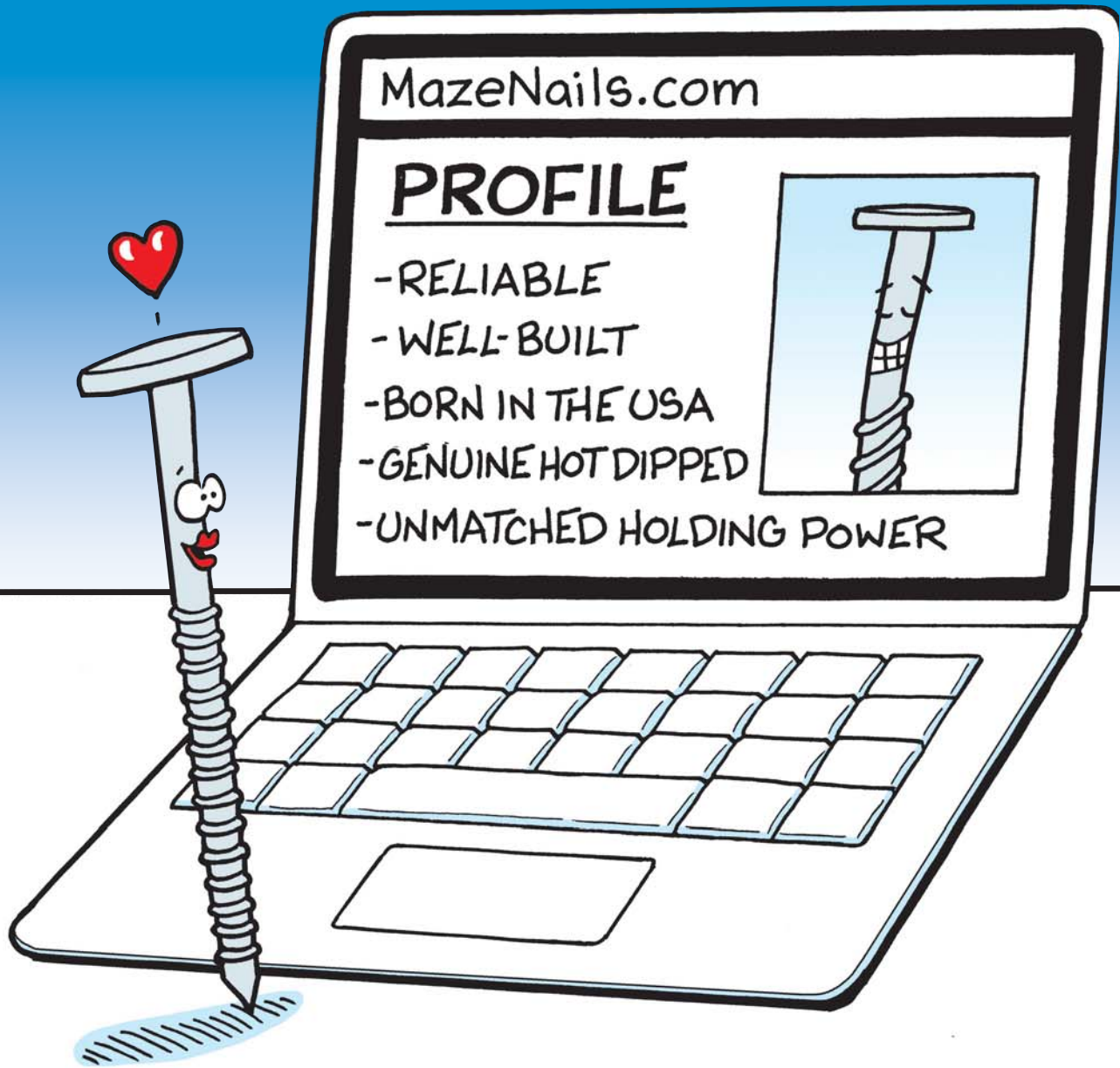
As fall sets in and construction traditionally begins to slow down, the show season gears up. The team at *Rural Builder* and sister publication, *Metal Roofing News*, heads for METALCON next week, ahead of when you receive this issue.

We're also looking forward to the Frame Building Expo coming up next March. If your schedule allows the journey to Indianapolis March 8-11, it promises to provide great opportunities to learn more about your business, your craft, and to network with other builders to get valuable new ideas. Suppliers will be on hand to show off new products and to help you get the most out of what they already provide. For more information go to nfba.org.

Speaking of shows, a bit off the beaten path, we'd like to congratulate Jonathan "JD" Drapecky, CEO of Swenson Shear (a METALCON and Expo exhibitor) for winning the Dancing With the Turlock Stars competition recently. He and his dance partner helped the California community raise \$100,000 for local Salvation Army and hospice care charities. **RB**



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Policies that could affect your bottom line

What happens in Washington doesn't always stay in Washington

TO CONTRACTORS ERECTING A BARN OR SELF-STORAGE FACILITY OR CHURCH IN THE RURAL REACHES OF THE AMERICAN HEARTLAND, THE WORLD OF WASHINGTON POLITICS CAN SEEM FAR AWAY.

Yet Geoff Burr, vice president of government affairs for the Washington-based Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), reports, “Out of our 21,000 members, the average member fits the profile of *Rural Builder* readers.”

For that reason, Burr continues, the issues on which ABC lobbies federal and state legislators and policy makers “are issues that impact your ‘average’ builder, not just the big contractors and not just the big cities. In a sense, your average small-business builders are even more vulnerable because they may lack the resources to figure out increasingly complex laws and regulations.”

