Weigh wagon is 99.5 percent accurate, says Von Muenster.

Easy-To-Build Weigh Wagon

FARM SHOW readers might recall Kenneth Von Muenster of Anamosa, Iowa, as the man we featured last year after he came up with a weigh scale system to fit his Deere 750 no-till drill. The system makes it easy to set planting populations by weighing seed in the drill hopper. (His drill scale is now on the market.)

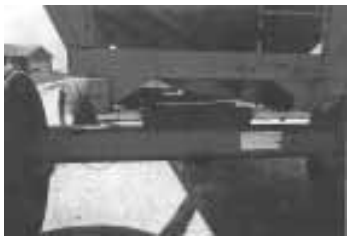
To make that system, Muenster used four load cells mounted underneath the hopper.

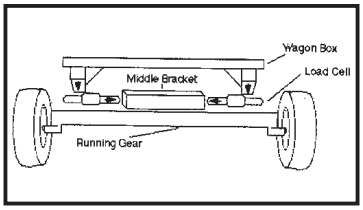
Now Muenster has applied the same principle to construction of a weigh wagon for handling grain. He says it's accurate to 99.5%.

"I used a 450 bu. wagon that you can use to monitor hybrids, check different fertilizer and chemical programs, and different tillage methods. It also helps in splitting landlord and tennant shares of crops or weighing bulk fertilizer. If you put scales on all your grain wagons, you can weigh your entire crop and eliminate the need for a permanent platform scale," says Von Muenster.

The idea is to suspend the wagon box on electronic load cells above the running gear of the wagon. The cells send the weight to a digital read-out. The four cells Von Muenster used have a capacity of 40,000 lbs.

He installed the load cells by making two middle brackets with "sockets" on each end to hold the load cells. He used 23-in. long pieces of 4-in. sq. steel tubing to make the weigh brackets, which weld to the running gear. He inserted four pieces of flat steel into each end of the brackets to make a 2 1/8-in. sq. socket for each load cell to fit into. The protruding ends of the load cells then attach directly to the wagon box.





The system consists of four load cells, two in back and two in front. They bolt to a middle bracket that's welded to the running gear.

Four 10-in. bolts attach the wagon to the load cells and four 2-in. bolts hold the load cells to the middle brackets. Von Muenster used angle iron to beef up the running gear under the weigh brackets.

Von Muenster expects to have the system on the market as a kit early in 1998. It's expected to sell for about $1,700.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kenneth von Muenster, 16027 Hwy 64, Anamosa, Iowa 52205 (ph 319 462-2344).

"Home-Built" 4-WD Pickup Fitted With Aluminum Dump Bed

Bill Simons converted the frame of a 1962 Ford F-350 pickup into a 4-WD model with an aluminum dump box.

"This truck was originally a 2-WD model. I converted it to 4-WD by installing a heavy duty front axle off a 1972 Chevrolet 3/4-ton pickup," says Simons. "I also installed the Chevy's disc brakes. The rear end is from a 1989 Chevrolet 1-ton pickup and the transfer case is from a Dodge pickup and is independent of the transmission. I replaced the driveshaft yokes on the transfer case with Spicer yokes. I replaced the original engine with a Ford 390 cu. in. gas engine and 4-speed transmission. The power steering box is from an International 4-WD truck, and the air conditioning and vacuum power brakes (dual master cylinder) are from a 1975 Ford 3/4-ton pickup.

"The homemade aluminum dump bed has a lift capacity of 4,000 lbs. and is powered by a 12-volt electric lift gate pump. I've used the dump bed to haul several hundred tons of sand, manure, scrap metal, etc., over the last 15 years. A gooseneck hitch is hidden below the bed to keep the deck flat."

Aluminum bed has 4,000-lb. lift capacity.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Simons, HC 1, Box 315 D, Pearce, Arizona 85625 (ph 520 824-3250).

Gingrich's "windrow diverter" is sturdier and features bigger rollers and more ground clearance than commercial units, he says.

"Windrow Diverter" Fits Self-Propelled Haybine

"There's a commerical diverter on the market that would have fit my machine but I didn't like the way it works and I also couldn't justify the $6,500 price tag," says Larry Gingrich, LeRoy, Mich., who designed and built his own windrow diverter to mount on his self-propelled New Holland 2550 Haybine.

It sets cut hay down in a windrow next to the uncut hay. When you turn to go back to the other end of the field, you raise the side arm and let the hay throw next to the previous row. That puts the two rows close enough together to chop, bale or rake in one pass.

"My unit is sturdier than the one on the market with bigger rollers and more ground clearance. The way I designed the belt assembly on the table, hay does not get caught in it. It also handles a larger volume of hay per hour," says Madden, noting that he spent just $1,800 to build his unit.

"All materials used were standard equipment. I had the side rail bent at a fabrication shop. The end rollers were made from 4-in. steel and a steel rod. I bought the seamless belt from a belting supplier to the length I needed. I tapped into the hydraulic system on the Haybine so there's no extra power system needed. I put a control valve in the cab.

"Windrow diverter" saves Gingrich an estimated 250 hours in labor a year.

"I believe this diverter saves me about 250 hrs. of labor a year, not to mention the extra wear and tear on machinery. In addition, getting the feed in faster increases quality, resulting in more milk production.

"One additional unique feature of my unit is the fact that the Haybine can still be used conventionally to lay out a wide windrow behind the machine. The adjustment takes less than a minute, with no removal of the unit."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Gingrich, 14888 18 Mile Rd., LeRoy, Mich. 49655 (ph 616 768-4293).

Low-riding mower is belt driven by a shaft running back under the tractor to the pto.

Fenceline Mower Follows Ground Contour

Keeping fencelines trimmed up neat is easy for Illinois farmer Milton Ruppert since he built a side-mounted mower that reaches under low lying fence wires.

The mowing assembly mounts on front of the tractor. It's belt-driven by a shaft that runs back under the tractor to the pto. The shaft is chain-driven by a sprocket mounted on the pto.

The front end of the driveshaft is fitted with a V-belt pulley. The V-belt drives a pulley on a hinged joint which in turns drives a second belt that runs to a pulley on top of the mower head.

A hydraulic cylinder on the side opposite the mower attaches to a chain that raises and lowers the mower to follow ground contour.

The mower is fitted with a metal disk with cutting blades.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Milton Ruppert, 14329 Route 185, Hillsboror, Ill. 62049 (ph 217 534-2502).