Roy Klindt builds gates out of steel tubing. His homemade "swivel stand" allows him to quickly turn the gate over without having to do any lifting.

"Swivel Stand" Speeds Gate-Making

Roy Klindt, Crane Valley, Sask., occasionally builds gates out of 1 1/4-in. steel tubing for use on his ranch. In the past, after he was done framing the gate he would mount the cross bars, latches and hinges on one side of it and then turn it over so he could work on the other side.

To make the job easier, he made a simple "swivel stand" that allows him to rotate the gate like a paddle wheel.

"It lets me quickly turn the gate over without having to do any lifting," says Klindt.

The swivel stand consists of a pair of rake wheels that serve as stands, with a 3 1/2-ft. high vertical steel pipe mounted to each wheel hub. A 1-ft. long horizontal rod is welded to the top of the pipe and is fitted with a large pillow block bearing. A C-clamp is used to fasten each end of the gate onto the bearing, at a point half way up the gate.

"It's a simple idea but it works great," says Klindt. "I've used it to make a lot of gates and even a portable alleyway. The gate is so well balanced on the bearing that it feels like it weighs hardly anything. The gates I make are 12-ft. long, but I think this idea could be used to make almost any size gate."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roy Klindt, Box 154, Crane Valley, Sask., Canada S0H 1B0 (ph 306 475-2225).

Stand is used to rotate gate like a paddle wheel, which eliminates the need to do any lifting.

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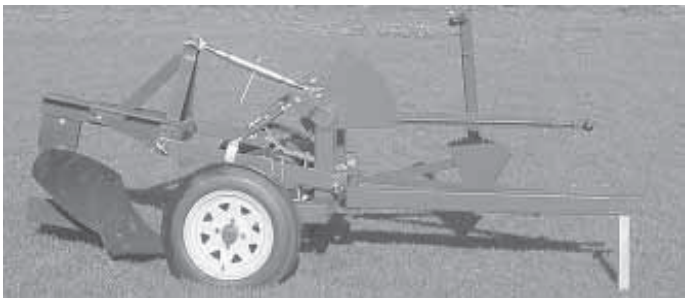

Cat. I 3-pt. cart can be towed behind anything with a drawbar or trailer hitch on it.

Little Tool Carrier Handles Smaller Implements

If you'd like to use that old single bottom 3-point plow behind your ATV but you don't have a way to mount it, I&J Manufacturing has just what you need.

For $620, they'll sell you a light duty Cat. I 3-point cart you can tow behind anything with a drawbar or trailer hitch on it. "You can even use it with horses, so you don't have to go looking for horse drawn machinery," says Jake Blank, owner of I&J.

The cart is made mostly of 3-in. sq. steel tubing that's 3/16 in. thick. It has 4 by 12-in. standard 4-bolt trailer wheels. The tongue swings 18 in. in either direction to make hooking up easier. And it has a mechanical lift, so you don't need hydraulic or electric power to use it. A lever raises and lowers the 3-pt.

"It will handle most Cat. I sized mounted implements," Blank says. "I had a 48-in. tandem disk on it that was just about too much to lift mechanically, though."

He says the cart could be outfitted with a winch or hydraulic cylinder in order to make it easier to use.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jake Blank, I&J Manufacturing, 5302 Amish Road, Gap, Penn. 17527 (ph 717 442-9451).

Wood Burning Stove Automatically Fills Itself

Busy people who rely on wood stoves for heat sometimes forget to load their stove until the fire is nearly out, says Jimmy Finch, a career welder and stove builder near Roxbury, New York.

"I built a stove with a spring-loaded grate in it," says Finch. "A shaft through the grate extends out the side of the stove and hooks to a microswitch. As the wood burns, the weight on the grate gets lighter. The grate springs push it up, triggering the switch."

The stove worked well but Finch decided to carry the idea one step farther and use the trigger to activate a conveyor that actually loads more wood into the stove.

To do this, he made a conveyor with five sections on top of it that each hold about three large chunks of firewood. The chain-driven conveyor attaches to the stove above the door and an arm from the cogwheel at the lower end attaches to the door.

When the switch on the grate shaft signals for more wood, the cog turns, opening the door. The conveyor dumps the load from the first section onto the grate. As the cog continues to turn, it closes the stove door and the weight of the wood on the grate shuts off the switch.

Chain-driven conveyor attaches to stove. When the spring-loaded grill lifts up, triggering conveyor, wood burns down.

Finch has been building conventional stoves for years to sell to customers. He uses heavy 3/16-in. plate steel to make the firebox. Most are convection heaters, warming just one or two rooms.

He put the stove together in his spare time, using mostly scraps left over from other projects and salvaged parts. He figures the stove cost less than $100 to put together. The most difficult part was putting together the spring loaded grate that controls it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James Finch, Jimmy Finch Welding, 2787 Lower Meeker Hollow, Roxbury, N.Y. 12474 (ph 607 326-7529).

Viel mounted an old forage wagon box on a wagon running gear to convert it into a feed wagon. He uses a green feed chopper in the field to fill the wagon with corn stalks.

"Fodder Feed" Wagon

"I converted an old forage wagon box into a feed wagon for fodder. It's a cheap way to feed corn stalks to my beef cows during the winter," says Gene Viel, Winnebago, Ill.

Viel paid $50 for the worn-out wagon box, which he mounted on an old wide-tread wagon running gear. He cut off the unloading conveyor on front of the wagon and used a piece of plywood to partially enclose the front end. He nailed a series of 2 by 4's at an angle onto both sides of the wagon, then used a chain saw to cut five 3-ft. sq. holes into both sides of the wagon. The 2 by 4's reinforce the sides of the wagon and also restrict the size of the openings to reduce feed waste.

He uses a 2-row green feed chopper in the field to fill the wagon.

"Feeding fodder to our beef cows during the winter reduces hay consumption almost in half," says Viel. "I park the wagon on a cement pad so it's easy to clean up around it. The cows would rather lay around the wagon than go inside our shed, so they use it a lot. I made a second feeder wagon out of a Gehl box and it also works well.

"When I bought the wagon box it was already equipped with side extensions and a metal roof. The running gear that I used isn't equipped with a bolster, which helped bring the box down lower."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gene H. Viel, 11207 Edwardsville Rd., Winnebago, Ill. 61088 (ph 815 335-7069).

Cattle eat from openings cut into sides of wagon, with 2 by 4's providing reinforcement.