That sentiment is echoed by Brian Turmail, senior executive director of public affairs for the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America. Also based near Washington, D.C., the association represents some 6,000 general contractors and 10,000 specialty contractors across the country. “Take an issue like the growing shortage of construction workers,” he states. “It’s an issue that affects builders of every size and location—and it takes legislative action to increase funding for training programs.”

What goes on in legislative committees and regulatory bodies can impact a builder’s everyday operations, concurs Timothy Royer, PE, president of Timber Tech Engineering in Denver, Pennsylvania. “Building codes are a great example of work that often draws little attention,” he explains. “Yet when new standards are developed, and when they eventually get written into state and local codes, even rural builders will feel the effects.”

LABOR ISSUES TOP AGENDA

Two issues, both about labor standards, are currently at the top of the priority list for ABC’s Burr. The first is a ruling this summer by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in the case of *Browning-Ferris Industries of California*. The Board’s decision reversed a standard, in place for 30 years, which held employers responsible only for those employees that they directly control.

The new “joint employer” standard now holds an employer jointly responsible with a staffing firm for temporary workers obtained through the firm. ABC and AGC fear the NLRB ruling will also be interpreted to mean that contractors and subcontractors are jointly liable for the latter’s workforces.

In turn, cautioned Burr, such a standard could jeopardize “responsible contractors who have established sound workplace protocols, together with their subcontractors, by deeming

them both joint employers of the subcontractors’ employees. Contractors may find themselves vulnerable to increased liability, making them less likely to hire subcontractors—most of whom are small businesses.”

For post-frame builders the impacts of the NLRB ruling may be particularly worrisome. Post-frame builders often act as general contractors on behalf of the owner and may potentially subcontract the site preparation, concrete pad, building erection, building systems, and interior finishing. Under the *Browning-Ferris* standard they could be held jointly liable for the work forces of the specialty contractors they hire.

To combat the NLRB ruling, ABC and AGC have joined forces with more than a dozen other trade groups in a Coalition for a Democratic Workplace. The group represents a broad spectrum of interests including construction, retail, restaurant, hotel, hospital, human resources, food service, franchise, wholesale distribution, and small business.

Another top priority for ABC is opposing an NLRB ruling that permits what the association calls “ambush” union elections. Formerly, a waiting period of 25 to 30 days was required from the time workers filed a petition to form a union before an election could be held. The new standard took effect in April and removes the waiting period, shortens the time in which the employer must furnish the union a list of eligible voters, and increases the amount of workers’ personal contact information the employer must disclose to the union.

Contractors will have less time to rebut union claims, Burr believes, and workers less time to make informed decisions. “We’ve already had builders who’ve been impacted by this rule,” he adds. Two ABC chapters in Texas, together with that state’s National Federation of Independent Business affiliate, have filed suit to overturn the NLRB action. At the same time, ABC and other allies succeeded in getting the U.S. House and Senate to each pass joint resolutions decrying the new rule.

At the Associated General Contractors, Turmail says a number-one legislative priority also concerns labor—namely “dealing with the growing shortage of skilled construction workers. Over the past 30 years we’ve dismantled the nation’s vocational education system and, today, construction has become a ‘last resort’ career for young people. We lost skilled workers due to the recession and downturn in construction. Despite the recovery, they haven’t come back.”

Potential remedies include reauthorization and improvement of the Perkins Act, which provides federal funds for career and technical education, and reforming federal antitrust laws so that firms can establish joint worker training programs. AGC also lobbied for the passage last year of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act. The law is designed to



BUILT FOR POST FRAME

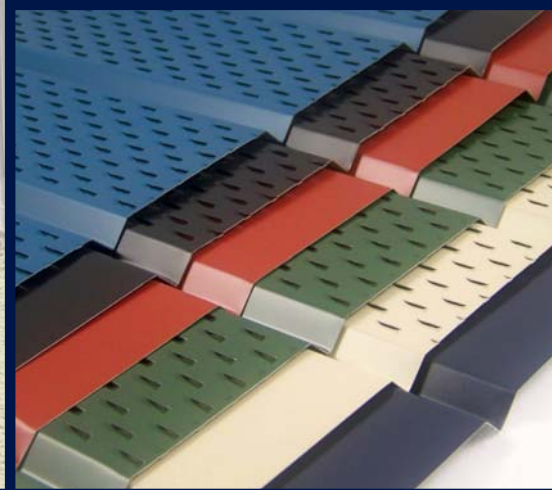
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streamline the nation's federal workforce development program and give more say to state and local boards in tailoring programs to local workforce needs.

ON THE OFFENSIVE

Both ABC and AGC are also active on issues, such as taxation and employer-provided healthcare, which affect employers generally. Both ABC's Burr and AGC's Turmail noted that most contractors are Subchapter S corporations or Schedule C sole proprietors and thus pay taxes at individual rather than corporate rates. While many in Washington favor reducing corporate tax rates, the two construction industry lobbies are urging legislators not to forget the thousands of small businesses who would not be helped by such reforms.

"There's been a lot of conversation about tax reform," reports Burr, "and how the U.S. has the least competitive corporate tax rates. But construction is tied with retail as the industry that pays the highest tax rates—just over 30 percent—because 80 percent of contractors are Subchapter S or Schedule C firms that pay at individual tax rates."

On the federal level, Burr admits, "When it comes to regulatory activity, we're more on the defensive. On things like occupational health and safety, previous administrations took a more cooperative approach with employers to prevent problems. But the Obama administration has pushed a more prescriptive approach that focuses on enforcement and using the regulatory hammer."

