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Home-Built 3-Pt. Mounted Potato Digger

"I built it because I was too lazy to dig potatoes by hand," says Del Bergeron of Assiniboia, Sask., who used scrap steel to build his own 3-pt. digger. It cuts through the ground, causing potatoes to ride up over long steel "fingers" and rest on top of the ground where they're easy to pick up.

The 3-ft. wide rig is equipped with a series of 16-in. long steel tines spaced about 2 in. apart. The tines are welded to a steel rod that's welded between two long curved shanks. A pitman - made from the linkage off a car's steering system - is used to shake the tines up and down in order to shake the dirt off the potatoes. The pitman is attached

to one end of a shaft that's bolted to one of the shanks. The other end is connected to the tractor pto. As the shaft rotates it turns a crank that's connected to the pitman, which makes the rod and tines go rapidly up and down.

A pair of small rubber wheels that mount ahead of the tines are used to control their depth. Each wheel is connected to a telescoping vertical shaft that's attached to the rig's steel frame. The depth is adjusted by changing the position of a set screw in each shaft.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Del Bergeron, Box 156, Assiniboia, Sask., Canada S0H 0B0 (ph 306 642-3291).

Non Toxic "Kritter Killer" Eliminates Burrowing Pests

John Frederick claims his new anti-pest product, Kritter Killer, will get rid of fire ants, gophers, moles or anything else that crawls down into a hole to hide. The Fraser, Michigan businessman developed the formula while living in Georgia. And although he says the product is totally non-toxic to humans, it sure sounds nasty.

"My neighbors would pour gasoline on fire ant colonies, but it always evaporated before it could do any good," recalls Frederick. "I experimented with different chemicals until I came up with this formula."

What Frederick developed was a compound that is heavier than air, settles into the nest or lowest part of a tunnel, and displaces the oxygen. Kritter Killer can be used behind drywalls to control wasps, hornets or other insect pests. Simply drill a few holes in the drywall and pour the material in. The liquid rapidly changes to a vapor state and fills the available space. Kritter Killer is also recommended for termites. Liquid poured into entry tubes turns to vapors that follow the tubes into the wood and kills the termites.

For gophers, moles and other tunnel dwellers, simply open the tunnel at its highest

point, pour Kritter Killer into a dish or other small container. As the vapor forms it will move down through the tunnels to their lowest point. Target pests die quickly in the absence of oxygen, and within a short period of time, the material dissipates, leaving behind no residue in the air or in the pest bodies.

"A dog or cat could eat a gopher killed by Kritter Killer because it contains no poisons," says Frederick. "In fact, one of the active ingredients is given in small doses to children in Africa to kill intestinal parasites."

Although the ingredients are nontoxic and are not absorbed into the body, the Environmental Protection Agency has been in touch with Frederick about labeling Kritter Killer as a pesticide. He hopes that they will agree that it doesn't have to be labeled.

For now, at least, Frederick sells Kritter Killer in one and five gallon containers for \$40 and \$150, respectively.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup: John Frederick, Box 26198, Fraser, Michigan 48026 (ph 800 434-9192); Website: www.newtechseallube.com



Linkage consists of two long steel rods. One hooks up to the pto control lever and the other (above) hooks up to the throttle.

"Remote Controls" For Tractor Throttle, PTO

"It saves a lot of time and running back and forth to the tractor when we load or unload grain bins," says Keith Hoffman, Bellingham, Minn., who made a linkage system to control the throttle and pto on the tractor he uses to operate his auger.

The linkage consists of two long steel rods - one that hooks up to the throttle and the other to the pto control lever. Both rods are suspended about 3 ft. off the ground by a pair of steel posts anchored in the ground.

The rod that controls the throttle bolts to one end of an L-shaped steel bracket that mounts on the tractor fender. The bracket pivots on a bolt. A length of strap iron at the other end of the bracket is bolted to a short length of pipe that slides over the throttle.

The other rod hooks directly to the pto lever.

"I use it with my IH 706 tractor. Instead of having to run around all the time I can do everything from one location," says Hoffman. "I made it in 1 1/2 hours one day, between hauling loads. It takes only a couple of minutes to attach to the tractor."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Both rods are suspended 3 ft. off ground by a pair of steel posts.

Hoffman Brothers, RR 1, Box 50, Bellingham, Minn. 56212 (ph 320 568-2512).

Low Water Pressure Or Volume? Cistern With Pump Solves Problem

"Water pressure on farms is often a problem if one well and pump provide water for both the home and livestock," notes Carroll Kallevig, an Irwin, Iowa, expert in solving farm water problems.

That means you might be in the shower when all the animals in the barn decide to take a drink. Then all you can do is wait for the pressure to go back up.

The most obvious solution to this problem, Kallevig says, is to have separate wells for home and farm use. But that expense can be hard to justify.

Kallevig has a simple and much less costly solution to the problem. Rather than drilling a new well, he helps people set up a cistern - or underground reservoir - just for the home. The cistern has a separate pressure pump that assures plenty of water and pressure.

He installs a 560-gal. underground reservoir somewhere along the waterline from the farm well to the house.

He uses 4-ft. dia. concrete tile to form the cistern, placing a submersible pump in the bottom to feed water to a pressure tank in the house.

He notes that a jet pump inside the house can be used to take the place of the submersible pump inside the cistern. He likes submersible pumps though, since they can deliver more consistent volume and pressure than jet pumps. And you don't have the noise of the pump in the house, either.

Kallevig figures the cost of this type of cistern at under \$500, and might even be more like \$300 to \$350 if you can do the work yourself. "A used submersible well pump should cost under \$100. The concrete tiles needed, including the lids and sealant, shouldn't cost more than \$150 or so. That leaves a float valve and some miscellaneous wiring and plumbing parts," he says.

A similar cistern and pump system could be used for periodic higher volume applications, like filling sprayer tanks, etc. Or you could build several separate cisterns for specific uses. (i.e. one for the house, another for the shop, etc.)

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carroll Kallevig., Kallevig Pump Service, Irwin, Iowa 51446 (ph 712 782-3433).