

Bin Ladder Mounts On 1947 Farmall H

"Before I built it, we used a conventional 24-ft. ladder on wheels to climb up our grain bins. The problem was that it took two people to move the ladder and that took one man away from the combine during harvest," says Lowell Allison who built a one-man bin ladder by mounting a ladder on his 1947 Farmall H tractor.

The Delburne, Alberta, farmer used 240 ft. of 1 in. sq. tubing to build two 13 ft. ladder sections. The outer section is 35 in. wide and the inner section is 27 in. wide. Four rollers, made up of two 3/4-in. dia. ball bearings apiece, allow the inside section to move up and down. The ladder reaches a maximum height of 24 ft.

The ladder is raised and lowered by a 12-volt 2,500-lb. winch equipped with 5/32-in. dia. steel cable. Allison installed a 12-volt alternator on the right side of the tractor to power the winch. It's controlled by a switch beside the steering wheel.

The ladder mounts on a vertical support brace on the left side of the tractor. A 2 1/2 by 16 in. hydraulic cylinder mounts in the center of the brace and telescopes up and down as the ladder is raised and lowered. The cylinder, which is controlled by a lever and a hydraulic valve mounted beside the steering wheel, also tilts the ladder up to 20 degrees.

"A ratchet-type catch mounts on the lower section as a safety precaution in case the cable breaks," he says.

The ladder is not only ideal for climbing up on grain bins, but comes in handy for painting, cleaning gutters and trimming trees



Ladder consists of two 13-ft. sections, with the inside one mounted on rollers so it can move up and down. Maximum height is 24 ft.

too, Allison and his wife, Verna, note.

Out-of-pocket expense was about \$1,350 (Canadian), including \$600 for the tubing, \$450 for the winch, and \$300 for the hydraulic control valve and cylinder.

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Handy Add-On Toolboxes For Tractors, Tillage Implements

"The're handy for making repairs in the field and also help keep the tractor cab free of clutter," says Ryan Gieseke, Marengo, Ill., who builds add-on toolboxes that he mounts on his tractors and various tillage implements.

Gieseke uses 10 and 12 gauge steel to make the toolboxes, which he clamps onto the tractor or implement in an out-of-the-way place. So far he has made toolboxes for two Landoll Soil Finishers, two disks, a chisel plow, three 4-WD tractors, and two front wheel assist tractors.

"The original toolboxes on the tractors are so small you can't put much in them," says Gieseke. "I use my toolboxes to store log chains, hammers, crow bars, etc. We use our Deere 8630 tractor to apply anhydrous ammonia so I mounted a toolbox on front of it where I keep extra anhydrous knives. I also have one on my Case-IH 9130 4-WD tractor. I use the toolbox on the chisel plow to carry extra points, bolts, grease guns, crow-bars, etc. I carry sledge hammers in the toolbox on the disks in case rocks get between the disk gangs."

He cuts the heavy steel plate with a plasma cutter and uses a Mig welder to put them together.

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Gieseke uses his Deere 8630 tractor to apply anhydrous ammonia. He mounted a toolbox on front of it where he keeps extra anhydrous knives.



He mounts the toolboxes anywhere that's handy and uses them to store log chains, hammers, crow bars, etc.



Disc-mounted toolboxes (above and left) carry sledge hammers used to dislodge rocks that get caught between disc gangs.



The Bonnetts made their tractor-powered hedge trimmer by mounting a 24-in. push-type lawn mower on back of their Case tractor.

Tractor-Mounted Hedge Trimmer

"Before we came up with this idea it took hundreds of hours to trim our hedges by hand," say Leslie and Stan Bonnett, who made a tractor-powered hedge trimmer by mounting a lawn mower on a 3-pt. hitch on their tractor.

The Gravelbourg, Sask., farmers have 1/2 mile of caragana hedges that are up to 8 ft. wide and 7 ft. high.

They used a gas powered 24-in. push mower with the handles removed. It mounts on back of their Case 50 hp utility tractor on a home-built 3-pt. hitch frame.

Built out of sq. tubing, the 3-pt. hitch extends behind the tractor. A 12-ft. length of 6-in. dia. pipe mounts on top of the frame, extending out to the right side of the tractor. A hanging frame mounts underneath the pipe to carry the mower.

A hydraulic cylinder mounts between the

3-pt. hitch frame and the mower. It's used to move the mower back and forth along the pipe. The Bonnetts say they can trim even the widest hedges in two passes.

Cutting height is adjustable from 3 to 7 ft. off the ground simply by raising or lowering the 3-pt.

"It's a real time saver," says Bonnett, who used scrap metal from the frame of a junked swather to build the unit.

"Some of our hedges run along the side of a road and the first time we used it we were trimming from the side not visible from the road," he says. "We nearly caused traffic accidents because all motorists saw was this lawn mower mysteriously trimming along the top of the hedge."

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A mousetrap connects to the vacuum gauge of a conventional tensiometer. When the trap is triggered by the gauge, it raises a surveyor's flag, which can be seen from afar.

Mousetrap Controls This Irrigation Alert System

If you have tensiometers in your fields that you have to check once a day or more to tell when it's time to irrigate, you'll like this new "irrigation alert system" that uses an ordinary mousetrap to tell you at a glance when it's time to turn on the water.

Invented by University of Missouri researchers, it uses a conventional tensiometer to measure available soil moisture. A mousetrap connects to the vacuum gauge of the tensiometer. When the trap is triggered by the gauge, it raises a surveyor's flag, which can easily be seen from your pickup.

Extension ag engineer Bill Casady and agronomist Gene Stevens came up with the idea. Their invention is now patent-pending and will soon be on the market.

It consists of a 3 by 5 by 7-in. black plastic box housing a magnetic switch and small electric motor powered by two C cell batteries. A mousetrap with a surveyor's flag soldered to it is also in the box, which mounts on a pipe next to the tensiometer.

When soil moisture drops to a pre-set point, the tensiometer signals the magnetic switch which activates the electric motor. It tugs on a piece of fishing line that triggers the trap, raising the easily visible flag.

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