AGC's Turmail makes the same observation. "There are still good people at the field level in these federal agencies who take a cooperative approach to compliance," he states. "But on a political level, the Obama administration's attitude toward regulation has been a 'cops and robbers' approach that's more about punishment than prevention."

Nevertheless, Burr says ABC is "on the offensive at the state level." The association, which represents nonunion or "merit-shop" contractors, has seen a growing number of states adopt "government neutrality" laws that bar "protective labor agreements" (PLAs) as a condition of performing work on publicly funded construction projects. Since 2009, to counter an executive order issued by President Obama that encouraged PLAs, the number of states with neutrality policies has grown from four to 23.

KEEPING UP WITH CHANGE

Challenges that face advocates for the construction industry include not only changing politics. Changing technology can likewise be a conundrum for those who favor sensible laws and regulations.

For example, Timothy Royer of Timber Tech Engineering, a consulting engineering firm that specializes in design of wood-frame buildings, points out that advances in building materials have spurred nontraditional uses for agricultural buildings.

As advanced materials and processes have permitted clear-span buildings "to become higher and wider," Royer reports, "we're seeing structures like riding arenas, ostensibly built for breeding animals, used for public events. We're seeing barns used as facilities for special events like weddings or farmers' markets, or by farmers who set up small manufacturing facilities to generate more income."

Code officials and builders are left in a quandary. "When does an agricultural project become a commercial project?" asks Royer. "And so, for example, do you need to put sprinkler systems in riding arenas? Do you need a new code category for 'commercial farm buildings?' And what is the trigger for 'commercial' use?"

Then, too, advances in building materials mean that ever-larger agricultural structures must withstand increased wind and snow loads. "Bigger buildings serve a purpose," Royer points out, "since you can be more efficient in your square-footage-per-animal while also improving air flow. But sometimes agricultural buildings are built to lesser load standards than equivalent commercial buildings."

States and local code officials wrestle with such issues, especially if a building failure draws attention to a deficiency or loophole in a code. "After that," Royer continues, "trends in code changes go from more populated states to less populated states. New Jersey, New York and Michigan have looked at commercial uses of agricultural buildings," so that other states may follow suit and take up the issue in the future.

Technological advances in building systems also present challenges to code officials and regulatory bodies. "As the technology for 'smart' buildings becomes more widespread," Royer speculates, "how will building codes deal with, say, 'smart' alarm systems as an aspect of building safety?"

ABC's Burr believes that new technology is an emerging regulatory issue for another reason. "Given the construction industry labor shortage," he suggests, "builders may be turning to more technological solutions. For example, aerial drones could help in managing a building site. So we hope that government regulators don't step in and promulgate a lot of rules before we even have a chance to see how drone technology can be used by contractors."

Turmail of AGC points to high-profile hacking incidents that have prompted calls for government action on data security. "But at the same time," he says, "new regulations could affect the construction industry in unforeseen ways. Project delivery methods are changing. We're seeing more design/build and CM [construction management] projects. For these methods to work, the different parties must be able to freely share project data with one another."

But if new cyber-security regulations limit data that can be stored in the cloud, Turmail asks, "How can you do a design/build or CM project, since the parties need to share that data? It just illustrates how legislative and regulatory advocacy for contractors and builders is always a moving target." **RB**

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VENTILATION

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2. SFS INTEC / CIRCLE 102

SFS intec introduces Hip & RidgeVent—a new universal vent product that fits any screw-down metal panel profile from 1/2 inch to 1-1/2 inch. This warranted product can be used under any ridge cap with a pitch from 3:12 to 20:12, or used on hip joints. Conveniently packed in two 10-foot long rolls per package, this product provides superior ventilation, prevents insect and snow infiltration, won't scratch panel finish or clog from airborne dust, and will not hold water like foam venting products. Adhesive holds Hip & RidgeVent in place for easy installation. Available in three sizes: 1 inch high x

2 inches wide; 1 inch high x 3 inches wide; and 1-1/2 inch x 3 inches wide.

3. PLYCO CORPORATION / CIRCLE 103

Plyco manufactures and distributes a variety of ventilation products designed to meet most airflow requirements. The MWE-100 is a low profile unit, 10 feet in length with 12 square inches of free air space per lineal foot. The MW100-25 has a higher profile than the MWE and is open at the top. The ventilator has an internal diverter to direct rain off to the side and out onto the roof. The free air space per lineal foot is 30 square inches and it is 10 feet long. The MW100-35 has the same design as the 25 series with increased free air space of 36 square inches per lineal foot. The ventilator rises 4 inches above the ridge and comes 10 feet in length. The FMW100-35 is of the same design as the 35 series but the diverter is made from translucent fiberglass. Having the translucent fiberglass diverter allows light into the building ridge while keeping the rain out. Plyco also offers a line of wall vents, louvers and cupolas as part of its extensive ventilation line of products.



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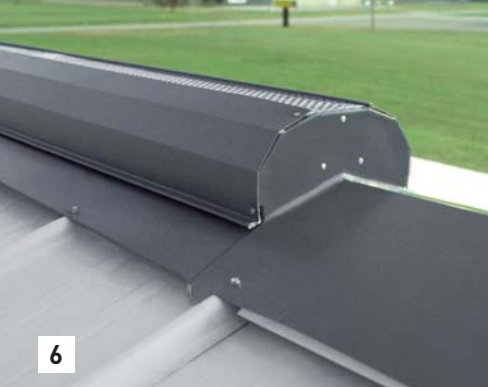
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9

4. LEVI'S BUILDING COMPONENTS / CIRCLE 104

Levi's Building Components offers simple solutions to prevent weather element damage for varying roof profiles with FastVent and FloVent—two contractor-friendly metal roofing ridge vent closure systems. Both are easy to install with a pre-applied adhesive strip and are fire retardant and UV stable. Each fit many profiles: FloVent can be installed on the ridge cap and FastVent on the eave. Increase the longevity of your metal roofing with an easy install of these two products.

