



Joe Mattingly turned a covered gravity grain wagon and a few gates into this creep feeder. Calves have access to feed while the mothers don't.

Inexpensive Creep Feeder

"I wanted to save some money and use equipment I already had. That's why I turned a covered gravity grain wagon and a few gates into a creep feeder," says Joe Mattingly, Raywick, Ky.

By attaching two gates and a sorting panel to the wagon and blocking off the grain chute with a 4 by 4, calves have access to feed while the mothers don't.

Mattingly says this setup does the work of a \$2,500 creep feeder.

"It's an economical way to add pounds of beef," he says.

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Tire Tread Makes Ladder Safer

Getting on and off a ladder that's placed against a tree trunk or pole can be a tippy business.

That's why Bob LeMay came up with a simple homemade attachment for his extension ladder.

It consists of a twisted tire sidewall, bolted securely with washers to the top end of the ladder.

"It offers good contact and slip resistance against buildings, and the rubber surface flexes to center the ladder on any vertical objects that aren't flat," says LeMay. "The tire's wire-type bead prevents the rubber from fracturing as the sidewall ages. For extra safety, it's a good idea to also tie the top end of the ladder to whatever you're resting it against."



Twisted tire sidewall provides slip resistance against buildings. It also flexes to center the ladder on objects that aren't flat.

How To Speed Up A Golf Cart

Many farmers now use electric golf carts as chore vehicles. An Indiana company says it can speed up the electric motor by 43 percent, allowing you to drive at speeds up to 23 mph. No modifications to the golf cart are necessary.

Electrical Motor Products, Inc. is based out of Fort Wayne, Ind., where owners Pat and Ed Koehl work out of a 50 by 100-ft. building. Customers send in their motors, which the company ships back by UPS. The cost to rebuild a motor for high speed is \$250 when the company provides the core; \$190 when the customer provides it. The service is available for most major golf cart brands including Club Car, E-Z-Go, Yamaha, Cushman, Harley Davidson, etc.

The company says the method they use to rebuild the motor to go faster is a trade secret, but that it involves a 3-system upgrade. They redesign the motor's copper windings for torque; redesign the air gap in the magnetic system; and install a high performance carbon brush that allows better use of the battery's voltage.

"It lets you drive your golf cart faster without spending a lot of money," says Pat Koehl. "New high speed motors are available from other companies, but they cost up to \$600 and you may also need to buy a new controller to regulate battery amperage to the motor.

"A lot of our customers live in gated communities and are using their golf carts on asphalt roads. Other people use their golf carts as hunting buggies and haul game, such as turkeys or deer, back to their pickup. For such customers we offer a switchable 2-speed design that not only lets you drive fast, but also provides a low end torque speed for hauling loads. Low torque speed is 16 mph."

The company also sells parts, bearings and wiring harnesses, etc., for golf cart motors and also buys excess cores and scrap motors.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Electrical Motor Products, Inc., 15017 Dunton Rd., Fort Wayne, Ind. 46845 (ph toll-free 877 455-1599; fax 603 947-7827; empinc@empinc.biz; www.empinc.biz).

Kit Turns Garden Tractor Into Mini-8N

Dave Knasel started converting garden tractors into mini-8N Fords as a way to help older tractor collectors get around tractor shows. Now he sells kits for conversion.

"I saw so many old guys who were having trouble getting around, but were too bull-headed to use a mobility unit," recalls Knasel.

A Ford N-Series collector, it was only natural his solution was a kit that made a garden tractor look like a mini-8N.

He developed a fiberglass kit that he now sells to those who wish to do their own conversion. It consists of a single piece fiberglass hood that fits over most standard garden tractors. Simply remove the existing hood and use some 1-in. by 3/16-in. metal strapping to make a couple of brackets. The new fiberglass hood is reinforced at the bottom and uses two bolts to attach.

Hood, gas cap, decal kit, grill and sides, plus 3.25-in. headlamps and a three bar steel push bumper run \$370.

"The hood is intended to overlap the dash by an inch or two, but some customers have



Single piece fiberglass hood fits over most standard garden tractors.

gone to the point of taking an old Ford N dash and downsizing it to fit," says Knasel.

Knasel also converts step-through Kubotas to order. A standard one-seater goes for \$1,800 with a two-seater priced at \$2,500.

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Caddy makes it easier to hook up to a 3-pt. mounted disc mower and also reduces the amount of power required to pull it, says the manufacturer.

Disc Mower Caddy Saves Power, Hassle

"Hooking up a 3-pt. hitch disc mower takes time and adds stress to the job," explains Jack Vassar of The Vassar Company about his 2-wheeled caddy for disc mowers. "Our caddy makes it easier on the operator, the tractor and the mower."

Once a disc mower is mounted to the caddy, future hookups are a one-pin affair. Back up, slip in the hitch pin, hook up the pto and hydraulics and drive away. The caddy has an adjustable top link and an adjustable front hitch for leveling the mower.

"When you have a 3-pt. mounted mower hanging on a tractor, it is easy to overload the tractor," notes Vassar. "You may need a bigger tractor just to carry the mower. With our caddy, you won't need as big a tractor, so you use less horsepower and fuel."

The caddy also makes it easier on the mower, extending blade life. With a short-coupled tractor, the 3-pt. hitch mower is always raising and lowering as the front end of the tractor goes up and down over bumps or ridges. Fall too far, and the blades dig into the dirt; rise too high and you leave crops in the field.

"With the caddy, the mower isn't affected



Caddy has an adjustable top link and an adjustable front hitch for leveling the mower.

by the tractor," says Vassar. "You can drive a little faster and mow smoother."

The caddy is priced at \$2,950 for hydraulic-equipped disc mowers or \$3,250 with the addition of a hydraulic cylinder for manual disc mowers. Both units are fully adjustable to match a wide variety of disc mower types.

"We can mount them all," says Vassar. "We had a guy come up from Texas with his mower and had us fit it as he was afraid it wouldn't fit. When he saw how it worked, he called his dealer and ordered two."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Vassar Company, P.O. Box 609, Perkins, Okla. 74059 (ph 405 547-2454 or 877 229-8049; fax 405 547-2929; www.vassarfarmequip.com).

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