

Transport Frame Makes Handling Big Augers Easy

Howard Ailsby never liked moving grain augers by hand. Even hooked to a tractor, backing up was a chore.

To solve the problem, he built a transport frame that hitches to the side of the tractor. It worked so well the Wymark, Saskatchewan, grain farmer built three more, including two for his neighbors.

The auger carrier attaches to the right side of a tractor in two places: with a pin in the drawbar, and on a ball hitch bolted to the front of the tractor. Two pivoting caster wheels allow it to freely follow the tractor. Backing the auger into place is no more difficult now than backing the tractor. He used rectangular steel tubing to build the frame.

Because it's not fastened solid to the tractor, the carrier flexes over ruts and bumps without damage to the carrier or the auger itself.

The tractor is positioned midway on the auger tube, so he can use the auger both for filling and emptying bins.

The original auger undercarriage and auger lift mechanisms remain in place. Ailsby simply removes the original axle and mounts everything else on his auger carrier. A tongue jack mounts on the tractor side of the frame for use when the auger carrier is off the tractor.

To drive pto-driven augers, he sets up a right angle 1:1 gearbox at the far left of his cart, directly behind the tractor pto.

He adds a 2-in. hydraulic cylinder with a 48-in. stroke to raise or lower the bottom end of the auger. "Today's tractors really have more powerful hydraulics than you need for an auger. If you're not careful, you can bend the auger tube when you're raising it up, es-



Ailsby's home-built transport frame hitches to side of tractor.

pecially if the lower end happens to be buried in a grain pile," he says. To avoid putting too much lift on the auger, he put restrictors in the hydraulic line between the tractor and the cylinder. And he put a bypass in the line at the top of the cylinder that opens when pressure is too great.

He also put a splitter in the hydraulic line on the auger carrier and added a hydraulic outlet there. This allows him to use a hydraulically powered bin sweep auger when he's loading trucks.

Ailsby says if he were building another, he'd probably use a geared down hydraulic winch instead of the cylinder to raise the lower end of the auger.

He says his goal was to make something that wasn't permanently attached to the tractor, but could be hooked up easily. "It takes less than 5 minutes to hook up or take off," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Howard Ailsby, RR1, Wymark, Sask., Canada S0N 2Y0 (ph 306 627-3493).



Tractor is positioned midway along auger tube so Ailsby can use auger both for filling and emptying bins. Original auger undercarriage and lift mechanisms remain in place.



Two pivoting caster wheels allow transport frame to freely follow tractor. "Backing the auger into place is no more difficult now than backing the tractor," says Ailsby.



Brush fork operates just like a loader bucket, except that it doesn't disturb as much soil. To remove bushes, De Cook drives forward with shafts a few inches under ground.

Skid Steer "Brush Fork" Is Easy On Pasture

When Arvin De Cook got tired of using conventional methods to fight brush in his cattle pastures, he decided there had to be a better way. So he designed a brush fork that mounts in place of the bucket on his skidsteer loader. The brush fork operates just like a loader bucket, except that it doesn't disturb as much soil.

"It removes bushes and small trees without destroying large areas of pasture, which would then have to be reseeded," says De Cook. "After a few weeks the dug-out spot is barely visible."

The brush fork is made from 1 1/2-in. dia.

steel shafts spaced 8 in. apart. Thin strips of steel plate welded on between the shafts form a cutting edge. The back ends of the shafts are welded to a solid steel plate that serves as a brush guard.

To remove bushes, De Cook drives forward with the shafts positioned a few inches under ground. The shafts rip the roots out and the soil falls between them.

De Cook's total cost to build the brush fork was only about \$75.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arvin De Cook, 9658 Hwy. F62 E., Sully, Iowa 50251 (ph 641 594-3438).

Oval-Shaped Farrowing Crate Keeps Sow, Piglets Happy

The latest new idea in farrowing crates is this oval-shaped model that was introduced at the recent Canadian International farm equipment show in Toronto.

The 5-ft. wide, 7-ft. long crate has specially-designed concave sides, with a door that doubles as a feeder at one end. Brackets are available to mount it directly to a wall.

"The oval design allows the sow to move more freely and to turn inside the stall, which results in greater comfort and increased milk production. She also has room to lay down slowly, which gives piglets time to get out of the way so they don't get crushed," says Andy Reid, Moorefield, Ontario. "The crate has been tested by the University of Guelph, which found that on average it saves a half pig per litter. The piglets were also 10 percent heavier at two weeks of age."

"Even though the crate is oval-shaped it takes up no more room than a conventional crate," says Reid. "In fact, if you place the back end of the crate against a wall, this crate actually takes up 30 percent less space. By walking inside the crate you can easily reach into the corners and catch the piglets, which you can't do with a conventional crate. Another advantage is that the sow is much more likely to work manure through a slatted floor. Also, she's able to keep the crate cleaner without making a mess at the feeder. If the crate's bottom rail ever rusts out, you can simply turn



The 5-ft. wide, 7-ft. long crate has specially-designed concave sides, with a door that doubles as a feeder at one end. Oval design allows sow to move more freely and to turn inside the stall.

the crate upside down and use it that way."

Sells for \$595 (Canadian) plus S&H.
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, JK Reid Mfg. & Sales Ltd., Rt. 1, Moorefield, Ontario, Canada N0G 2K0 (ph 877 710-2296 or 519 638-3551; fax 3128; E-mail: reid@wcl.on.ca).