5. MARCO INDUSTRIES / CIRCLE 105

Marco's LP2 product improves ventilation, eliminates condensation, and is available at costs lower than traditional fans and louvers, plus LP2 offers a 40-year warranty. Made from non-fabric-covered Python vent material, this durable, modified polyester has a non-woven, non-wicking fiber-based matting for superior net-free ventilation that helps keep out moisture, pests and dust. Installation is easy with Marco's

superior peel-and-stick adhesive fasteners and specially-cut contours designed for a low-profile fit with any pitch roof and most major metal roof profiles.

6. MWI COMPONENTS / CIRCLE 106

MWI is leading the industry in natural ventilation. Not only does MWI supply Uni-Vent II and Uni-Vent 111 to ventilate with a ridge cap, but it also manufactures five profiles of Ridg-Vents to provide outstanding ventilation. Ridg-Vents exhaust air out of an attic or whole building. When used in conjunction with vented soffit, Ridg-Vents provide superior ventilation. Customers also have the option of choosing a fiberglass diverter on some models to allow natural light into a structure. With more than 100 colors to choose from, MWI can match most manufacturers' steel colors.

7. SEALTITE BUILDING FASTENERS / CIRCLE 107

Sealtite Building Fasteners supplies its MultiVent and MultiVent10 vented closures for those applications requiring air flow on metal roofs. Made from

open-cell foam, MultiVent allows as much as 98 percent free airflow through the material, however it prevents wind-driven rain from penetrating the material

when compressed. The design is universal. MultiVent can be used on any panel profile with rib heights up to 1-1/4 inch. Adhesive is applied to the flat of the 3-foot foam strip for easy field installation. It can be used on angled roof applications, eliminating the need for special-cut angle closures. The MultiVent10' is a polyester material, 10 feet in length and can be pre-applied to the ridge cap before installation. Available in 1 inch and 1-1/2 inch widths, it also prevents wind-driven rain while allowing air flow.

8. SNOBLOX-SNOJAX / CIRCLE 108

Ventsavers can be used on exposed fastener and standing seam roof panels. They protect vent pipes and chimney stacks from sliding snow and ice damage. The innovative fin design cuts through packed ice and snow, causing the snow slide to divert around the pipe and to assist in shedding the snow and ice from your roof. Installation is quick and easy. Ventsaver is made from quality non-corrosive powder-coated aluminum, stainless steel and aircraft cable. Ventsaver is available in three sizes to fit projects from 1 to 14 inches in diameter.

9. IDEAL BUILDING FASTENERS / CIRCLE 109

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Midwest Perma-Column
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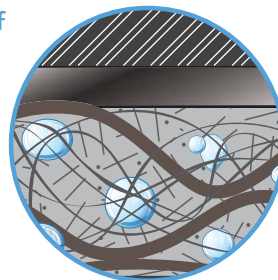
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Post-Frame Advantage
Reflective Insulation Manufacturers Association International
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CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT BOOKS/REFERENCES

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Metal Roofing Magazine
Rural Builder
Rural Builder Source Book

