



Crane is lifted by an 8-ton hydraulic bottle jack and is equipped with a pair of forks on front.

Rolling Shop Lift Doubles As A Fork Lift

Vocational ag instructor Jim Maguin of Burr Oak, Kansas, sometimes asks local farmers for ideas to challenge his shop classes. But when one of those farmers said he'd like a shop hoist that could double as a forklift, he did a little head scratching.

"He wanted something that he could use as a crane and as a forklift. He wanted to be able to roll it around his shop by hand with a load on it so it needed to be stable, yet take up very little space when not being used," Maguin says.

Heath Dewey, a junior at the time, took on the project.

"It will easily handle a 1,000-lb. load. The biggest load I've ever moved with it was 1,400 lbs. of steel and it handled that without a problem," says Kelly McNichols, the farmer who ended up with the combination forklift-hoist.

The bottom frame of the crane is made of 3-in. square steel tubing. Upper frame and bracing are made from 3-, 2-1/2 and 2-in. square steel tubing.

The crane base telescopes out so the center of gravity can be changed to allow for the amount of weight being lifted. Also, front leg spacing can be set narrow, straight or wide, by moving just two pins between three

different holes.

A bracket on the back of the hoist frame holds up to 500 lbs. of suitcase weights to help counter balance weight on the forks or crane arm.

Fork spacing is adjustable. A hand crank lets McNichols change the angle of the fork head, making it easier to get the forks under pallets.

The crane is lifted by an 8-ton hydraulic bottle jack. The jack has a safety lock so it can't let go unexpectedly.

McNichols says both the hand pump on the hoist and the hand crank on the fork head are slower than he'd like. "If I were doing it over, I think I'd put air-over-hydraulic cylinders on it," he says. "That way, I could just attach an air hose and raise it faster with a lot less effort."

Total cost for the hoist/forklift was about \$700 for materials. Maguin has the plans for it on his computer and says he'd be willing to provide them for a fee if there's interest.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Maguin, c/o White Rock High School, P.O. Box 345, Burr Oak, Kansas 66936; or Kelly McNichols, R.R. 1, Burr Oak, Kansas 66936 (ph 785 647-7541).

Paint Pal Clips Onto Edge Of Cans

If you do a lot of painting, you'll appreciate Delmar Potter's simple invention.

"If you hang a bucket by the handle, it's always in the way when you dip your brush. So you get paint on the handle and then on your hands when you move the can," says Potter.

So Potter, who farms near Griswold, Iowa, simply bent a hook on the end of a piece of strap iron and bolted it to a paint can. The hook allowed him to hang the bucket from a rung on his ladder. The strap makes a good handle for carrying or moving the bucket, so he didn't need the original wire one at all.

"It worked so well, I designed a hook for sale that clips onto the paint can with a bolt and a wing nut," he says. He calls it a "Paint Pal."

"It'll fit any size paint can," he adds. "It makes it a lot easier to paint trim or do touch up work with small paint cans, even quart or pint-sized ones."

Potter sells Paint Pals for \$4.95 plus S&H. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Delmar



Hook bolts onto paint can and allows you to hang bucket from ladder rung.

Potter, 51887 Cheyenne Ave., Griswold, Iowa 51535 (ph 712 778-4355).

Electric Fan A Cheap Way To Cool Cabs

Dan Capiuk of Barrhead, Alberta, was tired of the never-ending battle of keeping his tractor cab air conditioning working up to snuff.

"I decided there had to be an easier way because it seemed like I was always having to recharge my air conditioner since the freon often leaked out over winter. It was too expensive," he says.

Capiuk found a very simple, yet effective solution. He gave up on his air conditioner and simply installed a \$20 electric fan in the cab instead. By bolting a section of metal strap across the right front corner of the cab, he created an ideal place to mount the fan for optimum air circulation. He then hooked the fan onto a live wire off the key switch.

He runs his regular cab fan in addition to the auxiliary electric fan he installed, and says he can work in comfort and not worry about



Dan Capiuk installed a \$20 electric fan in his tractor cab. Fan bolts to a section of metal strap across right front corner of cab.

any expensive maintenance.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Capiuk, Rt. 3, Barrhead, Alberta, Canada T7N 1N4 (ph. 780 674-3007).

Simple Numbering System Can Be Used To Write Any Number

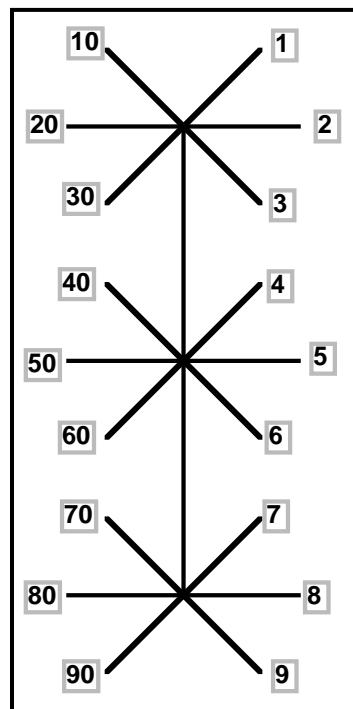
"It's a slick numbering system that can be used in many different ways," says Henry Kuelker, Didsbury, Alberta, who came up with a way to write any number using one straight line.

He got the idea after a rancher came to him and asked if there was any way to make a single branding iron that could be used to put different numbers on his cows, rather than giving each cow the same number. Such a system could replace ear tags.

"After thinking about it for a while, I devised this simple system that requires only one straight bar. You just make different combinations of lines to represent different numbers. The idea can also be used with a straight chisel to punch a number into different materials - metal, wood, concrete, etc.

"I have copyrighted this idea but wanted to show it to FARM SHOW readers so they could take advantage of it if they like the idea."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Henry Kuelker, RR1, Didsbury, Alberta T0M 0W0 Canada (ph 403 335-4193).



Here's how it works. The grid, at left, shows the position of angled lines surrounding a single long straight line. The lines down the left side are numbered in 10's from 10 to 90. The lines down the right side are numbered from 1 to 9. To create a number, you draw a straight vertical line representing the long line down the middle and then put one or more lines on either side of the line. If there's no line on a side, it's zero. To make bigger numbers, you combine two or more sets of symbols together.

