"Six-in-one" tool was built with 2 by 4 tubing and is equipped with a receiver and ball hitch, forks and a bale spear, all of which Beaston uses on his 100-acre farm.

3-Pt. Mounted "Six-In-One" Tool

"I got tired of hooking up all my different implements to my tractor, so I decided to make a hitch that lets me hook up to almost any of my implements quickly and easily," says Bud Beaston II, Skiatook, Okla., about his patent pending "six-in-one" tool.

He used 2 by 4 tubing to build a rectangular-shaped main frame with 3-pt. mounting brackets on one side of it. There's a 2-in. receiver hitch at the bottom, and a slotted post puller just above it. A pair of metal sleeve holders opposite the post puller are used to store two additional hitches that fit into the receiver hitch - one with a drawbar and the other with a ball. A pair of removeable forklift forks pin onto the frame's sides. A second ball hitch mounts permanently on top, and there's a holder for a round bale spear next to it. The bale spear fits into a coupler located just below the ball.

"I built it because I don't have a front-end loader on my Kubota M8200 82 hp tractor," says Beaston. "I recently bought a 100-acre farm which I'm in the process of reconditioning. About half the land is tillable, and I also have a few horses so I use a lot of different implements. I can use my homemade hitch for pulling everything from gooseneck trailers to implement trailers, offset disks, and culti-packers, and to haul round bales or other raw material. The only time I remove it from the tractor is when I need to use my Bush Hog mower, which is 3-pt. mounted."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bud A. Beaston II, HC 67, Box 935, Skiatook, Okla. 74070 (ph 918 288-2602).

Corn moves about 30 ft. from outside bin to shop vac, which hangs above corn furnace. Corn simply drops out of shop vac into furnace hopper.

Corn Vac Makes Furnace Feeding Easy

Feeding "fuel" to the corn furnace in his basement is easy for Myron Tietz, thanks to his shop-vac powered pipeline.

"I've used it for two winters now, and it works great. As a carpenter, I have dealt with whole house vacuum systems, and I couldn't see why this wouldn't work," says Tietz.

Tietz harvests five acres of corn each year for wildlife feed and house fuel. His Traeger furnace was built to burn corn. The only hassle was getting the corn to it. Tietz solved the problem by building a small grain bin just outside his house and running a 1 1/2-in. dia. pipeline from the bin to his furnace. A shop vac is plumbed into the end of the pipe inside the house.

The shop vac hangs from the ceiling, directly over the furnace. He turns on the vac to suck grain in from the bin. When the vacuum is full, he opens the drain valve at the bottom of the vac and the corn flows out into the furnace.

To build the bin, he used treated 4 by 4's for corner posts and treated plywood for the bin sides. Tietz then wrapped five sets of 2 by 4's around the outside of the bin, bolting them together at corners to reinforce the sides.

The first length of pipe runs at an angle from the bottom of the bin into the house. Once in the basement, the pipe fastens to a T-connector. A plug in it allows air in.

"Without air movement through the pipe, the corn won't flow," explains Tietz. "The T-connector also allows me to run a snake up and into the bin if a plug should occur."

The internal pipe system runs parallel to the floor for a few feet before making a right angle to the ceiling joists. The pvc then runs along the ceiling to the 18-gal. shop vac above the furnace hopper.

"The shop vac moves the corn about 30 ft.," says Tietz. "The canister hangs at an angle so it doesn't fill completely full."

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"The fork leaf springs and pipe make a cheap, easy add-on to any bucket," says Fred.

Easy Way To Add Forks To Loader Bucket

"There's nothing fancy about my bucket-mounted forks but they were cheap to put together. All you need is a pair of leaf springs and a pipe," says FARM SHOW reader Fred Meine, Grand Lake, Colo..

Fred cut a 1-in. dia. hole into each side of the back corners of the bucket. Then he cut a long leaf spring in half, leaving the shackle bolt holes on one end. A 1-in. dia. steel pipe was then inserted through the bucket as well as the shackle bolt holes on the leaf springs. Pipe caps hold the pipe in place.

"The forks can be adjusted for width by simply sliding them along the pipe, and they can be folded up out of the way whenever you don't need them," says Fred. "Placing boards across the forks provides me with a large flat area for lifting barrels, refrigerators, generators, etc. I also use my home-built forklift to haul logs to my sawmill."

Removing the forks is as simple as unscrewing one pipe cap and pulling the pipe out.

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Forks adjust by sliding along the pipe and swing out of the way when not needed.

Forks are strong enough to haul almost anything, including logs and generators.

Wallace's log skidder moves about 35 cords a year of firewood.

Made-It-Myself 4-WD Log Skidder

"I've always wanted a Timberjack or Clark log skidder but could never afford one," Alvin Wallace says. "So I built my own."

The Blyth, Ontario, man had previous experience since he had already built three articulated tractors.

He built his new 4-WD log skidder entirely from scratch. "I went to the steelyard and bought 4 by 6-in. square tubing and plate steel to build the frame. Then I put a 292 GM truck engine in it and bought an old army truck so I could use the transfer case and winch. I also bought a couple of old 2-ton truck rear ends and cut the wheels out so I could put on tractor wheels."

Wallace says he also made the articulated steering himself using two hydraulic cylinders. Two more cylinders work the front blade.

"My son and I burn about 35 cords a year of firewood in our furnaces, so we buy a lot of Maple tops (what's left after sawmills buy the logs). The log skidder gets a lot of use for that," he says. "We also use it in the turkey barn with a blade to push litter out when cleaning."

The rig took one winter to build, and cost Wallace about $2,500.

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