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CASE STUDY



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Roofing Contractor: Donelson Roofing Co., Inc.
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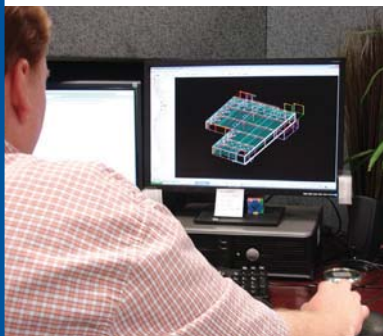
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Metal Sales Manufacturing Corp.
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Rigid Global Buildings
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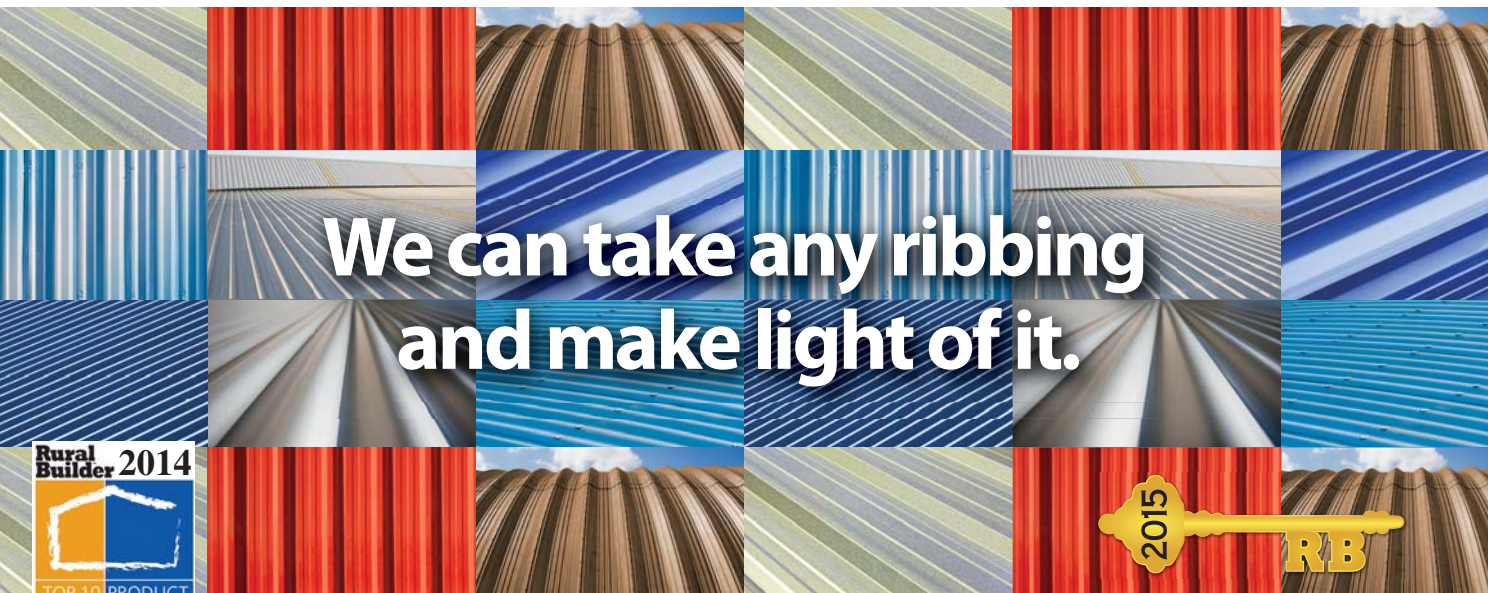
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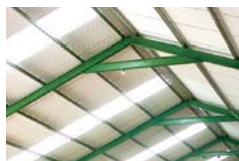
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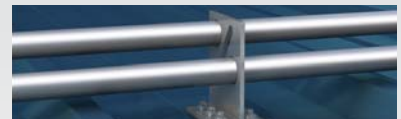
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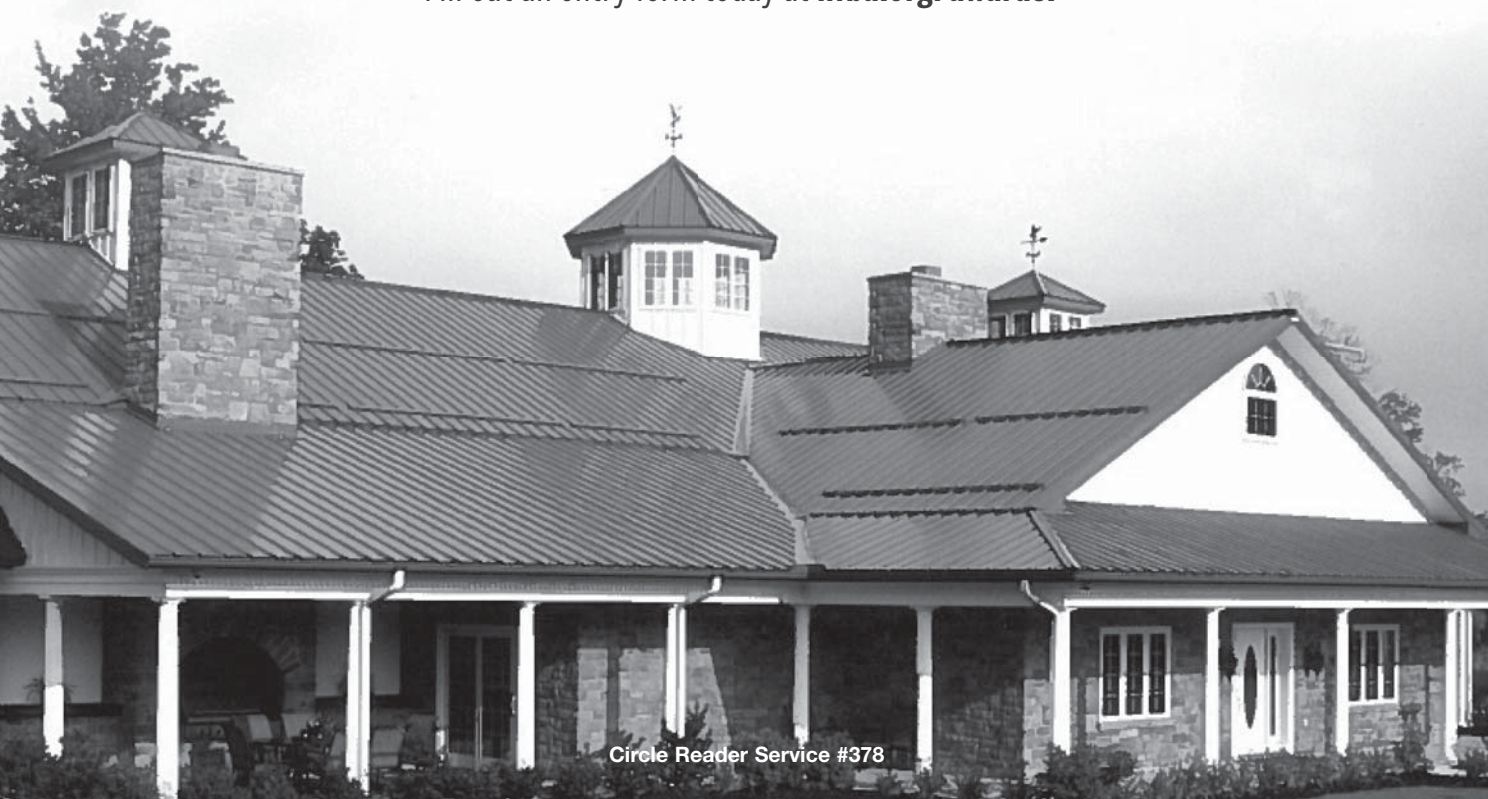
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11/NOVEMBER

