



The wedding party was shuttled from the church to the reception on a hay rack pulled by a Deere 4020. "This suited us well, since we first met on a hayride," says Brandy Stephen. The church and reception had Deere logos with green and yellow flowers and balloons everywhere.

## Their Wedding Was A Deere Affair

Newlyweds Brandy and Brad Stephen of Stanley, Ky., share a love for each other and also for Deere equipment. In fact, their affection - some say "obsession" - is so strong, that they planned their June 18, 2005 wedding with an all-Deere theme.

Green and yellow and white were the colors of the day and Deere logos were used to decorate St. Alphonsus Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus Hall near Sorgho, Ky. The six bridesmaids wore alternating green and yellow gowns and the groomsmen had green ties and vests. Green and yellow flowers were everywhere, and figurines of a boy and girl on matching tractors were displayed in the church foyer.

The newly betrothed couple and their wedding party were shuttled from the church to the reception in hayride fashion, atop a 30-ft. flatbed trailer lined with hay bales and pulled by a Deere 4020.

"This suited us well, since we first met on

a hayride," Brandy says. "During the wedding service, our minister, Rev. Gary Hayes, pointed out that marriage is like farming. At a glance, they both look easy, but both take a lot of work. At the same time, they both have their rewards, joys, thrills and excitement. Sometimes you have a good year, sometimes it's bad, but you stick it out and have faith."

A green, yellow and white balloon arch met guests at the reception hall and the DJ dressed appropriately with a Deere hat and T-shirt.

Both the bride and groom come from farming families that are loyal to Deere equipment. Brad raises tobacco, soybeans and corn on 1,100 acres, which he farms in partnership with his uncle. Brandy is a supervisor at Purdue Farms, helping out her new husband whenever possible.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brad and Brandy Stephen, 477 Newman Steillhouse Rd., Owensboro, Ky. 42301 (ph 270 764-2050; biscuits4020@aol.com).

## Two-Wheel "Gravity Car"

"I built this two-wheeled gravity car from a reel made to hold plastic tubing. It's a real crowd pleaser at parades," says Jerry Becker, Algona, Iowa.

The "gravity car" steers like a skid steer loader and can spin in circles. The 8-ft. dia. steel wheels are connected together by a U-shaped "hub" made from 2 by 4 rectangular tubing. The operator sits in a pod that swings back and forth like a pendulum on the U-shaped hub.

Power is provided by a 6 hp Briggs & Stratton engine connected to a hydrostatic transmission. The engine chain-drives a pair of 8-in. rubber wheels which never touch the ground but are constantly spinning. The wheels ride between two different size rings, one above the other, inside each wheel.

A pair of levers, one on each side of the operator, are used to control the rig's direction. Pushing forward on the levers causes each rubber wheel to go down against the bottom ring and throws the weight of the pod forward of center, allowing gravity to take over and start rolling both big wheels forward. Pulling back on the levers causes the rubber wheels to go up against the top ring and throws the weight of the pod backward of center, allowing gravity to take over again and start rolling both big wheels backward.

To rotate the unit in a circle, Becker pulls one lever forward and pushes the other lever backward.

"I call it a gravity car because the weight of gravity pulling front of center makes the rig go forward or reverse. I show it often in parades, and people are always baffled and amazed as they watch me operate it."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jerry



"Car" steers like a skid steer. The wheels ride between two different size rings, one above the other.

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Don Bragdon built his "Don Dear" from an old riding mower, making the bed from scratch.

## Riding Mower Rebuilt To Haul Wheelchair

A few issues ago we had a story about Don Bragdon, London, Arkansas and how he used a modified rototiller to pull his wheelchair around his farm (Vol. 29, No. 2) But he still had trouble on rocky or muddy ground.

So when a friend gave him an old riding mower with a good engine and hydrostatic transaxle, he spent three months turning it into what he calls his "Don Dear."

Bragdon wanted rear wheel steering so he ran a chain from the bottom of the steering column to the rear wheels. He says it steers like a forklift.

He also made two stick shifts from rebar. One serves as the brake while the other controls the hydrostat drive. The Don Dear has an electric start and goes about 10 mph.

The key to making the bed work is that it's also a sliding ramp built on a track. Using the long lever on the left side, he pulls the bed down to the ground. Then, he activates an electric winch to pull himself and the wheelchair onto the ramp. Another electric winch pulls the bed to the front of the track.

He spent about \$250 on it because friends and neighbors gave him most of the parts.

"In the future, I may build another one like this with the exception that it will be a lot bigger and have a front-end loader," Bragdon says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Bragdon, 426 Round Mountain Lane, London, Arkansas 72847 (ph 479 293-4256; dona@arkansas.net).



Bragdon uses a long lever to lower the bed to the ground. Electric winches pull the ramp and wheelchair up onto the tractor.

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