

# Made It Myself

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## "Air Blast" Manure System

"I needed a liquid manure handling system but couldn't justify the big \$10,000 price tag," says James Goetsch, Isle, Minn., who designed and built a unique "air blast" manure system for his cow herd.

The first step was to locate a ruptured 1,000-gal. LP tank in a junk yard to use as a holding tank. He then bought 3/4-in. steel plate to construct an 18 by 18-in. trap door at the top of the tank. At the lower end of the tank he installed 12-in. dia. steel tubing to serve as an outlet. He welded the tubing to the LP tank and machined the outer end to fit to 12-in. PVC pipe which carries manure to a nearby lagoon.

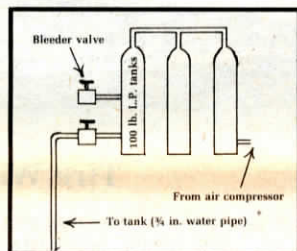
"I buried the tank just under the grate and gutter in a new addition to my barn. The barn cleaner dumps directly into the tank. You could also put the holding tank outside the barn below the barn cleaner chute. The LP tank is big enough to hold the waste from 40 cows for one day," says Goetsch.

Once the tank fills up, he pressurizes three 100-lb. LP tanks — hooked together in "series" — with a 3-hp. air compressor and pulls the trap door shut on the holding tank.

He then releases the air pressure from the three tanks and it blows the manure out of the tank in just 30 sec.

"After digging the lagoon with my D-4 Caterpillar and purchasing a 3-hp. air compressor, the cost of the rest of the materials came to about \$600. It does as good a job as a commercial system and, after three years use, I've had no problems," says Goetsch, who has since constructed a similar system for a neighbor. He cautions that, to be safe, you must be certain to purge all gas from LP tanks before cutting or welding, and install a grate over the opening into the holding tank.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James R. Goetsch, Star Rt., Box 101, Isle, Minn. 56342 (ph 612 684-2837).



## Add-On Mower Deck

"It's great for mowing banks and ditches but it works great on level ground, too," says Harold Lynch, Grundy Center, Iowa, who mounted a used mower deck on the end of a hydraulic boom attached to his IH 982 Cub Cadet.

The combination of the 51-in. deck on the Cub Cadet and the 31-in. add-on Ariens deck gives a total mowing width of 81 in. On level ground, Lynch "scissors" the boom in tight to the tractor's side to take a single wide swath. On banks and ditches, the arm extends out as far as 6 ft. (to the center of the mower deck). It'll go below the horizontal to reach down into ditches and above the horizontal to reach up onto steep banks.

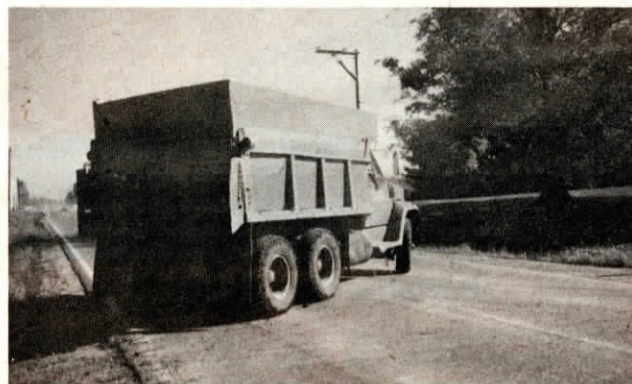
Lynch built the mower from scratch, buying only the hydraulic motor (\$200) that pow-

ers the add-on deck. The pto-powered hydraulic pump on the back of the tractor came off an old New Idea Uni-Harvester and the boom was built from scrap metal.

The boom has a scissoring action much like a backhoe and is equipped with two cylinders, one at its center and one at its base. Because it's mounted on the 3-pt., which also raises the tractor mower deck, the add-on mower and boom conveniently raise and lower with the tractor mower deck.

"You can remove the boom with just two pins when necessary," says Lynch, who just built the mower last year.

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## Used Highway Trucks Make Low-Cost Grain Haulers

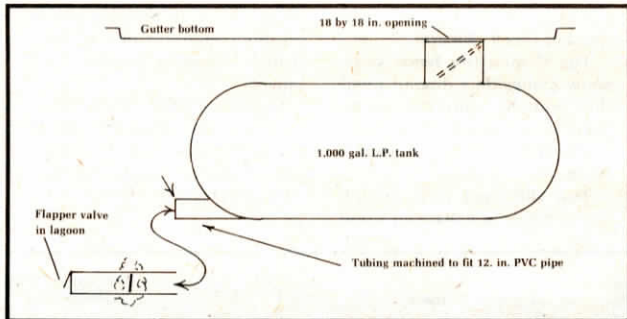
Jerry Stasukinas, Springfield, Ill., figures he "saved a bundle" when he purchased two used state highway trucks and, with simple modifications, converted them to low-cost grain haulers.

"The trucks are a natural for hauling grain," says Stasukinas. "All we had to do was build up the sideboards, including that part over the cab. The trucks have plenty of power for pulling in spongy fields.

"Their orange color doesn't

hurt anything, either. We haul from field to elevator. Since motorists are accustomed to observing caution around orange highway trucks, we feel leaving them orange contributes to safer operation."

Stasukinas says the truck will haul about 300 bu. of corn when fully loaded. Their characteristic wide tailgate, with smaller center dump, works well, without modification, for unloading grain.



## Old Bolt Cutter Makes Dandy Chain Tightener

"It's an easy, low-cost way to tighten link-type chain," says Iowa farmer John May, of Payton. He got the idea from Harold Gildea, of Boone.

"You take an old bolt cutter and grind notches into the cutting jaws. You then give each link a tightening up bite to close up the stretched connecting links. On elevator chain, for example, you use the cutter to tighten both sides, one link at a time. It only takes a short time to do a complete chain and you don't have to remove the chain to tighten it. Adjustable screws



on the cutter can be set to give the right bite for uniform tightening of each link."