

## Heavy-Built, 625 Bu. Grain Cart

When Paul Pierce and sons, Kurt and Kyle, set out to build a grain cart, the Sullivan, Ill., farmers had a few criteria in mind. They wanted it to be big, tough, easy to unload, and they wanted it to be both field and road ready.

They got what they wanted with this "gondola" style grain hauler that has a 625 bu. hopper suspended inside an extra heavy-duty frame. It's fitted with a fixed semi-truck axle on back and dolly wheels up front with a 5th wheel hitch that makes for easy maneuverability. The rear axle mounts are unusual in that heavy channel iron supports tie directly to the wagon's main frame. They're also fitted with heavy leaf springs.

The wagon's fitted with air brakes - a compressor and air tank mount on front of the wagon and are controlled electrically from the tractor - and dual wheels all around. It has a center unload hatch on



bottom.

The Pierces also made a long-arm rear view mirror for safer over-the-road hauling. They manufacture the rear view mirror for sale.

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## Weigh Scale Trailer, Pig Loader Bucket

"My neighbor uses it all the time," says Mark Johnson, Cylinder, Iowa, about the hog weigh scale trailer he built for his neighbor, Jeff Berkland, who has a farrow-to-finish operation.

"It lets him weigh hogs on the spot rather than haul them to the elevator weigh scale 6 miles away.

"Jeff already had the weigh axles, hitch, and electronic scale off an Artsway mixer he bought from a dealer. I attached them to a stretched, widened Artsway grinder frame and used wire mesh flooring for the bed. Hog gates were used for the front, back and sides of the trailer. There's a fold-down ramp at the back.

"The trailer measures 7 by 15 ft. A 12-volt battery mounts on a platform attached to the side of the trailer, as does the weigh scale.

"I also made a handy pig carrier out of a loader bucket by making gates out of pipe and wire mesh that simply pin together across the front and sides of a bucket, held



in place by brackets on the bucket. It's a convenient way to move a bunch of pigs at once. Because it's on the loader, you can reach it into the pens, making it easier to load and unload. When you're done, the sides come right off so you can use it as a bucket again."

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## Fertilizer Side Dresser Made From Deere 492 Planter

"We bought an old 4-row Deere 492 corn planter and turned it into a fertilizer sidedresser by fitting it with 8 discs that put fertilizer on either side of four 38-in. rows," says Gerald R. Demers, Dresden, Ontario.

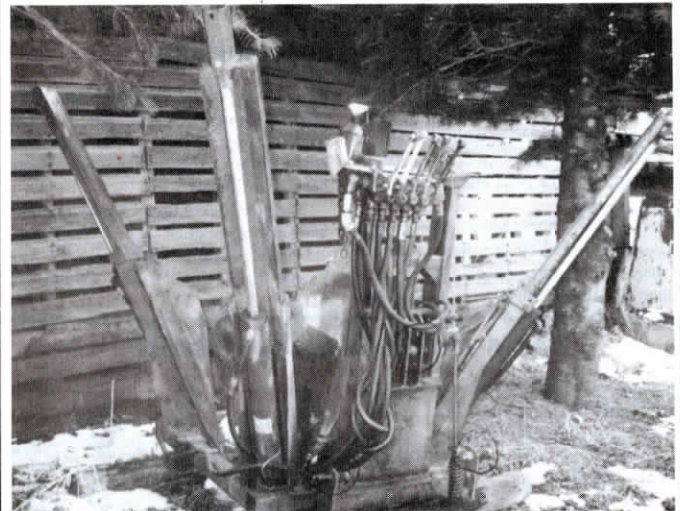
"We bought the old planter for \$150 and then tore off the seed boxes and drives. We welded on another 2 by 2-in. bar approximately 5 in. below the original bar. The discs bolt to this bar so there's less chance of fertilizer bridging in the hoses.

"We bought four more fertilizer discs from a neighbor for \$40 and used four twin-flow fertilizer brackets off an old Allis Chalmers WD cultivator and side dressing

units to attach the hoses to. We had to drill a small hole in the bottom outside of the fertilizer tanks to attach the brackets to.

"To set our rate of fertilizer, we look in the planter manual. We also have made some plywood extensions that sit on the fertilizer boxes to boost capacity so we don't have to fill up as often. This rig makes side dressing fertilizer quick and easy. We use it on our 40 acres of peppers but it could be used on any crop."

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## Big Tree Spade Mounts On Tractor's 3 Pt. Hitch

"It'll dig up a tree up to 8 ft. tall and almost 3 in. in dia. in two minutes or less," says Earl Weber about the big hydraulic tree spade he built to mount on the 3 pt. hitch of his tractor.

Mounting the spade on the 3 pt. makes it more versatile than commercial models that mount on wheeled trailers, notes Weber, a retired farmer from Dunlap, Iowa.

"I've moved thousands of trees with it since I built it 10 or 15 years ago and I've never had an ounce of trouble with it," says Weber.

The 4-bladed spade is about 6-ft. high, 35-in. in dia. at the top and narrows to about

1 ft. in dia. at the bottom. The hydraulically activated blades, which are each 3 ft. long, are made out of high tensile steel. Each is powered by a 4-in. dia. hydraulic cylinder with 3 ft. stroke. Slides are 1/4-in. thick plate iron.

They'll dig down 3 ft. and can easily handle a 400 to 500 lb root ball, Weber says.

Including the four hydraulic cylinders bought new for \$40 apiece, Weber has less than \$500 in the machine, which he now rents out to neighbors.

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