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## Pickup-Mounted "Furrow Digger"

"I use it to dig irrigation furrows in my pasture," says Mike Lindsay, Powell, Wyoming, about his pickup-mounted "furrow digger."

The digger consists of a shovel with a metal bracket on the shank that bolts to his pickup bumper. A length of chain from the pickup frame down to the shovel provides additional support. The shank consists of a length of 1 1/2-in. sq. heavy wall tubing that goes through a short length of pipe that's welded to the bracket. A bolt goes through the pipe and sq. tubing to keep the shank from spinning.

Lindsay has a small livestock operation and furrow irrigates all his pasture land. The 6-in. deep furrows are in rows about 2 ft. apart.

"I came up with the idea after the furrows filled up with sediment and had to be cleaned out. Normally this job would be done with a tractor with a rear-mounted toolbar with three or four shovels on it. However, I had hurt my back so I needed something more comfortable to drive," says Lindsay. "I use it on my Nissan 1/2-ton 4-WD pickup which is equipped with a metal step bumper on back.

The bracket that supports the shank attaches to the bumper with two bolts in existing holes. I bought the shovel new but had all the other materials on hand.

"I use a jack to raise the bumper to put down pressure on the shovel so it'll dig. When I get to the pasture, I pull the bolt out of the pipe on the bracket and let the shovel drop. Then I jack up the rear bumper, put the bolt back in, and remove the jack. We have hard, rocky soil so the shovel needs a little down pressure so it will dig in. You could do the same thing without a jack by attaching a length of pipe to the rear bumper or ball hitch and then adding a diagonal brace to put downward pressure on the shovel."

Lindsay starts out by driving next to the fence and dropping the driver's side wheels in the first furrow. "Every time I make a new pass I put the same wheels in the furrow that I just cleaned out," he notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike Lindsay, 724 Lane 1 1/2, Powell, Wyoming 82435 (ph 307 754-9694).



Bill Wilson built his own Gator-type utility vehicle by stretching out a 1971 Minneapolis Moline garden tractor, fitting it with a bus seat, and mounting a cargo box on back.

## Home-Built "Croc" Works Like A Gator

Bill Wilson didn't want to spend the money for a Deere Gator-type utility vehicle. So he built his own by stretching out a 1971 Minneapolis Moline garden tractor, fitting it with a school bus seat, and mounting a cargo box on back. The tractor measures 8 ft. long and is painted dark green.

"I call it my Croc because it looks something like a Deere Gator. It just cost a lot less," says Wilson, of Thompson Falls, Montana.

He cut the tractor in half, then welded in new material to lengthen it by 36 in. He had a local fabrication shop build the 36-in. long metal cargo box. He replaced the original drive pulley on the engine with a bigger one.

The engine belt-drives the original pulley on the rig's transaxle. "The big pulley on the engine speeds it up so we can go 15 to 18 mph," says Wilson.

"It'll do a lot of things a Gator can do. I paid \$80 to have the pickup bed built and \$20 for the bus seat. My total cost was about \$100. Even a used Deere Gator would have cost at least \$3,000. I already had the tractor - my two sons learned to drive on it years ago."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Wilson, 44 Gable Road, Thompson Falls, Montana 59873 (ph 406 827-3006).



Outdoor "hot air" wood furnace was built out of an old wood stove. Sheet metal housing around stove is fitted with a squirrel cage fan that blows hot air through two big pipes running to house.

## Simple Hot Air Wood Furnace

Richard Ackerman, Columbia, S. Dak., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of an inexpensive outdoor "hot air" wood furnace he built out of an old wood stove.

"We lost our house to a fire and moved into an older house until we could rebuild. However, the propane heater in that house did not work well and was expensive to operate, so I decided to build my own hot air furnace," says Ackerman.

He mounted an old wood stove on a platform outside the house and built a sheet metal housing around it. He fitted the housing with a squirrel cage fan and ran two big pipes to the house. He insulated the stove with 8 in. of fiberglass and ran a metal rod into the house so he can work the stove's damper from inside.

"It doesn't take up room inside the house, and all the mess and smoke stays outside. The only disadvantage is that I still have to go out in cold weather to fill it with firewood," says Ackerman. "It's insulated so well that I don't think we lose any heat to the outside."

"I plan to build a new furnace based on this design for the house we're building. We'll locate it farther away from the house so we won't be able to hear the fan, and put a small shed around it. I made a thermostat out of strips of copper and a strip of steel. It regulates the fresh combustion air so we can fill the firebox full without it 'running away.' Last winter I filled the firebox with wood at night



Ackerman insulated stove with 8 in. of fiberglass and ran a metal rod into house so he can work stove's damper from inside.

in 20 below zero weather and it was still going the next morning."

A problem with this type of stove is that if the electricity goes off and the fan quits, the stove will overheat. "I put extra large pipes on the stove - 14 and 11 in. dia. - so if the fan ever quits, warm air will still circulate inside the house. I put a regular furnace filter on the cold air pipe and two air cleaner filters on the heat pipe."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Ackerman, 12730 Tacoma Loop, Columbia, S. Dak. 57433 (ph 605 225-3231; email: bhalvorson@nvc.net).

## Anchor Bags Help Prevent Silage Spoilage

Silage and spoilage are two words that seem to go together. But it doesn't have to be that way, says Weaver Martin, who reduces spoilage along the edges of silo pits with his Silage Saver Anchor Bags.

These 3-ft. long, 6-in. dia. poly bags come filled with pea stones. Handles on each end make lifting the 40-lb. bags easy.

Although you can tear them, it's difficult, Martin of Listowell, Ontario says. The bags are UV-resistant and can withstand temperatures as low as -40 degrees C. They should last up to 10 years or longer, he says.

Aside from sealing silage pits, the bags can be used as pickup truck box weights for winter driving, holding down plastic or row covers in gardens, and holding down swimming pool covers.

Martin puts 50 filled bags on a pallet and delivers them to customers. He charges \$4.75 (Can.) per bag plus shipping costs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Weaver



Anchor Bags are designed to reduce spoilage along edges of silo pits. The 3-ft. long, 6-in. dia. poly bags come filled with pea stones.



W. Martin, 5384 Line 81, R.R. 4, Listowell, Ontario, Canada, N4W 3G9 (ph 519 291-3118).