



"Beetle" Super Mower

Howard Blakely, of Lecanto, Fla., used a junked 1973 VW Beetle and the rear end from a 1973 Vega to build this "Beetle" Super Mower. It features a 3-blade, 60-in. cut, hydraulic drive, infinite speed range up to 3 mph and instant forward-reverse controls.

A salvaged Continental air conditioner engine out of a junked GMC bus powers the mower. The frame is made of

3-in. channel iron and the wheels and tires are from a golf cart.

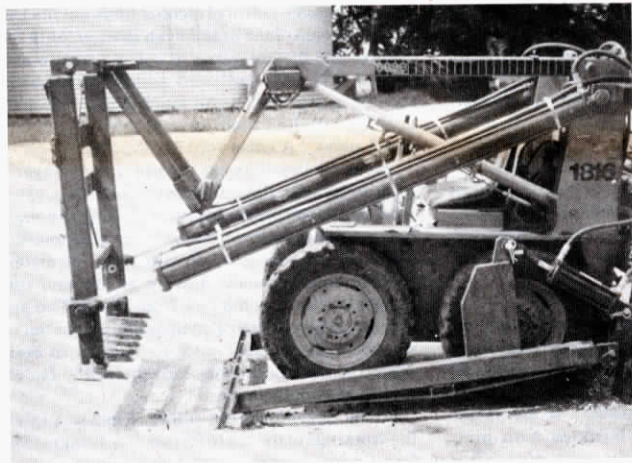
Howard tells us he's been featured on local television and may be shown nationally by ABC. "Everyone who's seen it thought it was good for a laugh," he says. "All I need to build now is something to pick up the cut grass and pine needles."

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Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors?

Harold M. Johnson, Editor



"The Kruncher" Manure Scraper

Art Nehring, innovative hog farmer from Iowa Falls, Iowa, has developed a giant-size scraper specifically designed to scrape off glue-like manure stuck to floors in finishing barns.

"The building we were concerned about is 365 ft. long. Cleaning it was a continual headache because of manure build-up. We ended up scraping the manure off manually because there was no room for a big tractor, and the skid steer loader had too little power and no traction. A high-pressure washer gets it but manure ricochets back into the operator's face."

To solve the problem, he came up with the idea of build-

ing a giant pincer with teeth to fit his skid steer loader. He calls it "The Kruncher".

"One jaw reaches out like a backhoe and slices the manure off the cement as easily as you could peel an orange. The opposing jaw is a pronged backstop mounted at the front of the tractor," explains Nehring.

The hydraulic cylinders powering the pinchers are 4 in. in diameter and 6 ft. long. They exert 23,000 lbs. pressure, strong enough for Nehring to split wood between the jaws. The backstop mechanism is attached to 150 lb. iron arms bolted to the tractor above the back hitch. The leverage necessary to push the backstop down into the manure is gained by



Combine Header Feed Wagon

When Dennis Murphy, of Circle, Mont., needed a wagon for feeding chopped hay, he didn't have to look any further than the old 12-ft. Case combine header he junked a while back.

By adapting a pto-drive to the original header driveshaft, Dennis has developed his own self-feeding, tractor powered hay wagon. He added sheet metal sides to the header frame for holding large loads of hay. The original header "infeed"

auger moves feed out of the wagon and onto the ground, into regular feed bunks or into old tire feedbunks.

A smaller auger mounted above the main feed auger handles bridging problems. This small auger only runs when a rope is pulled from the tractor. When bridging occurs, a tug on the rope engages a belt tightener, starts the small auger and breaks up the plugged hay.

welding arms on the backstop beams at right angles. Hydraulic cylinders, 3.5 by 8 in. and capable of 17,000 psi, can exert as much as 6,000 lbs. of downthrust on the teeth of the backstop.

"It was hard to believe that, after years of back-breaking labor, I could sit down and, with thumb and forefinger, do what

took days and weeks of gut effort before," Nehring says. "You can use it in any barn with manure build-up, as well as for landscaping." He's interested in developing the machine commercially.

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