New "Four in One" Hog Holding Crate

Photos courtesy of Pat Throxton, Missouri Ruralist

Pigs are caught by neck, then secured in chute with a chain.

Crate stands 2 ft. off ground and swings 90° to make operating table.

A hog farmer designed this "one man" squeeze chute that holds pigs tight and gently lays them down on their side for castration and other chores.

Richard Wehmeyer, of Creighton, Mo. build his "Four-in-One" catching crate after many years of chasing pigs around and catching them for castration the hard way. Raising hogs outdoors, he believes in waiting until weaning to castrate.

The "Four-in-One" name comes from his practice of sometimes castrating, ringing, marking and vaccinating in one operation with the crate.

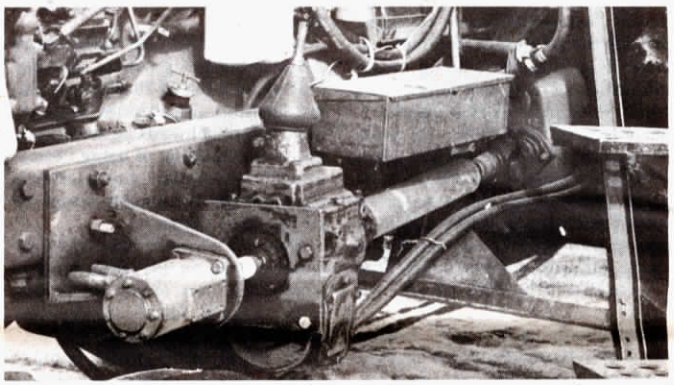
Made entirely of steel, the crate has been patented and is in production. The first six units produced were priced at $300, FOB Creighton. "The beauty of the crate is that it lays a pig down on its side for working on," explains Wehmeyer. "With my wife helping me, we can run 60 pigs through in about an hour, castrating maybe the 50 that are males. The crate also is ideal for one-man operation."

The crate is 3 ft. long and 14 in. wide when closed, and weighs 240 lbs. It will handle pigs weighing from 10 to 100 lbs., but is ideal for hogs in the 30 to 60 lb. range, says Wehmeyer. "The crate is portable and to a degree, is collapsible."

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Magazine Followup, Richard Wehmeyer, Route 1, Box 202, Creighton, Mo. 64739 (ph 816 499-2478).

GREAT FOR BLOWING SNOW

"Creeper Drive" Helps Save Tractor Clutches



This hydraulic motor drives a used truck transmission in front of a front-wheel drive gearbox on an IH 1066.

If you've ever tried to blast through 3 foot snow drifts with a rear-mounted snowblower, you know it's hard on tractor clutches. You have to keep inching into the snow, and before long you need a new clutch.

Elmer Jacobson, Redwood Falls, Minn. solved that problem by adding a hydraulic-powered creeper reverse speed in his IH 1066 tractor. Jacobson bought and installed a front-wheel drive gearbox and attached a used truck transmission in front of the new gearbox. Then he simply hooked a hydraulic orbital motor to the transmission input shaft.

By setting the truck transmission in low or second gear, and operating the orbital motor through the regular tractor hydraulic outlets, Jacobson can operate at about half the normal reverse speed of his 1066. Shifting up to third or fourth with the truck transmission places too much load on the orbital motor and puts speed close to that of the regular reverse gear. So, Jacobson recommends using only the lower gears with the hydraulic drive, and standard reverse for lighter snow and faster travel.

"You can creep into big drifts and stop or go whenever you need to," says Jacobson. "You don't worry about the clutch, and it really speeds up snow blowing."

Jacobson figures his home-built conversion costs about $800, depending on the price of a used transmission. The biggest portion of his cost was about $400 for the front-wheel drive gearbox. While he hasn't investigated the use of creeper conversions on other tractors, Jacobson sees no problems with any tractor for which front-wheel drive is available. And, most current models can be bought with, or converted to, front-wheel drive.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Elmer N. Jacobson, R. 4, Box 29, Redwood Falls, Minn. 56283 (ph 507 637-3266).

KANSAS CATTLEMAN PUTS CHOPPED PRAIRIE HAY IN THE SILO

New Way to Handle Hay

Steve Shields with dry-chopped prairie hay ensiled in trench silo.

Kansas cattleman Steve Shields is bucking the trend toward big round bales. For the past three seasons he has been chopping his prairie hay and storing it in a trench silo.

Shields and his hired men like not having to handle big bales. "We eliminated about three jobs and it's about two or three times faster than making baled hay," he told FARM SHOW.

Getting rid of the baling job is one of the reasons for storing chopped hay. The other reasons are that it's easy to mix with rations and easy to feed with high moisture grain.

Haying by this method is simple. Shields swaths the hay and puts it through his field chopper — the biggest one available — then hauls it in chopper wagons and dumps it into the trench.

He advises that the hay must really be dry when you cut it. "When you think the hay's about ready to bale, wait another day before you pick it up with the field cutter," he says.

Freshly chopped hay is dumped over the side into a trench silo, then levelled off with a tractor.

Last year Shields ran out of space and decided to dump chopped hay right on the ground. "It formed a crust over the top and we had very little spoilage when the last of it was fed six months after ensiling."

The ensiled dry chopped native prairie hay makes up about one-fourth of the roughage ration for "backgrounding" steers and heifers. They're purchased at about 600 lbs. and sold 120 to 160 days later, depending on the market, explains Shields.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve Shields, Route 1, Herrington, Kan. 67449 (ph 913 983-4366).