Rotating "cup scrapers" bolt onto air seeder's packer wheel mounting arm at about a 45 degree angle to keep mud from building up.

Scraper is offset 1 in. from center of packer wheel (above). Inventor Gerard Devloo pressed the scrapers out of flat 8-in. dia. metal discs in his shop (above right) and then paints them Deere yellow.

Rotating "Cup Scrapers" Clean Off Packer Wheels

"My rotating 'cup scrapers' work great to keep mud from building up on the packer wheels on my Deere air seeder," says Gerard Devloo, Somerset, Man.

Made from 1/8-in. thick sheet metal, the 7-in. dia., cup-shaped scraper bolts onto the packer wheel mounting arm at about a 45 degree angle. The scraper is offset 1 in. from the center of the packer wheel. A bearing in the center of the scraper allows it to rotate. As dirt accumulates on the rotating packer wheel, it's exposed to the scraper which causes the scraper to rotate.

The distance between the scraper and the wheel is adjusted by changing the position of the mounting bolt in a slot already on the packer wheel mounting arm.

"I used them on about 3,000 acres last spring with no problems," says Devloo. "I came up with the idea because my air seeder wasn't originally equipped with scrapers. I tried experimenting with different types of scrapers to solve the problem, but nothing worked as good as these.

"The contour of the cup is the key. It allows the scraper to clean mud off both the center of the packer wheel and its outside edges. I tried using a straight scraper blade, but a straight blade can't follow the contour of the packer wheel like a curved one can. Also, stationary blades wear out quicker and are more likely to plug up with mud. After 3,000 acres my cup scrapers show hardly any wear at all.

"The 7-in. dia. cup is ideal for the 4-in. wide packer wheels on my Deere air seeder, but I think the same idea could be adapted to any size packer wheel that needs a scraper on it."

Devloo pressed the scrapers out of flat 8-in. dia. metal discs in his shop. He presses the discs down into a metal bowl. "When the 8-in. dia. metal disc is pressed down into the bowl, it becomes a cup-shaped, 7-in. dia. disc," notes Devloo.

Devloo says he's willing to build cup scrapers for others provided they make their own mounting brackets.

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26-Ft. Grain Trailer Made Out Of Two Old Wagons

Gabriel Verleun, Montague, P.E.I., made his own 26-ft. long grain trailer by mounting a 12-ft. fertilizer wagon on front of a truck chassis, then adding a 14-ft. potato wagon behind it. An electric motor, mounted under the front wagon, belt-drives an auger that extends out the back and unloads grain into the back wagon.

"I use it to haul oats, wheat and soybeans from the field to my grain bins. It'll hold about 700 bu. My total cost was less than $1,000," says Verleun. "I use my Valtra 900 90-hp 4-WD tractor to pull it.

"I built it because I needed more grain hauling capacity, but couldn't justify the cost of another grain trailer or tie up another tractor. The potato wagon on back unloads via a chain-type conveyor. I geared down the conveyor's speed so that both wagons unload at about the same speed. As a result, I can unload both wagons into a bin auger without having to move twice."

The potato wagon was originally equipped with an open chain conveyor that ran on rollers on each side. There were 1-in. openings between the bars on the conveyor. Verleun installed a metal floor under the conveyor to keep grain from falling through the openings. He also turned the chain to run backward.

The fertilizer wagon was originally equipped with a side-unloading auger that was rusted out. Verleun removed it and closed up the opening, then welded in a new, shorter auger that extends through the back side of the front wagon and front side of the back wagon.

"Maybe it isn't the prettiest grain wagon in the world, but it didn't cost much to build. I paid a total of $500 for both wagons and $100 for the truck chassis," says Verleun. "Even though I was able to buy the two wagons cheap, I didn't want to put them on 2 separate trailers because that would add to the cost and tie up another tractor.

"If both wagons are full, I don't unload them at the same time because that would put too much weight on back of the tractor. Instead, I unload the back wagon first. Once the back wagon is nearly empty, I start unloading the front wagon into it."

Gabriel Verleun made this 700-bu. grain trailer by mounting a 12-ft. fertilizer wagon on front of a truck chassis, then adding a 14-ft. potato wagon behind it.

An auger in front wagon unloads grain into back wagon (left). Back wagon unloads via a chain-type conveyor.

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Mosquito "Trap" Blows Bugs Away

A photocell, old computer fan and small fluorescent bulb keep Brian LaDuke's enclosed porch mosquito-free.

The rural Ontario man lives in a forested, humid area where mosquitoes are thick in the evening. It was difficult to keep them out of his front screened porch, and they would fly into the house when the door was opened.

So, he came up with his own version of a bug zapper where he doesn't have to clean up any dead bugs.

He bought an old computer fan that is about 6-in. in diameter, but any type fan would work, LaDuke says. He put the fan in the wall about 6 ft. from the floor, positioned so it blows air outside. He wired up a lamp socket with a 7-watt fluorescent bulb inside in front of the fan, and he purchased a photocell to mount on the outside of the building. The photocell triggers the light and fan to turn on from dusk to dawn. Mosquitoes come to the light and the force of the fan blows them outside.

"Not only do they eliminate any bugs in my porch, I also get a night light as a bonus," LaDuke says. "If there's a lot of bug traffic I have to take a small wire brush to the fan housing about once a month."

The simple system cost him less than $10, he says. It should also work in screen porches, gazebos, and even small sheds with livestock.

Brian LaDuke used a photocell, old computer fan and small fluorescent bulb to build this mosquito "trap".

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