2-4, Design-Build Conference & Expo 2015, Denver, CO;
www.designbuildexpo.com

10-13, Midwest Roofing Contractors Association (MRCA) 2015 Annual Conference, Kansas City, MO; www.mrca.org

18-20, Greenbuild International Conference & Expo 2015, Washington, DC;
www.greenbuildexpo.com

19, Northwest Wood Solutions Fair, Washington State Convention Center, www.woodworks.org

12/DECEMBER

2-4, Construct Canada 2015, Toronto, Ontario,
www.constructcanada.com

8-9, Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA) Annual Meeting 2015, Atlanta, GA, www.mbma.com

9, Southern California Wood Solutions Fair, Anaheim, CA,
www.woodworks.org

1/JANUARY

19-21, International Builders' Show (IBS) 2016, Las Vegas, NV;
www.buildersshow.com

+ More events listed @
[www.constructionmagnet.com](http://www.constructionmagnet.com/events/industry-events)
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2/FEBRUARY

1-4, Metal Construction Association (MCA) 2016 Winter Meeting, St. Pete Beach, FL;
www.metalconstruction.org

16-19, International Roofing Expo (IRE) 2016, Orlando, FL;
www.theroofingexpo.com

3/MARCH

8-11, National Frame Builders Association (NFBA) 2016 Frame Building Expo; Indianapolis, IN
www.nfba.org

9-11, Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) 2016 Convention, San Antonio, TX;
www.agc.org

30-April 1, Self-Storage Association (SSA) 2016 Spring

4/APRIL

16-20, National Coil Coating Association (NCCA) 2016 Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL;
www.coilcoating.org

18-20, Adhesive & Sealant Council (ASC) 2016 Spring Convention & Expo, New Orleans, LA;
www.ascouncil.org

20-23, National Insulation Association (NIA) 2016 Annual Convention, Boca Raton, FL;
www.insulation.org

■ Coverttech wins judgment against TVM Building Products

Coverttech Fabricating Inc., Ontario, Canada, has won its lawsuit against its former distributor, TVM Building Products, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for trademark infringements and unfair competition. TVM has been ordered to pay more than \$4.7 million in damages to Coverttech for sales of insulation products that were improperly identified as its own.

Coverttech sued TVM in U.S. District Court for trademark infringements and unfair competition under the Lanham Act, fraud on the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and breach of contract. On August 14, the court issued a decision finding in favor of Coverttech on all counts.

Coverttech product marks covered in the lawsuit include rFoil®, Concrete Barrier® (CBF), Ultra NT Radiant Barrier™, Concrete Underpad™, and Ultra Concrete Underpad™.

An ad placed by Coverttech (page 54) offers additional information on the lawsuit and judgment.

■ Fabral expands Lancaster, Pennsylvania manufacturing facility

Fabral has expanded manufacturing capacity at its Lancaster, Pennsylvania plant. The Lancaster location now offers Fabral's registered Stand 'N Seam, Hefti-Rib, Slim Seam and Thin Seam panel systems in both full architectural finish and natural metals. Also manufactured there are all associated system trim and accessories.

The added panel systems are designed to resist wind and harsh conditions.

Some panel systems can be manufactured on site to meet long-length roof and building specification requirements. Fabral has also added local customer care support staff to help architects and architectural dealers throughout the planning, design and ordering process.

The manufacturing addition will primarily service customers in Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, West Virginia, New Jersey, Virginia and the New England States.

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Circle Reader Service #380

■ DBCI receives Texas Insurance approval for wind-rated doors

The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) has officially approved every wind-rated DBCI door for use in high wind regions of that state. The agency regulates companies that conduct insurance business in Texas.

The approval concludes more than three years of extensive testing and review, and covers DBCI's standard sheet door as well as its patent-pending Curl-Lok doors. DBCI is now an accepted vendor in both U.S. states (Texas and Florida) that have strict wind requirements set in their building code.

DBCI's wind-rated products include the 5000 Series severe wind door, the 3000 Series moderate to heavy wind door, the 2500 Series heavy duty door, the 690 Series wind-rated storage door, and the 650 Series standard storage door.

■ ATAS International introduces online submittal builder

ATAS International Inc. has added an online submittal builder to its website ((www.atas.com/submittal)). This new tool allows for quick and easy creation of a submittal package, and also has a feature to request panel samples or color chips from ATAS.

Gough, Sr. vice president of Alan Kunsman Roofing and Siding Inc. states: "The new submittal builder is fast, efficient and user-friendly. It gives the contractor the ability to quickly create a professional bid or submittal package from a single site location. What is just as impressive is how ATAS listened to the contractors involved in having to complete submittal packages, took their suggestions and recommendations, and created a user-friendly tool on their website."

■ DI Roof Seamers opens new facility

D.I. Roof Seamers has opened a new facility in Mesa, Arizona. This facility marks the third location for D.I. after its Canadian facility opened in 2013 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Its first U.S. operation was opened in Corinth, Mississippi in 1989.

The new location promises to provide builders faster shipping times to the Western United States and the Pacific Northwest.

"Although a limited number of our customers are currently being serviced out of this location at this time we are seeing an increased demand and look forward to continuing this growth in the Western United States and Pacific Northwest," stated product development manager Bo Newman.



