

Made It Myself

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Minneapolis Star-Tribune photo

Ramp Puts "Wheelchair" Farmer in Driver's Seat

Minnesota farmer Wilton Johnson, of Dassel, rigged up this wooden ramp to get his son Steve, a quadriplegic who lost all of the use of his legs and most of the use of his arms in a car crash, into the tractor cab.

With special controls on a 186 International "hydrostatic" (it

requires no clutching or shifting), Steve does mowing, cultivating and many other tractor jobs. He's an agri-business major at Arizona State University and drives back and forth to college by himself in his specially-equipped van.

Self-Propelled Interseeding Drill

"It helps take the risk out of interseeding," says Joe Federer, Wolcott, Ind., who built a three-wheeled, self-propelled grain drill with narrow wheels to seed soybeans into growing wheat with a minimum of damage.

Federer, who previously seeded soybeans by air, says he needed near perfect weather conditions to get a successful crop of beans. That meant he needed at least a little rain soon after aerial seeding.

Now, Federer can plant with precision into relatively clean ground between his 7-in. spaced wheat with his 10-ft., self-propelled International grain drill.

Federer built the drill's triangular frame from scratch, making use of spare parts around the farm. The drill itself is mounted on the back at the same height at which it would normally operate. The drill is powered by a 60-hp Volkswagen engine and 4-speed transmission. Although he says he has more power than he needs, the transmission lets him adjust to varying field conditions.

The engine is mounted to-

ward the back of the frame to add weight to the openers on the drill. The seat on the drill is an auto seat from a Gran Prix and the steering mechanism Federer rigged up controls just the front wheel. There are no brakes. The rear wheels are chain-driven so downshifting slows enough to stop, says Federer.

He seeds soybeans in wheat from 6 in. tall to the heading-out stage. Since the narrow motorcycle wheels on the drill are spaced to fit 7-in. rows, he says there is very little damage. And, although the combine wheels run over some of the soybean plants when combining, he says it does little damage to yields. He had good yields of about 35 bu. on much of his double-cropped acreage although yields where grain was seeded into headed-out grain were as low as 13 bu. per acre.

The drill cost Federer about \$1,600 to build. He can remove the drill off the back for normal use when needed.

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Handy Refueling Wagon

"Once our tractors got larger, we needed a way to get more fuel to them faster," says Scott Peacock, Alliance, Alberta, happy with his home-built 300 gal. refueling wagon. "A 300 gal. fuel tank is mounted on a tandem wheel trailer equipped with radial tires on walking beam springless axles. A 12-V.

pump and filter pumps fuel to an automatic kick-out nozzle. A clear plastic tube runs from the bottom of the tank to the top and gauges the fuel level by reading numbers written alongside the tube. A box stores nozzles, grease guns and oil jugs. The wagon was constructed out of 4 by 4 by 1/4-in. structural tubing."

Woodsplitter And Carrier In One

"I can split wood and throw it right in the carrier," says Delbert Enders, Bremen, Ind. about the log splitter attached to a wood carrier that he made.

"I have the splitter attached to the carrier's framework with one bolt. I can set the splitter at any height I want and can also easily remove it as needed. When dumping the carrier, the splitter swings up and locks in an up position."

"The carrier is 6 ft. wide, 4 1/2 ft. tall, 30 in. wide and holds one rack of wood. To unload the carrier, all I have to do is disconnect the top link of the 3 pt. hitch. The box will then dump as the hitch is raised," says Enders.

The splitter is powered off the tractor's hydraulics and has a 4-in. cylinder and a 24-in. stroke. The carrier is made of

plywood bolted to an angle iron frame.

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