

Building a Farm Stand

CHUCK & CAROL STIFF



Bald Butte
Lavender Farm



BBLF is located in Whitman County in southeastern Washington. From May through September our lavender products are sold at the Farmers Market in downtown Moscow, Idaho on Saturdays from 8 am to 1 pm. Check Marketspread.com for our weekly market participation and booth location.

Our 100-year-old red barn is currently used for processing freshly cut lavender stems, drying lavender bundles, along with preparing, storing and displaying lavender products. The barn, however, is not used as a farm store due to high renovation costs to address required ADA compliance. The following presentation describes how we built an alternative unregulated roadside farm stand for selling our lavender products.

Materials List

1. 1 – 0.75"x4'x8 foot plywood sheet
2. 6 – 2"x2"x8 foot lumber
3. 4 - Casters, 5" Caster Wheels, Casters Set of 4 Heavy Duty - ASRINIEY Black Polyurethane Castors, Top Plate Swivel Wheels, 4-Pack Industrial Casters with Brake, Locking Casters for Furniture and Workbench purchased from Amazon.com
4. 5 - 5/8 inch x 5 1/2 inch x 6 foot American Western Red Cedar Flat-Top Fence Pickets
5. 2 – quarts of Sherwin Williams Pro Classic interior acrylic latex semi-gloss paint, 1- Obi Lilac & 1-Wood Violet
6. 1- gallon Zinsser primer
7. 1 – 0.13"x4'x8 foot 3-ply plywood sheet
8. 3 – 2"x4"x8 foot lumber
9. 3", 2.5", 2" and 1.5" deck screws
10. Discarded wood pallets

The list above includes the materials we used to build our 74 inch high x 60 inch long x 24 inch wide farm stand. The stand was designed to store in our red barn, and roll-out through the barn's 36 inch wide entry door for selling lavender products.

Some of the materials utilized were from previous projects, while others were purchased for this project either on-line or from local retail stores. The discarded wood pallets were provided free-of-charge for the asking from several local businesses.

Discarded Wood Pallets



Wood pallet



Reciprocating saw

Discarded wood pallets were recycled to reduce our cost for construction materials. However, rusty spiral nails and dry knotty scrap wood boards made it difficult to breakdown the pallets. After trying several methods, we used a reciprocating saw (sawsall) with a carbide blade to cut the nails off between the slats and runner beams to get the most boards out of each pallet with the least chance of splitting the wood. We utilized only the 3-4 inch wide deck boards that were in good condition.

Platform for Farm Stand



Bottom view



Top view

The farm stand's 24x60 inch platform was cut from a 4x8 foot sheet of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch plywood. The platform was reinforced using four equally spaced 24 inch long 2x4s, and two 60 inch long 2x4s. The 2x4s were attached using either 2 inch or $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch deck screws

5-Inch Caster Wheels



Wheel dimensions



Installed caster wheel

We purchased 5 inch Asriniey heavy duty caster wheels from Amazon for our roll-out farm stand. The four wheels have independent swivel and lock control, a 1050-1400 pounds load capacity (far more capacity than required for this application), and are suitable for indoor and outdoor.

The caster wheels were attached to the bottom side of the farm stand's platform using four 3 inch deck screws/wheel.

Farm Stand Frame



Front view



Side view

The farm stand's frame and roof joists used 2 inch x 2 inch x 8 foot lumber. Vertical studs were located at the platform's corners and the mid-points of the front and back. The three studs along the front were attached to the platform's edge using 3 inch deck screws and extended 68 inches above the platform. The three studs along the back were extended 72 inches above the platform and attached to the platform using metal brackets and 1½ inch deck screws. The studs across the front and back were connected using 2x2's between the top of the studs. The three 28½ inch roof joists were connected to the top of the front and back studs using 2½ inch deck screws.

Exterior Pallet Boards



Side view



Back view

We utilized only the 3-4 inch wide deck boards in good condition recovered from pallets for siding the farm stand. The boards were cut to length using a power miter saw and then lightly sanded with a random orbit palm sander. The boards were attached to the frame using 1½ inch deck screws leaving a ½ inch gap between boards.

Installed Pallet Boards



Front view



Side view

The farm stand was covered with 62 pallet boards. Fifteen boards were installed on each end (30 boards total), each approximately 25½ inches long. The back required 32 boards each measuring about 30 inches in length.

Exterior Paint for Farm Stand



"Wood violet" paint



Back view

Nearly 1 gallon of water-based Zinsser primer was applied to the whole farm stand to seal the wood and prevent stains bleeding through the final paint. The final exterior paint was Sherwin-Williams interior acrylic latex semi-gloss "Wood Violet" paint.

Painted Exterior with Handles



Side view



Handles on exterior sides

External 6 inch metal handles were installed at both ends of the farm stand for greater control when rolling it out of and back into the barn.

Interior Paint for Farm Stand



“Obi lilac” paint



Painted interior shelves

Shelf rails (1x2 inch) were installed in the farm stand's left and right interior sides at a slight downward angle for better product viewing. The rails were attached to the front and back studs using 1½ inch deck screws. The 20 inch deep shelves were made using 1/8 inch 3-ply plywood. Three left and four right side shelves were attached to the shelf rails using 1½ inch deck screws.

The interior shelves and pallet boards were painted with Sherwin-Williams interior acrylic latex semi-gloss “Obi Lilac” paint.

Farm Stand Cedar Roof



Top View



Side view

The farm stand's cedar roof was made using five 5/8 inch x 5½ inch x 6 foot western red cedar flat top fence pickets. The fence pickets were cut into 5 foot lengths and installed horizontally across the stand's 60 inch width, attaching them to the roof joists using 1½ inch deck screws.

Completed Farm Stand



Front view



Top view

The completed farm stand was moved from the shop to the red barn for selling lavender products.

BBLF Farm Stand



The farm stand was rolled out of the red barn onto a 6 foot by 3 foot cement pad to the left of the barn's entry door and stocked with lavender products.

Starting in May 2025 live lavender plants and other lavender products can be purchased at the Bald Butte Lavender Farm greenhouse and farm stand, respectively.

Our farm is open to visitors by appointment only. Please contact us about planning your next visit.