John Fullerton

JOHN FULLERTON HAS BEEN NAMED GENERAL MANAGER FOR ASTRO BUILDINGS INC., of Omaha, a post-frame building subsidiary of Cedar Creek LLC.

Fullerton previously served as general manager of Heartland Perma-Column in Lawrence, Kansas. Kris Losure of Lawrence now serves as general manager of Heartland.

Fullerton explained the move: "I believe there is a great deal of potential for synergy with Perma-Column products, Astro Buildings and Astro's parent company ... Working together we can attain our common goal to better serve our customers and sell more lumber and other materials in the growing post-frame market."

DAN BRANTHOOVER HAS JOINED BERGER BUILDING PRODUCTS, A DIVISION OF EURAMAX INTERNATIONAL, AS REGIONAL SALES MANAGER, CENTRAL REGION.

Branthoover previously served as business development manager with Central States Manufacturing and VP of sales and marketing for CMV Group. He was also a regional sales manager for DBCI and Tucker Energy Services.

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Coverttech wins \$ 4.7 million judgment against TVM Building Products

Coverttech sued TVM Building Products for trademark infringements and unfair competition under the Lanham Act fraud on the United States Patent and Trademark Office and breach of contract, seeking damages and other relief related to TVM's misuse of Coverttech rFoil, Ultra NT radiant Barrier, Concrete Barrier (CBF) Concrete Underpad, and Ultra Concrete Underpad trademarks. Judge Kim R. Gibson issued a 112 page decision finding in favor of Coverttech on all counts. For each mark referenced above, the Court determined that Coverttech was the owner of a valid trademark and that TVM was liable for trademark infringement or unfair competition. The Court specifically noted that TVM use of the same product identification numbers weighed in favor of finding infringement by TVM. The Court also cancelled TVM's trademark registration, finding that TVM and its president, Michael Boulding, had committed fraud on the US Patent and Trademark Office by knowingly submitting false statements to the Office in connection with an application for the Ultra NT Radiant Barrier trademark, which Coverttech owns. Coverttech is gratified that Judge Gibson vindicated our belief that TVM was passing off an unauthorized product by unfairly trading on Coverttech hard-earned trade names.

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Denny Morgan, owner of Morgan Builders, Wells, Minnesota

Post frame or SIPs?

Both provide a winning combination for Minnesota farm brothers

TO THE STEVERMER BROTHERS NEAR WELLS, MINNESOTA, BUILDINGS ARE A LOT LIKE POTATO CHIPS: YOU CAN'T HAVE JUST ONE. They now have six newer buildings, but each one is uniquely built to fit its function. Their similarity is the builder, Denny Morgan, Morgan Builders of Wells. As a dealer for Energy Panel Structures (EPS), Graettinger, Iowa, he was able to provide both post-frame and SIPs according to the need.

"We started with a hog barn in 1995," said owner Joe Stevermer. "Then, when I wanted a machine shed and shop, I talked to Denny about it. He designed it and included a nice looking porch. We were very happy with it and that's what started the line of buildings we have built with him."

Since that first hog building, Joe and his brother Mike have built five buildings on their farms located near Wells. The first building is a 60 x 80 foot machine shop that has a 26 x 26 foot two-story office built using structural insulated panels. Joe added another SIP storage building on his farm that is 60 x 68 feet.

In 2011, Mike built his first SIP shop, which is 60 x 88 feet. He followed that with a post-frame storage building in 2012 that is 74 x 152 feet. In 2015, he added a SIP shop and storage building that is 48 x 68 feet.

The buildings were all designed by Denny Morgan and engineered by EPS for the harsh wind and snow loads of a Minnesota winter. EPS manufactures both post frame and SIP buildings so it provided a good solution for the needs of the Stevermer brothers and their farm operation. And, they could stick with the same builder who had the skills to provide both options.

SIP buildings provide a controlled environment for

storage of machinery and equipment. They also provide a comfortable environment in the workshop. Structural insulated panels can save as much as 50 percent on energy costs and many customers find even greater savings when compared to other steel buildings. One of the SIP buildings at Mike's includes a large loft that is used as a recreational space for his family.

Post frame provided a good solution for cold storage where a controlled environment is not an important factor. Implemented were long-span trusses with wide-open areas that provided flexibility in the storage areas.

"Denny is a really good listener. He has consistently listened to our needs and wants, and included them in the design of each building," said Mike. "We finished the SIP buildings with FRP (fiber reinforced plastics) which provides a nice clean interior. And, we have definitely gotten the energy savings from them. They are comfortable and quiet also."

At age 70, Denny is still very active in the building business. "I started out in the lumber business then started my own company. I was one of the first dealers with EPS," commented Denny. "It's important to listen to the customer and learn what they want in a building. Then you have to put together a design that will really work for them. Every customer has different ideas of what they want. It might be the size or the number of doors and windows. For others the interior design and special finishes are very important. I think we work really hard to design buildings that are a good fit for each customer."

For more information on EPS circle 150.



