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Sub Compact Tractor Skids 20-In. Logs

Ralph Thibault likes skidding logs with his 20 hp tractor. The two yokes he built fit the 3-pt. hitch on his 1220 Massey Ferguson and let him keep logs clean as he skids them out of his woods.

"I have a small sawmill, and dirty logs are hard to work with," says Thibault. "I can back up to a log end, lower the arms and wrap a chain around the log. The chain attaches to the hooks on the top of the yoke."

The yokes are made out of 2 by 2-in. steel tubing. One is 24 in. wide and 14 in. high, while the other is 28 in. wide and 14 in. high. He welded 5 hooks to the cross bar on the yoke so he can chain multiple logs into place at any one time. The top link also connects to the top of the yoke.

"You can make the yokes as big as you want for the logs you want to carry," he says.

"One of mine is the same width as the 3-pt. hitches on my other implements, so I can just hook it up and go."

The 1220 Massey has a rear lift capacity of 1,200 lbs. Thibault has no front weights beyond the front-end loader, but hasn't had any problems handling big logs. Nor does he worry about a log pushing his 2,000-lb. tractor around.

"The weight seems to transfer forward, so no extra weights have been needed," he says. "I can lift a log up to 14 in. off the ground, but if it seems too high, I can easily lower it as needed."

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Riding Mower Converted To Garden Cultivator

Old riding mowers can be turned into low-cost garden cultivators, says Niles McLoda, Amelia, Va., who fitted a Murray riding mower with a high clearance cultivator.

McLoda removed the deck, replaced the rear wheels with 31-in. high wheels, and extended the front spindles vertically to keep the machine level. Then he added a pair of cultivator shovels in front of the rear wheels and 2 more behind them, attaching the shovels to the deck's original lift linkage. The front-mounted shovels mount on conventional shanks while the rear shovels are bolted to lengths of pipe.

"I use it on potatoes and corn in my 1/3-acre garden. It works great and allows me to cultivate corn up to 18 in. tall without

breaking it off," says McLoda. "I use it to control weeds next to the row, or to control small weeds within the row. The front shovels cut a path about 4 in. wide while the rear shovels cut a path about 6 in. wide."

"I can rotate the front shovels in or out. When the plants are real small I point them away from the row to keep from burying the plants. When the corn gets about 16 in. high I turn the shovels inward so they hill up and smother weeds within the row."

"It misses a weed now and then but if I want, I can always go back and use a hoe. The only limitation is that sometimes it's hard for the shovels to penetrate the ground if it's real hard."

To mount the big rear wheels he removed



Trent Sexton and his wife Christine use this 3-pt. mounted forklift mainly to haul firewood. It uses a pair of springs off a Kenworth semi tractor.

3-Pt. Mounted Forklift Made From Truck Springs

Trent Sexton, Anchorage, Alaska, built this 3-pt. mounted forklift for his Ford tractor, using a pair of springs off the front end of a Kenworth T 800 semi tractor. The springs are welded to a length of box tubing that pins onto the 3-pt. lift arms.

Trent and his wife Christine use the forklift

mainly to haul firewood. "It has a capacity of 800 lbs. and can handle loads heavy enough to lift the front end of the tractor off the ground," notes Trent.

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Riding mower is fitted with two cultivator shovels in front of rear wheels and two more behind. Shovels attach to mower deck's original lift linkage.

the hubs from the riding mower's original rear wheels and welded studs to them.

"The big wheels cause the tractor to speed up, but it's not a problem," says McLoda. "When the plants are real small I put the

tractor in low gear and keep the engine at idle."

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"Subsurfer" Spreader Buries Chicken Litter

USDA researchers are adding value to chicken litter by injecting it underground. The Subsurfer, developed by Dan Pote, grinds litter up before injecting it in trenches that are 2 in. wide by 3 in. deep. It's a second generation machine developed previously by ag engineer Tom Way (Vol. 33, No. 2). While that design required the litter be ground before loading into the applicator, the Subsurfer is self-contained.

"Normally farmers apply twice as much chicken litter as they need, expecting to lose half of it through volatilization of the nitrogen and field runoff," says Pote. "With the Subsurfer, they can fertilize twice as many acres and not worry about polluting streams and farm ponds."

With trenches set every 12 in., the Subsurfer can apply up to 4 tons of litter per acre. A next generation Subsurfer will fill trenches every 9 1/2 in. for even heavier applications.

The Subsurfer consists of a wagon that

holds about 5 tons of chicken litter. The front end of the wagon rests on a White, no-till planter bar. It tills, opens, fills and closes the trenches.

A row of coulters slices the soil as a double disk opener creates the trench. A system of parallel augers in the wagon grinds the chicken litter into small pieces to drop through tubes into the trenches. Once the litter has nearly filled the trench, a closing wheel fills and packs it with dirt.

"We built this for pasture application, but it also works with no-till row crops," says Pote. "We ran a test trial in Kentucky applying chicken litter ahead of a planter, and it produced good yields."

The USDA has licensed the patented design to Barron and Brothers International. Pote says that while a price has not been established, the company is already looking at adding features. A control unit is planned that will tell the operator the rate of application.



USDA researchers have come up with a machine that grinds up chicken litter and injects it underground. Reduces losses due to volatilization of nitrogen.

The rate will vary by changing the auger and tractor speeds.

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