



By equipping an enclosed semi trailer with a hydraulic auger, T.J. and Teddy Shambaugh can quickly fill large planter hoppers.

## Semi-Mounted Auger Speeds Up Hopper Filling

T.J. and Teddy Shambaugh, Oakley, Ill., came up with this labor saving method of filling their large planter hoppers. They equipped an enclosed semi trailer with a hydraulic auger. Inside the truck a hopper for bagged seed corn is located directly above the auger.

When they switch to planting soybeans, the Shambaughs simply move the small hopper

away and set large bean containers down in its place. What they like about the system is that the enclosed semi keeps the seed well protected from the weather.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, T.J. and Teddy Shambaugh, Oakley, Ill. (ph 217 763-6156).



Inside the truck, a small hopper for bagged seed corn is located directly above auger (left). Photo at right shows how auger pivots back and forth.



## He Built His Own Mini Batwing Mower

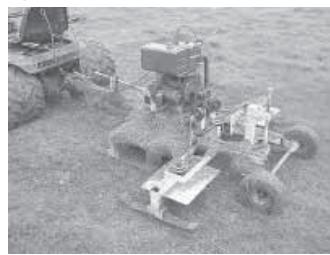
"I built it because I wanted something that was big enough to cut a large area of grass, yet small enough to fit through my garden gate," says Jim Ellson of Hampshire, England, about his mini batwing mower.

The mower has a 56-in. cutting width. However, when folded it's only 35 in. wide. It's powered by a Briggs & Stratton 10 hp, single cylinder engine. It rides on a pair of large wheels off an old Toro riding mower and has a metal skid at the end of each wing. The wings fold and unfold by hand. A pin is used to hold the wings in the up or down position.

"I came up with the idea because I wanted to mow small fields with long grass and weeds. I couldn't use my riding mower because it was worn out," says Ellson. "Most of the time I use a Wheelhorse GT garden tractor to pull it, but I can also tow it behind any vehicle equipped with a tow ball hitch including an ATV, garden tractor, golf cart, etc. If I want I can cut grass with the two outside wings folded up, in which case it'll cut a 30-in. wide swath. I have to remove a belt in order to raise the wings.

"It didn't cost much to build. The pulleys and blade mandrels are off a Wheelhorse mower deck. The frame is made from 2-in. sq., heavy-walled tubing that I already had. If I did it again I'd use smaller tubing to save on weight. I used stainless steel sheeting off an old sink to form guards over the blades."

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Jim Ellson's home-built batwing mower has a 56-in. cutting width.



Mower is powered by a Briggs & Stratton 10 hp, single cylinder engine.



When folded up, mower is only 35 in. wide.

## Tilted-Up Header Snout Prevents Damage

Rich Mahlow of Zearing, Iowa, tilts the outside snout of his combine corn head upward whenever he opens a field so that weeds and hidden objects along the edge of the field don't catch it and cause damage.

"It really helps when opening the field and also when operating next to a terrace. The header tends to catch in tall grass, which pulls the snout down so that it doubles back under the header and mashes it almost flat. Your choice then is to buy a new snout or spend three hours fixing it. It happened to me three times and after the third time, I decided I had to do something."

He hooks one end of a cinch-type nylon strap onto the bottom of the snout and the other end to a tin shroud on top of the corn head, then cinches the strap tight to hold the snout in place. (The tin shroud is there to keep corn ears from flying out).

"I use this idea on either side of the combine depending on which side is running next to a fence. I use it on my Case IH combine but the same idea would work on any combine," says Mahlow. "I like to get the header down so that I can get all the corn, instead of



When opening a field, Rich Mahlow tilts the outside snout of his corn head upward so weeds and hidden objects along edge of field don't catch it and cause damage.

running the header high just to keep it out of the weeds like some farmers do. I don't run any cattle in the field so anything that's left out there is a loss."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Mahlow, 71571 120th St., Zearing, Iowa 50278 (ph 641 487-7535).

## Skid Loader-Mounted "Calf Catcher"

"My skid loader-mounted 'Calf Catcher' provides a safe way to catch newborn calves and care for them while keeping you safe from the mother," says Virgil Beck, Bemidji, Minn.

The calf catcher has a door at both ends. It comes with a fold-down pen system in one corner, which is used to transport the calf to another location.

"The design allows you easy access to the calf, thus creating a safe environment to vaccinate and/or tend to the calf with safety and ease," says Beck.

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Calf catcher has a door at both ends. Fold-down pen system in one corner is used to transport calf to another location.

Bemidji, Minn. 56601 (ph 218 751-7481 or 218 766-5199).

## Garden Tractor "Boom" Loader

"It's a real back saver and can lift up to 700 lbs.," says Bill Shatter, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., who built a 2-wheeled, telescoping boom to mount on front of a Deere garden tractor.

Bill's friend Joe Thompson helped build the boom, which bolts onto the front end of Joe's Deere 140 H-1 garden tractor. "The frame is completely independent of the tractor. It supports the boom and also balances the load," says Shatter.

The two men got the idea when Joe wanted to put some metal storage racks on top of the 13-ft. high rafters in his garage. Joe deals in lawn and garden equipment, including tillers and snowblowers.

The frame is built from 3-in. sq. tubing and is supported by a pair of 8-in. high, spring-loaded caster wheels. A center-mounted swivel plate located behind the axle allows the unit to shift from side to side as the tractor's front wheels are turned. The boom clamps onto the frame, and the frame bolts onto the tractor.

The boom operates off the tractor hydraulics and is raised and lowered by a heavy duty cylinder borrowed from a Koyker loader. A vertical length 2 by 3-in. rectangular tubing supports a hinged, telescopic arm made from 1 1/2 by 2 1/2-in. tubing. The telescopic portion of the boom can be adjusted up to 2 ft. and is held in position by changing the position of a pin.

"At full length the boom can reach up to 13 ft. high," says Shatter. "We came up with



Two-wheeled, telescoping boom mounts on frame that's completely independent of tractor. It supports the boom and also balances the load.

the idea because there wasn't room in Joe's garage for a skid loader. His storage racks are made of 3-in. channel iron and measure 4 ft. wide by 10 ft. long, yet the boom had no trouble handling them. We've also used the boom to lift a snowblower into the back of a pickup. To counter balance the load we added six slab weights on back of the tractor.

"The caster wheels are off an Oliver sicklebar mower, and the swivel plate is off a one-legged trailer designed to hook on behind a car. I use the same lever to raise and lower the boom that's used to operate the snowblower, tiller or mower deck," he notes.

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