1



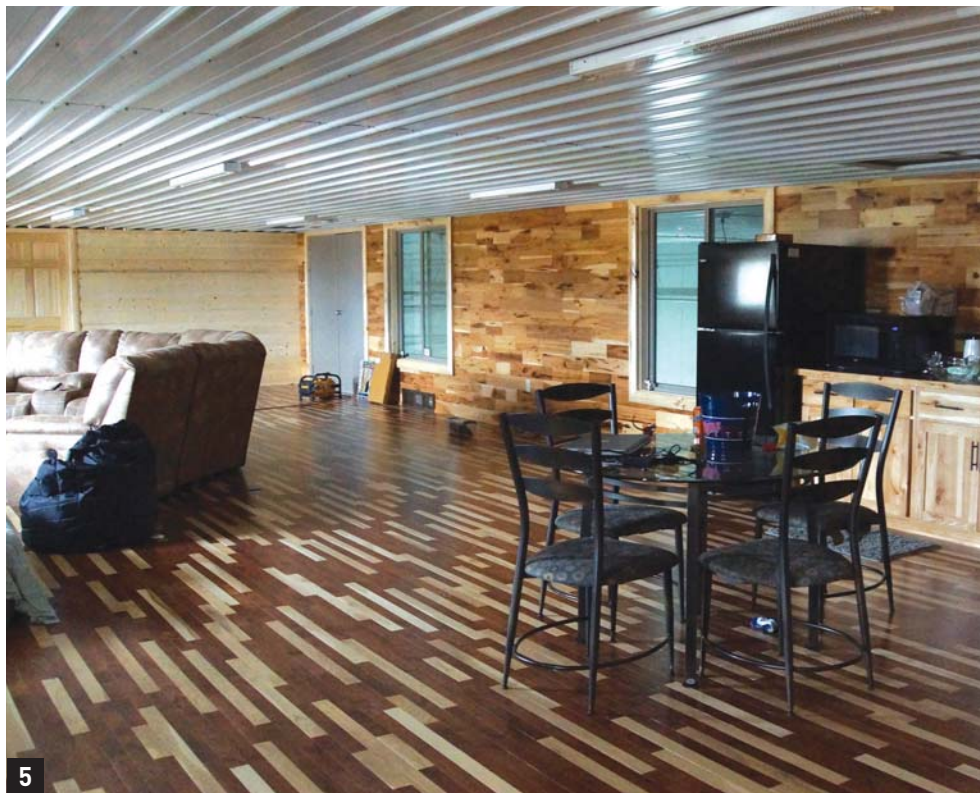
2



3



4



5

1. The SIP shop and storage shed with 8-inch walls (left), and a SIP storage shed. 2. The 48 x 68 SIP shop and storage shed. 3. The 60 x 88 SIP shop. 4. The 74 x 152 post-frame storage shed. 5. This interior view of the upper loft in the 48 x 68 foot SIP shop and storage shed shows the 24 x 68 foot recreation room. Photo credit: EPS Buildings



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As of April, updated National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA) standards from the U.S. Department of Energy have increased water heater efficiency requirements, driving major product changes in the U.S. market. According to the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC), the former practice of “yank and replace” no longer cuts it. Selecting a water heater today requires looking at a wide range of solutions.

To help with the process, PERC has created a new stock of research and resources available at Buildwithpropane.com. Offered are a number of free downloads and free educational courses designed to simplify water heating decisions. It includes information on tankless water heaters, storage tank water heaters, and residential water heaters for cold, mixed and warm climate zones.

All about steel

The Steel Market Development Institute (SMDI), a business unit of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), has launched a new website that focuses on using steel for building construction.

The new site, buildusingsteel.org, provides information for engineers, architects, owners, building contractors, code officials and other construction professionals. It provides information on cold-formed steel framing, structural steel framing, steel deck, steel joists, metal building systems, and metal roof and wall systems; and provides a tool for users to

ASMI accepts MCA report on increased service life of metal roofing

The Athena Sustainable Materials Institute (ASMI) has accepted a report published by the Metal Construction Association (MCA) that verifies certain metal roof systems can have a service life of at least 60 years. The service life report served as the technical substantiation required for Athena to change the useful service life of this type of roofing product to 60 years, which can be longer than the buildings they cover.

Athena's software allows for whole building LCA assessment, taking into account all materials, systems, assemblies and components used in a given type of building. The Metal Roof Service Life Report, which was sponsored by MCA and the ZAC Association, studied the service life of unpainted 55 percent Al-Zn low slope standing seam metal roofing in a wide range of different environments across the U.S. It has been uploaded to the Athena Institute's website found at athenasmi.org.

contact cold-formed steel framing professionals with individual project questions.

PFA debuts revised Online University courses

Newly revised courses for the Post-Frame Advantage Online University are now available at postframeadvantage.com. The new courses reflect the most up-to-date information about the post-frame building system broken down into two curriculums, one for engineering design and one for architectural design.

The courses are free and designed as an educational opportunity for architects and engineers to learn the benefits of using post-frame construction in commercial projects.

The new curriculums are as follows:

Engineering Design of Post-Frame Building Systems

Course 1: Introduction to Post-Frame Building Systems; Course 2: Architectural Alternatives for Post-Frame Building Systems; Course 3: Modern Post-Frame Structural Design Practice-An Introduction.

Architectural Design Options for Post-Frame Building Systems

Course 1: Post Frame Buildings: A Light Commercial Mainstay; Course 2: Architectural Diversity of Post-Frame Building Systems; Course 3: Modern Post-Frame Structural Design Practice: An Introduction.

NCCA offers free downloadable “Tool Kits” on coil coating process

The National Coil Coating Association (NCCA) offers more than 20 free educational “Tool Kits” in PDF format written by industry experts on the coil coating process. The Tool Kits are comprehensive yet easily understood papers that address popular topics related to prepainted metal and the process.

The Tool Kits, available at coilcoating.org/toolkits, help to answer questions faced by users and specifiers of prepainted metal, helping ensure that the proper product is specified and supplied and that the prepainted metal is used to its best potential.

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