



Laine Blackburn built this all-plexiglass cab for his 1995 Kubota tractor that keeps him cozy when he plows snow in winter.



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## See-Through Cab Keeps Kubota Warm

Using only square tubing and plexiglass, Laine Blackburn built an all-glass cab for his 1995 Kubota tractor that keeps him cozy when he plows snow in winter. He has a propane heater inside, but rarely uses it.

"I got tired of staying out in the cold so I thought I'd make something neat. Now I'm able to plow snow on cold, windy days in my shirt sleeves," says Blackburn.

"I found an aftermarket cab that would

work, but it cost about \$1,500 and required tapping into the tractor's cooling system in order to provide heat. Also, the cab came as a solid unit that would be harder to remove and would take up more storage space."

He bought the plexiglass in 4 by 8 sheets at Menards for about \$800. He used a Fein multi-tool with an oscillating blade to cut everything to fit. He used 1-in. wide by 1/4-in. thick steel tubing to build 4 sections for the

frame. The back section fits on the rollbar with a length of screwed-on flat bar stock. The rest of the frame is bolted to the fenders, and to the front part of the operator's platform with L-shaped brackets.

"I didn't have to drill into the fenders at all. Instead, I removed the grab handles on them and used the existing holes to bolt the frame on," says Blackburn. "I did drill into the operator's platform, but the brackets are

hidden under a rubber mat. I had to be careful when building it not to scratch the plexiglass panels. I applied weather stripping to the bottom of the cab where it meets the fenders."

Blackburn only uses the cab in the winter when plowing snow. The rest of the time, he stores the cab sections inside a building.

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## Hay Bale Walls Make Great Veggie Cooler

Hay bales and an old air conditioner were used to make a low-cost cooler for Ted and JoAnne Dawson, market garden farmers who use a refurbished school bus to deliver produce to customers (seen in Vol. 35, No. 6) and operate a farm stand at the end of their driveway. The cooler is used to keep their produce cool and fresh.

"I wanted a walk-in cooler, but they are expensive," says Dawson. "Then I heard about the CoolBot (Vol. 32, No. 5) and how it could trick an air conditioner to cool a room down to 48 to 50 degrees."

Dawson had an old air conditioner. The CoolBot micro controller would adjust the air conditioner fan and compressors to provide the cold temperatures. He still needed a room to cool.

Since they offer pony and carriage rides at their agritourism farm, they have plenty of hay bales. Knowing their insulation value, Dawson decided to use them to build a cold room inside a shed.

With the help of a buddy, Myrl Stone, Dawson cut a hole in an outside wall of the

shed to hang the air conditioner, covering that wall with bales. He built the other three walls with more bales, enclosing an old door and doorframe in one wall for an entrance. Dawson dropped 2 by 4's down from the rafters and tied bales to them. More 2 by 4's became rafters for the cold room roof.

"We covered them with some 1/2-in. rigid insulation left from another project and covered that with more hay bales," says Dawson. "When we were finished, we had a 6 by 7-ft. interior."

The Dawsons used the cold room successfully in 2014 and plan to use it again this summer. He says it has worked well. Best of all, it was low cost. "I think we may have about \$230 in the whole thing," he says.

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Market gardeners Ted and JoAnne Dawson used hay bales and an old air conditioner to make this low-cost cooler that sits inside their shed.



Air conditioner hangs from a hole cut into an outside wall of the shed, which is covered with bales on the inside. A CoolBot controller keeps the temperature low.



## Auger Hopper Minimizes Grain Cleanup

"It does a nice job of enclosing a discharge auger and funneling any flying grain down into the transport auger, minimizing waste and clean up," says Shane Stutzman, Friend, Neb., about the auger hopper he recently introduced.

The AugerBox is designed to be used wherever one auger is dumping into another. It's not designed for unloading semi trailers, wagons, or straight trucks. It fits most 8 and 10-in. dia. augers and some 13-in. augers.

The hopper comes with a 3/8-in. thick, 14-in. high plastic base and a 24-in. high piece of tough, flexible rubber belting with loose belting flaps on front. The belting fits inside the base, with cut-outs on front for the discharge auger to fit through. A 2-in. ratchet

strap is used to secure the base to the auger tube.

"It contains flying grain better than other auger hoppers on the market because it entirely encases the area where grain is coming out," says Stutzman. "The belting extends a few inches over the top of the auger discharge so there isn't a good way for grain to escape. With conventional triangle-shaped hoppers, a lot of the grain escapes out the sides of the hopper because there's nothing there to block it. If you think the belting is too tall, you can use a utility knife to trim part of it away."

"The belting is flexible so when you start up the bin discharge auger, the grain is deflected down into the hopper. The extra thickness of



AugerBox is designed to enclose a discharge auger and funnel any flying grain down into the transport auger, minimizing waste and clean up.

the rubber belting makes the hopper a little heavier than most other hoppers, but also makes it more durable for farm use."

The AugerBox sells for \$320 plus S&H.

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