Cart lets one person do the work of two. Wishbone-shaped frame pivots up and down, controlled by heavy springs that hold the auger up unless you push down.

Auger Carrier Eases Tree Planting Chore

Tree nursery and Christmas tree farm workers spend a lot of time digging holes for transplanting trees. Many have found a hand auger speeds up the process, but hand augers generally take two people and it's still tiring work.

Lewis Bowser, Lititz, Pennsylvania, has a better idea. Bowser operates a small manufacturing company called Christmas Tree Equipment Manufacturing. He's developed a carrier that turns a two-person auger into something one person can handle.

His patented Auger Transporter consists of a wishbone-shaped frame, hinged at the front. The base has three wheels with a 12-in. wheel in front and two small wheels behind. The auger mounts on the upper section of the frame, which is hinged just above and in front of the front wheel so it can move up and down. The hinged section is mounted on heavy springs, so unless you put pressure on it, the auger bit is held high enough so it's above the ground.

The carrier drills holes as deep as 19 in. That's more than deep enough for most small trees.

Bowser says his auger carrier is constructed of 7/8-in. solid round steel bars and heavy round tubing. It's topped off with a double powder coat finish - one red and one clear.

The Transporter folds for storage or transporting by simply releasing the lift springs and removing the auger bit.

After testing several options, Bowser chose a Tanaka 2-cycle engine and transmission for the unit. He notes that this engine/transmission combination gives high torque for digging with a low rpm so soil isn't thrown away from the hole.

Cart-mounted auger drills 19 in. deep.

He does have access to other engines, if you'd prefer something besides the Tanaka. And Bowser sells the Transporter without an engine or auger for people who already own a power auger.

With the Tanaka power plant, the current price on the Auger Transporter is $1,285 plus shipping. Without the engine and transmission, the price is $893.75. The unit comes with an extra cutting blade and shear pin, a bottle of engine oil and proper measuring device, as well as tools and safety and operating manuals.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Christmas Tree Equipment (CTE) Manufacturing, 551 Stauffer Road, Lititz, Penn. 17543 (ph 717 627-7071; fax 717 626-8557; E-mail: ctebowser@hotmail.com; Web site: www.christmas-tree-equipment.com.html).

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our web site at www.farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

FARM SHOW®

"Made It Myself"

Photos courtesy Wayne Arnst, Great Falls Tribune

Jim Helfrich, product engineer for Technological solutions International, points out the stripper discs on a 16-ft. header.

Tractor-Mounted "Stripper" Combine Ready For Market

A stripper combine that FARM SHOW first reported on 14 years ago may soon make it to market, according to a Montana company that's now developing the "low-cost" machine, which it calls a Turbo Harvester.

The machine was designed and patented by legendary inventor Cordell Lundahl of Logan, Utah. Lundahl's best-known invention is the Hesston Stakhand but he has come up with many other patented machines. They include the Lundahl "Auger Mower" which cuts hay and forage using an auger equipped with cutting teeth.

To develop the stripper combine, Lundahl worked with Deere engineers in the 1980's. When Deere decided not to go ahead with commercial production of the unit, rights to the invention reverted to Lundahl. At the time FARM SHOW first reported on the machine in 1986 (Vol. 11, No. 5), Lundahl told us no one could believe how well it worked. "The machine is simple, with only a few moving parts. It mounts on a tractor and we can harvest at speeds up to 14 mph," he told FARM SHOW.

A relatively new company in Montana, Technological Solutions International (TSI), licensed the technology from Lundahl. It demonstrated a working prototype to farmers at a field day last fall, mounted on a JCB Fastrac tractor. TSI is in the process of building a factory to produce the new stripper harvester.

The Turbo Harvester is about the size of a conventional grain head. An up-front brush, fitted with heavy nylon bristles, bends grain stalks backward into a row of round metal discs that strip heads off the stalks. The discs spin at high rpm's, throwing grain and chaff back into a rotating separator screen. The screen allows grain to fall into a paddle conveyor and drops chaff out onto the ground. Grain is then conveyed back to a trailing wagon.

Paddle conveyor carries grain back to trailing wagon. Straw is left standing in the field.

What makes the design different from other stripper headers developed in the past is that a high percentage of grain is separated as it's stripped from the stalks. The rest of the grain is threshed as it's augered past separating screens on its way to a load-out auger.

At a time when conventional combines sell for more than $200,000, TSI hopes to market a 32-ft. wide model for about $46,000. They also plan to build 16 and 24-ft. wide models.

TSI engineer Jim Helfrich says the company expects the Turbo Harvester to be popular with both large and small farmers.

In addition to the new harvester, TSI is also working on other innovative harvest equipment, including a new windrower, a direct-cut chopper, and a big baler that uses air to pick up the crop to reduce leaf loss.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Technological Solutions International, 13786 Hwy 200, Sun River, Mont. 59483 (ph 406 264-5292; fax 406 264-5672).

Keeping Deer Out Of Haystacks

A bucket of peanut butter mixed with molasses is the key ingredient to a deer repellant system promoted by Montana State University extension wildlife specialist, Jim Knight.

When deer get desperate, even electric fences will not stop them, Knight notes. So he looked for a way to make sure deer get a really strong shock.

The idea is to set up an electric fence using nylon-type fence tape and then coating the tape with a mixture of peanut butter and molasses. Deer will not be able to resist the tasty mixture and will lick the tape, getting the shock of a lifetime.

To protect stacks of bales, Knight says you can stick lightweight fiberglass fence poles directly into the bales and string the wire around the stack. Then simply go around and coat the wire with the sticky mixture.