

Reader Letters



Thanks for the story on my front-end loaders for Simplicity and Bolens garden tractors. I've also just started manufacturing loaders for Cub Cadet garden tractors. And, I've recently built two experimental loaders for ATV's - one a Polaris model and the other a Kawasaki. The photo



shows the loader on the Polaris. Both ATV loaders are raised and lowered by the owner's electric winch. Tripping and resetting are done by using two ropes. I haven't yet decided whether I'll market these ATV loaders. Readers should let me know if this product is of interest. **(John Scheele, Johnny Products, LLC, 4124 S. 89th St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53228 ph/fax 414 328-1898; E-mail: help@johnnyproducts.com; Website: www.johnnyproducts.com)**

Sometimes sparrows and other birds accidentally fall into my cattle tank. They can't crawl up the metal sides of the tank so they drown, which fouls the water. I've



found that floating a wooden board in the water provides them with a way to save themselves. The board has to be big enough so it won't flip over as the sparrow claws up onto it. I use a board that's 1 in. thick and 4 in. wide. The sparrow can stand on the board and dry himself off before flying away. It's an old idea but it still works. **(Rex Gogerty, 33475 K. Ave., Hubbard, Iowa 50122 ph 641 487-7617; fax 7599)**



For years I've used this Top Air 3-wheel trailer and 200-gal. water tank in my spraying operations. The trailer was originally equipped with a pump. I didn't need the pump any more so I removed it

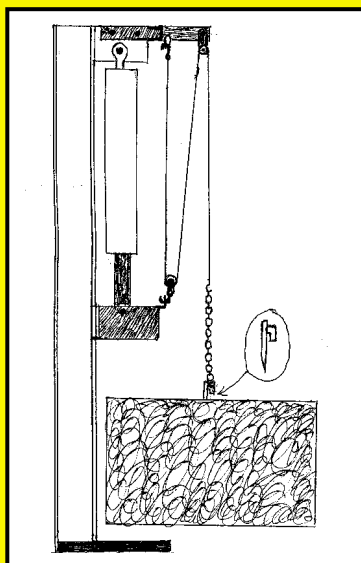
and added a large expanded metal step in its place. We use the trailer now simply to haul water to our sprayer. **(Gene Johnson, 603 So. Center St., Zeoring, Iowa 50278 ph 641 487-7393)**

Your readers may get a kick out of this half-scale hay wagon that's identical to full-size wagons. It measures only 7 ft. long and 4 ft. wide and can be pulled by



any garden tractor or ATV. I've displayed the wagon in parades and at threshers' swap meets. Hobby farmers can use it to haul small square bales and other materials. It's equipped with adjustable tie rods and turf tires. The floor is made from marine varnished pine boards. I can paint the wagon whatever color the customer wants. Sells for \$425 plus S&H. **(David Timmerman, Pineview Machines Etc., Inc., 7436 195th St. W., Jordan, Minn. 55352 ph 952 492-3677)**

Here's a contraption I added to my log splitter last spring that lets me lift big blocks with ease. It has saved me a lot



of lifting and strain on my back. In the past I sawed large oak blocks - some of them 40 in. in dia. and 18 in. high - into four pieces or even used a backhoe to place them on a splitter. At 79 years old, I had to figure out an easier way to handle these big blocks by myself.

I mounted an angle iron boom on the splitter, fitted with a pulley. I also attached a pulley to the splitting wedge. A cable runs down through the pulley on the wedge and back up through the pulley at the top of the splitter.

There's a length of chain with a spike attached to the end of the cable. I drive the spike into a block of wood and then activate the splitting wedge to lift the block of wood. I have to unhook the pulley from the wedge to split the block.

I leave the tongue of the splitter hooked to the tractor while in use. To remove my contraption from the splitter, all I have to

do is take out two bolts and unhook the pulley from the wedge. **(George C. Glover, 1116 Glover Acres Place, Lenoir, N.C. 28645)**

Our patent pending Ski-Lift trailer eliminates the need for a forklift and lets one person move seed, feed, fertilizer, sod, or virtually any product that can be



delivered on a pallet. The unit can be attached to a variety of different types of equipment and operates off a battery-powered hydraulic pump. It was designed and built by a former Nebraska seed dealer. Makes it possible to deliver products to remote locations. Several models are available with capacities from 1,000 to 4,000 lbs., with optional hook-ups such as a ball coupler, drawbar pin, gooseneck, etc. A hand pumped model is also available. The unit can even be equipped with a flattened that attaches over the forks. **(Behlen Mfg., Columbus, Neb. or Bob Slusarski, Box 24, Duncan, Neb. 68634 ph 402 897-2325).**

I grow about an acre of potatoes every year and got tired of using a hoe to hill up the rows (potatoes have to be killed so that they don't sunburn). I didn't want



to spend the money for a commercial potato hiller so I built my own, mostly out of scrap metal. It's equipped with a pair of 6-ft. long, 1-ft. high, 3/8-in. thick steel plates that angle back toward a 16-in. wide opening. The back part of the blades is supported by a frame made out of 2-in. sq. tubing. The front part of the blades, which fits just inside the tractor's rear wheels, can be raised or lowered by adjusting a pair of threaded rods.

I use the implement with my little Deutz tractor and usually dig 2 1/2 to 3 in. deep, although I can dig up to 5 in. deep. It saves a lot of work. I plant my potatoes in rows 5 ft. apart so I've got plenty of room to maneuver. I also use the rig to hill up sweet corn so stalks won't blow down in high winds.

The entire machine is welded together except for the top link arm, which bolts on. I use that arm with my 3-pt. planter. My only cost was the \$60 I spent for the metal used to make the blades. **(Floyd Keller, Osage, Sask., Canada S0G 3T0 ph 306 722-3741)**

I wanted something to mow the roadside ditches near my farm so I converted a 20-ft. pull-type Versatile swather into a 10-ft. mower. I cut 10 ft. off the sicklebar and reel, removed the outside canvas section, and moved the divider in. I also



shortened the shaft that drives the canvas. The swather lays the cut grass at the bottom of the ditch instead of on top of the road, where it would be in the way of road graders. It really works good.

Another idea I had was to make a rock box that bolts onto the side of my Deere 4640 2-WD row crop tractor. The box measures 28 by 24 in. The bottom is



made from cylinder bars off an old combine while the sides are made from angle iron. Everything is welded together. It really comes in handy for picking up small rocks as I cultivate edible beans and soybeans. I dump the rocks at the end of the field or in a shelter belt. I also made a similar box that bolts to the frame of my Deere 8430 4-WD tractor.

Whenever I hauled my Deere pull-type swather down the road on my transport trailer, the swather's rear castor wheels - which ride on the road - would whip back and forth and force me to slow down. I



solved the problem by using a length of sq. tubing to lock the rear wheels together so that they travel straight. Now I can go up to 35 mph on the road compared to 15 mph in the past.

The locked-up wheels also keep the wheels from swiveling as I back the swather down the ramps. When I'm ready to go to the field I simply unbolt the sq. tubing. **(Loren Halvorson, Box 40, Galesburg, N. Dak. 58035 ph 701 488-2790)**



Our new Leaf Eater chopper turns 8 bags of leaves and cuttings into a single bag of mulch. The electric chopper runs on 110-volt power.

Settings adjust from coarse to fine.