



Home-built splitter can be used with 4 different splitting wedges that can be easily exchanged, as shown (below right).

Splitter Has Quick-Attach Heads

"I grew up reading my grandfather's FARM SHOW magazine and was always very interested in machinery," says Joshua Essary. "A few years ago I started working on a farm project to help us speed up our wood splitting."

He spent about 5 years developing the Wood Shark Wood Splitter, which was recently granted a provisional patent.

What makes it different from other splitters is Essary's quick-attach system for interchanging the splitting wedges. There are no pins or bolts to deal with, or expensive hydraulic setups required to change them.

"I have 4 different heads that I can use," Essary says. "That's important because the operator can choose the output of the wood and speed they split. I cut my splitting time about in half."

The heads are: 4-in. and 6-in. multi-split, single wedge, and 4-way wedge.

The machine is powerful enough to slice through knots or twisted grains if needed. But if the block is crooked, he normally puts on the single wedge to allow it to fracture along



the wood's natural grains.

"I built it to be an industrial machine so it has industry leading components for the mechanical parts. This machine will last a long, long time for the standard user," Essary says.

He built one machine that he and family and friends use, and he would like to make more. He welcomes inquiries about manufacturing the Wood Shark. Check out the video of it in action at www.farmshow.com.

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Here's The Place To Go For Tarps

Les Neilly has you covered with tarps and awnings of all kinds, shapes and sizes, not to mention the chains, binders and straps you'll need to secure them. If he doesn't have what you need, he can probably make it. The company boasts 75 years experience making tarps.

"Most of our tarps are truck type, 18-oz., vinyl-coated poly material," says Neilly. "It is a lot more heavy-duty than the thin tarps you find in big box stores."

Neilly uses heavier material to start with, plus polyester thread reinforcement. He puts in webbing all the way around the tarp to reinforce the eyelets.

"We have very few issues with eyelets pulling out," he says. "Seams are heat sealed for waterproofing. The seams should last longer than the overall tarp."

For even heavier-duty uses, Neilly offers a 22-oz. vinyl. It is matched by heavier thread, base and coating.

While there is limited demand for old style canvas, Neilly still carries it as well. Customers asking for it are looking for breathability and to avoid the condensation found with vinyl. He also offers flame retardant canvas curtains.

"We sell quite a bit to a chemical company and also as welding screens," says Neilly. "It blocks out spatter. It may get holes, but it won't catch on fire."

When a custom tarp is needed, Neilly prefers to do the measuring himself. When that isn't possible, he works closely with the



Neilly makes heavy-duty tarps from vinyl-coated poly material that can be customized for most any application.

customer to ensure correct measurements are made.

"We had a request from a customer for a tarp with clear plastic windows for a screened porch," recalls Neilly. "He sent in the measurements and plans, and we gave him a price estimate. The pieces were joined together with zippers, and when it arrived, it fit like a glove."

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Wheeled sling lift is equipped with a nylon strap on front and a hip clamp on back, both operated by come-along hoists.

Rolling Sling Lift For Down Cows

"You can roll this sling lift into stanchions as well as out into open areas to pick up down cows and transport them to other areas. It lets you control the cow after lifting so she can gradually regain the use of her legs," says Gene Tibbets, Jerome, Idaho.

Tibbets first came up with the idea a few years ago and sold about 10 lifts to dairy farmers in his area, then stopped building them when the economy went bad and sales dropped off. He's now 71 years old and has health problems, so his son is taking over.

The lift rides on 12-in. rear tires and smaller front caster wheels, and also has a hitch so you can tow it down the road from one dairy farm to another. It's equipped with a 1 or 1 1/2-ft. wide nylon strap on front and an optional hip clamp on back, both operated by come-along hoists. The front hoist comes with an adjustable spreader bar.

To lift an animal, you first use the hip

clamps to pick her up just enough to get the strap under her behind the front legs. Attach each end of the strap to a "come along" and raise the animal. Once the cow is up she can be milked or treated.

"The come-along can be adjusted to allow the cow to put weight on her front legs, which will help build muscle tone and allow blood circulation. She will heal much faster in this position," says Tibbets. "The design allows the animal to be picked up without the stress and damage that hip clamps can cause. The hip clamps are there just as a balance."

Tibbets says a full body sling is available for the lift, and also a feed bin and water bucket for animals that will be kept in the Cow Saver for an extended period of time.

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Easy Way To Windrow Crop Residue

Wade Boehm lets his combine windrow crop residue. His Narrow Windrow Kit for Deere STS and S-Series combines drops crop residue in a 4-ft. wide strip behind the combine.

"It saves labor and wear and tear on equipment, but most of all, it improves the quality of the residue being baled," says Boehm. "I had a big issue with the quality of baled residue, whether I used a batwing mower or stalk shredder. Raking pulled in lower stalk material with no feed value, as well as root masses and mud."

Boehm recognized that what he wanted to bale was the shucks and leaves that came through the combine. "I've talked to people who just raise the chopper, but that leaves too wide a windrow," he says.

His solution was to fabricate 2 plates and attach them ahead of the stalk chopper. They direct the residue into a tight strip for baling. He even managed to use existing bolt holes for the plates.

"I can raise the chopper, disconnect belts, and install the 2 plates in about 15 min.," says Boehm.

The same plates fit on 50, 60, and 70 STS and S-Series Deere combines. Boehm says getting them to work on both was his biggest challenge. The only real difference is the left plate on one series is the right on the other.

"With the plates in place, the residue drops



Kit attaches ahead of stalk chopper on Deere combines and drops crop residue in a 4-ft. wide strip for baling.

down for baling," says Boehm. "On fields where I'll be baling, I run the deck plates a little looser for more yield of shucks."

He finds the higher quality bales with high shuck and leaf content are ideal for replacing hay in cattle rations. "The bales just fall apart after cutting off net wrap or twine," he says.

Boehm used the plates himself for 3 years before deciding to patent them and put them up for sale. He sells them for \$120 per set, plus shipping, with a lifetime replacement warranty.

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