

Fan Blows Away Harvest Dust

During harvest, dust is a fact of life but it's a bit less of a problem for Roger Gutschmidt of Gackle, N. Dak., since he got the idea of using a fan around his unloading auger.

"I made a dust 're-director' fan for the area by mounting earth magnets onto the housing of a little 12-volt fan. The magnets are essential so it sticks in any position, since you never know which way the dust will be blowing," he says. "I used an old fan blower motor from my tractor cab that was no longer strong enough to keep the air conditioner from icing up."

Gutschmidt wired up adapters so he has a choice between plugging the fan into an accessory plug at the back of his tractor or into the tractor's cigarette lighter.

He says the used fan works just fine for this application and it's only needed for 5 or 10 min. at a time until the truck is unloaded. Because the fan is completely made from plastic, it's weather proof, so he can just stick it to the auger and leave it there.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gutschmidt Manufacturing LLC, Roger Gutschmidt, 6651, Hwy. 56, Gackle, N. Dak. 58442 (ph 701 698-2310; shopdoc@drtel.net).



Fan blows away dust as grain is unloaded into auger.

chmidt, 6651, Hwy. 56, Gackle, N. Dak. 58442 (ph 701 698-2310; shopdoc@drtel.net).



Steel sled can be pulled by an ATV. It lets you skid big logs without digging into the ground.

New-Style Log Skidder Pulls Easy

Pull logs without digging into the ground with Log Sled, designed and built by the Lucco family of Slippery Rock, Penn.

"The concept came from my grandfather, Jim, who's 82, and still gathers firewood every year," says Matthew Lucco about the Log Sled. "It was always a problem dragging timber with chains. We came up with this and used it for a couple years, then decided to pursue a patent and start manufacturing and selling them."

The 1/4-in. plate steel sled is 36 by 24 in. wide and 17 in. high. Its 24-in. long rigid steel tongue has a 1 7/8-in. ball coupler. The curved front makes it easy to pull the sled over rough terrain. A lip on the back supports a stack of cut wood or one long log.

"There's no downward tongue weight on the ATV, like there would be with a wagon, so it's all lateral pulling tension," says Lucco. He's in business with his father, Rocco.

The Luccos tested the Log Sled in various climates with logs from 7-in. to 15-in. dia. The rotating tongue folds back for easy storage. The 85-lb. Log Sled sells for \$399 (including shipping in the continental U.S.) and is guaranteed for five years. The Luccos are interested in adding dealers in the U.S. and Canada.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Log Sled, LLC, Slippery Rock, Penn. 16057 (ph 888 564-7533; info@logsled.com; www.logsled.com).



Lights mount inside Chapman's pickup bed-mounted toolbox. He turns the lights on or off by flipping a switch near toolbox's latch.

Toolbox Lights Make Night Work Easier

David Chapman, Henderson, Texas, installed lights inside the bed-mounted toolbox on his pickup.

"I got the idea one night when I was searching for something in the toolbox and didn't have a flashlight with me. I turned on the light in the cab but when I opened the toolbox the lid blocked the light. I got the idea to put lights inside the toolbox," says Chapman.

He found two cargo lights at a discount store and mounted them inside the lid. He ran a wire through a fuse and down through the truck bed to the hot wire running back to the taillights.

Chapman installed a switch near the toolbox's latch. "I grounded the switch to the toolbox so a small LED light will come on whenever the switch is turned on. This lets me know if I have left the lights on after I close the lid," says Chapman. "The toolbox was already grounded through the mounting brackets to the bed rails. If you tried this idea with a plastic toolbox, you'd have to run a ground wire to the pickup's frame."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Chapman, 402 CR 338-D, Henderson, Texas 75652 (ph 903 889-3302; WDCenterpz@aol.com).

Auger Support Cradle

Roger Gutschmidt added an extra support cradle for his 9650 STS Deere combine's unloading auger.

"My auger kinked last year and I made a sleeve to fit over the damaged area to reinforce it, yet I still wasn't satisfied because 17 ft. of my unloading auger wasn't supported when it was in the storage position," he explains. "The cradle it came with from the factory is way too far forward for it to do any good. When you drive down the field, the auger flops up and down like a 'diving board.'"

To solve the problem, Gutschmidt mounted a secondary bracket that he made right ahead of the upper hydraulic reservoir, and bolted it to the frame.

The project only took 5 hrs. to design and build, and cost about \$150 for materials. "I'm much happier with my auger's stability during travel now and know that the effort that this modification took will pay off with less wear and tear on the auger assembly," he says.

Gutschmidt sells auger support cradle kits that are ready to bolt onto combines for



about \$350 (plus S&H).

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To stabilize the unloading auger on his Deere 9650 STS combine, Roger Gutschmidt bolted a homemade bracket to the combine's frame.



Arched steel frame is supported by a 10-in. caster wheel. It eliminates the washboard effect you normally get with pickup-mounted blades, says inventor Richard Hauner.

Pickup Blade Keeps Driveway "Grader Smooth"

"It lets me use my pickup's snowplow blade as a grader, eliminating the washboard effect that you normally get with pickup-mounted blades," says Richard Hauner, Littlefork, Minn., who mounted an arched steel frame - supported by a 10-in. caster wheel - to support the blade on front of his Ford 1-ton pickup.

"I use it to dress up my driveway. It does a great job," says Hauner.

A length of chain runs from the arched frame to the back part of the blade. A turnbuckle is used to adjust the depth of cut.

Hauner had been using the 7 1/2-ft. Western blade for years to plow snow off his driveway. But he didn't like the way it graded the driveway. "There was no way to regulate downpressure on the blade, so it would dig too deep into the gravel. A coil spring designed to protect the pickup frame from damage would hold the blade briefly and then release it. As the blade tried to recover, it started bouncing up and down, which resulted in the washboarding effect. My arched frame supports the blade and al-

ways keeps it at an even level," says Hauner. "Also, the caster wheel reduces blade resistance and keeps the pickup's front wheels from skidding when I turn."

He made up a press to bend 2-in. angle iron into a half moon and bolted it to a homemade bracket that he welded onto the plow's gear mounting system on front of the pickup.

"I've used it for 1 1/2 years and it works great. The turnbuckle is the determining factor on how deep the blade will cut," says Hauner. "The arched frame is mounted 4 to 6 in. above the top of the blade so it isn't in the way whenever I raise the blade for transport. To remove the arched frame and caster wheel all I do is remove three pins - one on the bottom of the turnbuckle and two on the plow's mounting frame."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard D. Hauner, 5180 Highway 23, Littlefork, Minn. 56653 (ph 218 278-4304; richardh1@frontiernet.net).