

Don Buerkley

Don Buerkley started the America Log Maker because of the unique experiences both he and his wife (Sandy) had in their careers over the past 40 years. They raised show horses that were kept in barn stalls, worked at 3M Company inventing, developing and manufacturing several different products and currently Don is involved in renewable local fuels for outdoor biomass boilers to heat houses and barns. That is where the America Log Maker comes into play.



The invention of the America Log Maker makes it possible to recycle horse-stall wastes into compressed logs, which can be used as fuel in outdoor wood boilers to provide complimentary heat. This eliminates the messy manure pile outdoors, the cost of disposal and the breeding grounds for flies. The labor to make the logs is a tradeoff of the labor to pile the wastes, disposal of the wastes and fly/bug control methods and materials.

"The SBDC provided research information on understanding the markets and the needs of the customers, and tools to use for more needed info," said Don. The SBDC's professional business consultants reviewed and consulted each draft of Don and Sandy's business plan, start-up cash form, and all of the financial forms submitted. Furthermore, because of the SBDC's professional business consultants assistance, Don and Sandy were better prepared for the IDEA Competition, which provided the significant support and resources needed in completing the Prototype phases and getting them another step closer for producing a commercialized product. "Our SBDC professional business consultant was always prompt, motivating and an expert at communicating the story and sticking to the point." "The consultant has been so great to work with and added such valuable input to my business plan, if I could, I would hire the consultant in a heartbeat." "The assistance that I received from the SBDC was a major reason the America Log Maker was a finalist in the IDEA Competition," Don stated.