

Log Lift For Splitters

Lifting big chunks of wood to the splitter table is no longer a problem for Joe Pownell, Macy, Ind. He equipped a lifting mast at the end of the splitter with three pulleys. Cable runs through the pulleys and connects to the plunger of the splitter. A gripping "claw" at the end of the cable grabs onto big chunks and lifts as the splitting wedge is retracted. Once in the air, the log is simply pivoted over onto the splitting table.

"The cable is high tensile 3/16-in. dia. The main lifting shaft is solid steel, 1-in. in dia. It can be locked into the rear lifting position by a hand-screw," says Pownell. He made the log gripping claw by sharpening 1/2-in. spikes and welding them to plates at about 45° angle. He drives the spikes into the wood.



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Three-In-One Grill Guard, Tire Holder, And Hitch

"Here's an idea that's been helpful in our farming operation," says Randy Roling, Bernard, Iowa. "It started out as just a grill guard for our pickup but I built a spare tire holder onto the guard which makes the tire easy to get at.

"Later, I bought an 'eze hitch' from a company, and made a frame to weld it to the grill guard. The tow hitch slides in and out on a pipe. I use it to pull the truck when I go from farm to farm. That way, I have all my tools, fuel and transportation with me in case I have any trou-

ble, and use it to go home at the end of the day.

"Under the hitch, I made a telescoping hitch to push or pull equipment in and out of tight parking spots. Now I can back a wagon into a tight spot in just a few seconds. This piece of equipment attaches to the pickup with just four bolts so it's ready to come off and install on my next truck."

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Portable Cattle Crowding Alley

A portable cattle crowding alley helps Jeff Potter, Redwood Falls, Minn., work cattle in different pastures without setting up permanent alleys in each pasture.

"Our veterinarian has his own working chute. When he comes out, we want to speed him up as much as possible. With this crowding alley there's always a cow or calf waiting for him," says Potter.

He backs the alley up to the corral with a pickup or tractor and uses a winch to set the unit down on the ground. The vet parks his chute at the front of the alley, which is 28 ft. long and made up of two parts. The rear part is the crowding alley itself and the front consists of a 4-ft. A.I. cage which lets the vet get behind the animal.

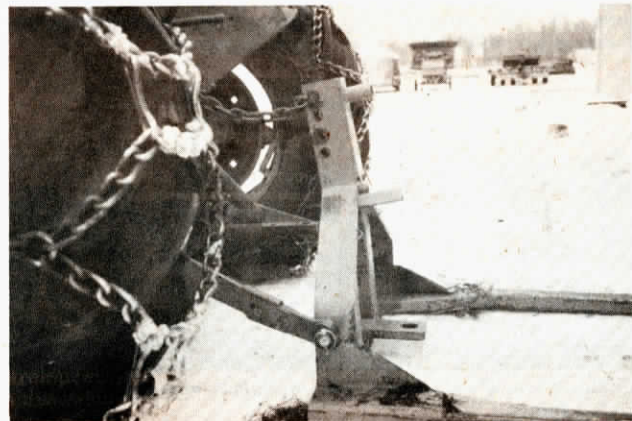
The alley is made from 1 3/4-in. sq. tubing and axles from an old chopper. One side of the alley is adjustable for width so that by moving that side in or out a

notch, widths can be adjusted for either cows or calves. They can't turn around in the alley and they can't back out because of backup stops built into the stationary side of the chute. At the front of the alley is a swinging cut-off gate so the animals can go through one at a time but can't run into the vet when he's working behind an animal.

"It holds three large cows or seven 300-lb. calves," says Potter.

"One man can set it up and work it alone. We use it on five different pastures. Since we're in the purebred cattle business, we work each pasture at least five different times during the year for A.I., dehorning, flytags, castrating, and tattooing. I wouldn't be without it. Saves time and cuts down on the length of vet visits."

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Chain Top Link For 3-Pt. Bale Fork

"Replacing the conventional top link on my 3-pt. bale fork with a chain allows the fork to always run parallel to the ground," says Clare Duffield, Browns Valley, Minn.

The key to the idea is that slack in the chain lets the bale fork have some flexibility rather than staying rigid, Duffield points out.

He notes that he can also pull

a wagon behind the tractor even with the bale fork on. The chain top link allows him to simply tip the fork up and secure it to the tractor, leaving the tractor drawbar accessible for hitching up the wagon gongue.

Duffield used a 1/2-in. chain about 2 1/2-ft. long. He hooked it to the tractor and fork in place of the top link, using the same pin holes.