



Johnny Bucket is a self-contained lifting system that allows owners of smaller riding mowers and garden tractors to add a loader.



Battery-powered "power dump" empties bucket. A manual dump is also available.

## Self-Powered Loaders For Garden Tractors, Riding Mowers

"Our redesigned front-end loader for garden tractors and riding mowers comes with a self-contained lifting system. It's especially useful for the owners of smaller riding mowers and garden tractors that don't have lift systems," says John Scheele, New Berlin, Wis.

The Johnny Bucket Jr. (first featured in Vol. 25, No. 4) now has a "power dump" option that uses electric lead screw linear actuators

that hook up directly to the tractor's standard battery. The actuators are used to do both the lifting and the dumping and have a lift capacity of up to 250 lbs.

A pair of switches or a multi-axis joystick can be used to operate the lift and the power dump simultaneously.

In the past, the Johnny Bucket Jr. only fit garden tractors with factory-capable lift sys-

tems and was manually dumped by pulling a trip rope. To reset the bucket, a second rope was pulled back. "We still offer the manual dump option, but since we came out with the power dump option everyone wants to be like the big boys and go for the power dump," says Scheele.

The Johnny Bucket also comes in a second, larger "Senior" version that's designed for larger garden tractors. "The Senior model is hydraulically operated and requires the tractor to have onboard auxiliary hydraulic ports to control the lifting and dumping. With the hydraulics it has a lift capacity of up to 500 lbs.," says Scheele.

Both models are designed so the mower deck can remain in place while using the Johnny Bucket. "Our custom adaptor brackets are available for virtually every riding mower or garden tractor model made from 1959 to the present. Once the adaptor brackets are permanently installed on the machine,

the bucket can be attached or detached in a matter of 30 seconds using our unique 'quick hitch interface' and watertight electrical quick connectors," says Scheele.

A wide variety of accessories are available, including tooth bars for digging; a bolt-on bucket doubler that raises the sides and back of the bucket; a snowshoe to protect the cutting edge when used to move snow; and caddy arms for carrying long boards, logs or for holding brush like a hay fork.

The Jr. Bucket with electric lift and dump sells for \$1,063.95. The Sr. Bucket sells for \$1,379.95 and comes with a one-year warranty. A powered snowblade with electric lift and angling is also available.

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Inexpensive hay shelter is made from cattle panel fencing and a section of tarp.

## "Cattle Panel And Tarp" Hay Shelter

Using commonly available cattle panel fencing and a section of tarp, Terry Benoit of Orange, Texas, came up with an inexpensive shelter for a couple of round bales.

The 10 by 16-ft. shelter measures 6 ft. high at the center, big enough to cover two bales. "It's an inexpensive way to keep the bales dry so they don't spoil," says Benoit. "We have 12 acres and just two cows."

He started with three 4-ft. high by 16-ft. long cattle panels, which he bent into curves. Then he butted the two panels together and connected them with electrical wire ties to form an arch. The bottom sides of the arch are wedged between a pair of treated 2 by 6's that stand on top of a horizontal 2 by 4, which in turn is nailed to the top of three landscape posts set in the ground. Galvanized nails driven through the 2 by 6's hold the wire in place.

He bought a 16-ft. sq. blue tarp at Harbor Freight for \$10. Electrical wire ties, which go through grommets, are used to attach the tarp to the wire and boards.

"It's a simple idea but it works," says Benoit. "The tarp doesn't sag at all so there are no pockets for rain to collect. Rain just flows right off."

He says the shelter is strong, too. "We had a direct hit from Hurricane Rita in 2004, with winds of more than 110 mph. The wind blew the tarp away and we never saw it again, but



Bottom sides of arch are wedged between a pair of treated 2 by 6's that stand on top of a horizontal 2 by 4. Nails driven through the 2 by 6's hold panel wire in place.

it cost only \$10 to replace. Once the tarp blows away there's nothing else for the wind to catch."

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## How To Fill Two Buckets Of Corn

Rex Gogerty came up with a nifty way to fill two 5-gal. buckets with corn at the same time. He simply uses a pair of vice grips to clamp a piece of metal onto the chute of a gravity wagon. It divides the corn into two streams, cutting fill time in half when getting corn to feed livestock or fuel a corn stove.

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Vice grips are used to clamp a piece of metal onto gravity wagon's chute. The metal divides the corn into two streams, reducing fill time by half.



Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our website at [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com).

Mark Newhall, Editor

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