



Jonathan Engels used an angle iron adapter frame to mount an old pickup snowplow on his tractor's 3-pt. hitch.

## He Uses Pickup Snowplow On Tractor 3-Pt. Hitch

"It has more capacity and is built heavier than any 3-pt. scraper blade I've ever used," says Jonathan Engels, Franklinville, N.Y., who converted an old pickup-mounted snowplow into a 3-pt. tractor blade.

Key to the conversion was a simple "pin-on" adapter that allowed the unmodified blade to fit the 3-pt. The adapter consists of an angle iron "A" frame with a pair of metal tabs that match the snowplow's original hinge pin locations. The tractor's hydraulics are used to power a pair of hydraulic cylinders that control the blade's angle. The snowplow's original lift chain is attached to the "A" frame, allowing the blade to follow the ground contour.

"I can attach the blade as quickly and easily as any 3-pt. implement," says Engels. "The pickup blade is taller than most tractor blades and is equipped with a spring trip mechanism. Pickup-mounted snowplow blades are widely available and can often be purchased for \$100 or so. Replacement parts and wear items such

as skid shoes, springs, and cylinder rebuild kits, etc., can be found at just about any auto parts store in cold weather states.

"In my opinion, this setup also works better than using a pickup because the tractor is more maneuverable and can push more snow with less effort than a pickup. The tractor lets me plow at slower speeds, with more control and with less wear and tear. By raising the 3-pt., I can push snow into much higher piles than I can with a pickup. I'm not protected from the weather like I would be in a pickup, but the tractor provides better visibility and also allows me to get closer to buildings, which reduces the amount of hand shoveling that's required.

"I didn't make any modifications to the blade, so I can still use it on a pickup if I want to."

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To keep the bottom of bin from collapsing under its own weight, the Wilson brothers criss-crossed the bottom opening with planks and tied them together at the center.

## How To Move A Grain Bin

There are a lot of unused grain bins around but moving them can be a challenge. Here's how the Wilson brothers, Claire and Warren, got the job done in Winchester, Ill.

The biggest problem is keeping the bottom of bin from collapsing under its own weight when turned on its side. So they criss-crossed the bottom opening with planks and tied them together where they met at the center.

Once the planks were in place, the bin was tipped on its side atop a flatbed trailer. Depending on the bin, the Wilsons say you might have to reinforce the top of the bin as well. It depends on how the roof is tied to the walls.

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The drive wheel gear off an old reel-type lawn mower was used to make this rope machine. Guide rings are used to keep each strand of twine separate.

## Rope Maker Made From Reel-Type Lawn Mower

Orval Higdon, Vancouver, Wash., makes his own ropes with an old-style rope-maker that he made from the drive wheel gear off an old reel-type lawn mower.

The rope maker stands 30 in. high and is equipped with a metal hand crank. It takes two people to operate it - one to turn the crank and one to run the guide.

The drive wheel gear is enclosed by a pair of 1/2-in. thick steel plates. One of the plates welds to the top of a steel pipe that sits inside another pipe. The height of the unit can be changed by loosening a set screw and raising or lowering the inside pipe.

There are three hooks on the outer face plate. Guide rings are used to keep each strand of twine separate.

"I demonstrate the unit at our local county fair, where it's a big hit," says Orval. "Kids get to make their own 6-ft. long ropes. Last year I went through 100 lbs. of binder twine.



There are three hooks on the outer face-plate.

It makes ropes up to 1 inch in diameter. I can use many different materials, such as baler twine, cotton, wool, rawhide, and even llama wool, to make ropes."

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Sawmill owner Sharon Whitehurst specializes in turning treated posts into lumber. She uses a Wood-Mizer portable sawmill.

## Telephone Poles Make Good Farm Lumber

Old utility poles often end up in landfills. Sawmill owner Sharon Whitehurst hated to see all that wood go to waste so she developed a specialty business, turning the treated posts into lumber.

Whitehurst runs a Wood-Mizer portable sawmill on her farm-based operation near Taylorville, Ill.

Most poles are hauled to her place but she also takes her mill to the poles, when necessary. She's been turning utility poles into lumber for eight years.

Discarded poles are sometimes as old as 80 years but because of the heavy creosote treatment, the wood is usually perfectly preserved. Poles are generally made of Douglas fir, pine or cedar. She says

customers use them for a variety of industrial and home uses including decks, porches and fences. She and her crew also produce bridge planks that measure 2 1/2 in. thick by 8 in. wide. Other commercial uses include wood vats, which use 10-in. wide slabs.

The rounded edges cut off the slabs also have a use. Farmers put them on the ground under round bales. They're perfect for this because they won't rot and are lower to the ground than tires or other objects that might be used to prevent spoilage.

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