

Pig Carcass Removal System

Mark Bollig hated hauling out dead pig carcasses from the buildings at his two large hog operations. Even the best carts were a constant hassle.

That's why he asked his inventive brother-in-law Wyman Travis, to create an easier way. Travis came up with what he calls the Swine Building Rail System Kit.

The rail kit fits any building length, suspended from specially-designed brackets every 8 ft. A wheeled trolley carries the carcass.

A hand-held control activates a 12-volt battery-operated hoist.

The kits, which are custom priced to fit your building length, come with the galvanized steel beam, zinc-plated brackets per 8 ft. of track, connectors, nuts, bolts and end stops.

The trolley, hoist and battery assembly are sold separately.

It's easy to use. "Pull the cable out to the



Rail kit is suspended from specially-designed brackets every 8 ft.

pig, wrap it around the pig's back feet and then the pig is winched up and simply push the carcass out of the building using the I-beam that the hoist and trolley are attached to," says Becky Travis, Wyman's wife.

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Rail kit fits any building length and uses a wheeled trolley to carry the carcass. A hand-held control activates a 12-volt battery-operated hoist.

Pedal-Powered Tree Pruning Pole

"It's like riding a bike," say the manufacturers of the new "Ascender" tree pruning device that lets you pedal your way up a tree like you use a stationary bike. As you ascend, it's a simple matter to nip off small branches up to the 26 to 30-ft. height of the device.

"There really is no other safe way to do high forest pruning," says Mark Havel, owner and designer of the Ascender. "Even folks who say they are afraid of heights comment on how safe they feel with the Ascender."

Pruning lower branches when a tree is young improves the value of a tree when it's harvested later. When taken off properly, the tree quickly heals over. If lower branches are left to die as the upper canopy fills in, they often leave dead knots in the wood.

Designed for production forestry, the 21-ft. Ascender is priced at \$2,300, weighs 56 lbs. and makes it possible to prune to a 26-ft. height with a hand saw. The 25-ft. mast model allows pruning to a 30-ft. height and weighs 61 lbs.

The units are manufactured with an aluminum mast and a chrome-molybdenum pedaling mechanism that drives a winch. To ascend a tree you lean the mast with its crotch top against the tree. Spikes and pads at the

foot of the mast prevent it from sinking or slipping. Ratcheting and locking straps at about head high create tension by pulling against the camber of the mast, spring loading the mast to the tree. This design allows the mast to be placed either uphill or downhill from the tree as long as the feet are horizontal.

Once the mast is in place, the operator climbs up a few steps and into the seat. He attaches his safety harness with safety lines (supplied with the device) and toe clips and begins to pedal upwards. At the halfway point, he attaches a second set of straps to secure the mast to the tree before continuing the ascent, removing branches along the way.

"There are no locks or cogs, but nothing can bring you down except releasing a safety line that has a cam mechanism like rock climbing harnesses have," says Havel. "It won't let you down until you consciously bring yourself down."

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"Ascender" tree pruning device lets you pedal your way up a tree like you use a stationary bike.

Extension Ladder Holder For Pickups

Ron Huber was just being a "good" husband when he came up with a great idea. "My wife wanted me to put a star on top of an outdoor Christmas tree that was about 28 ft. tall. Being a typical male, I took the extension ladder and leaned it up against the tree," he says, laughing. "Have you ever done a polka, rumba and waltz all the same time on a ladder? I got up four rungs and decided that wasn't the way to go."

Instead, he came up with a ladder-holding attachment that slips into a slide receiver hitch and holds a Class One ladder, angling backwards from the rear of the truck.

The ladder holder is about 90 in. wide, made of solid steel, and weighs about 46 lbs. Its one leg jacks down from the hitch about 36 in. to hold the truck down.

Four 5/8-in. nylon ropes about 12 ft. long each attach to the truck's box stake pockets with an attachment you have a fabricator make. "I can make them up, but it's more costly than having someone else make them," Huber says. Ratcheting straps not included attach to the long ends of the ropes.

"It's ideal for tree work, window cleaning and repair, gutter cleaning, painting and many



Ladder-holding attachment simply slips into receiver hitch.

other chores," says Huber.

Sells for \$999.

A commercial model comes with two extension arms and two screw jacks. Sells for \$1,499.

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Leg drops down to ground to help stabilize rear end of pickup. Four nylon ropes attach to truck's stake box pockets.