Feed won't bunch up at the end of the alley with this rotary, ground-driven feed pusher. It keeps feed moving smoothly and evenly back into animals' feeding area.

Wallace Goldman modified this 2-wheel trailer so he can dump it with an ordinary bumper jack. Arrows point to jack and ball hitch lock-down.

Ground-Driven Feed Pusher Wheel

This new rotary, ground-driven feed pusher for skid loaders is designed to keep feed moving smoothly and evenly back into the animals' feeding area.

"It solves the problem of feed bunching at the end of the alley like you can get with rubber tire scrapers," says Eric Johnson, Johnson's Innovations, Ithaca, Mich.

"The Wheel" consists of a 3 1/2-ft. dia., 1-ft. high metal wheel mounted on a hinged metal arm that's attached to a quick-tach plate. The rotary action of the wheel pushes feed directly over to the side as the skid loader goes forward.

"You just raise the skid loader's arms to the desired height and go," says Johnson. "The arm that supports the wheel pivots up or down on a 1-in. pin and is therefore able to float over obstacles. As a result, the wheel's outside front edge always stays in contact with the floor. There's no motor or cylinders, and no way you can apply too much downpressure and cause damage.

"The wheel can be moved to either side of the plate by simply pulling a pin at the arm's hinge point. However, most operators keep the wheel on one side so they can drive down one side of the alley and then turn around and come back."

The Wheel sells for $2,800.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eric and Jan Johnson, Johnson's Innovations, 1311 E. Center St., Ithaca, Mich. 48847 (ph 989 875-5117; ejohnson@johnsonsinnovations.com; www.johnsonsinnovations.com).

Nifty Way To Make A Dump Trailer

"My 2-wheel dump trailer locks down with a ball hitch and dumps with a bumper jack," says Wallace Goldman, Foley, Mo.

He started with an 8-ft. long, home-built trailer made by someone else who had used the pickup bed off an old Ford 1/2-ton pickup. The owner had mounted the bed on a trailer frame fitted with a ball coupler on front. Goldman modified the trailer so he can dump it with an ordinary bumper jack, without having to unhook from his pickup.

The pickup bed hinges on a pair of 4-in. U-bolts that Goldman welded on back of the bottom trailer's frame. The bumper jack mounts between the two trailer frames.

To dump the load, Goldman simply releases the ball hitch on the top trailer frame and then jacks it up.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wallace Goldman, 134 Old Hwy. Y, Foley, Mo. 63347 (ph 636 734-2569).

Barrel "ovens" provide a quick and safe way to dig post holes in frozen ground, containing the fire over each post hole spot.

An 18-in. wide "chute" extends 1 ft. below bottom of bucket and into gutter. As operator drives forward, manure slides into the chute over into bucket.

Posthole "Ovens" Make Winter Digging Easier

By Heather Smith Thomas

A quick and safe way to dig postholes in frozen ground is to use a barrel "oven" to contain the fire over each post hole spot. This winter, my husband and son had to rebuild some pens near our calving barn and chipping down through frozen ground was taking several hours per hole.

So they made "ovens" out of old metal protein supplement tubs. They used a cutting torch to make small vent holes (about 1 1/2-in. dia.) along the bottom edge (to draw air in to keep the fire going) and cut a hole (4 or 5 in. dia.) in the center of the top of each "oven" for the smoke to come out.

The place where they were building the fence was grassy so they cleared the grass away from around each post spot and built a small fire over each prospective hole. There was plenty of firewood handy, with post and pole end scraps from their corral building project.

The ovens safely contained the fires. A small mesh screen was also put over each smoke hole, weighted down with rocks, to keep any sparks or embers from coming out.

Our son built fires under several ovens and let them burn while working on other parts of the corral, and the frost was completely gone under the ovens within a few hours.

Small vent holes were cut into bottom of barrel, with a larger hole at the top for smoke to exit.

Where the frost was really deep, he scooped out the embers after the fire burned down, dug down through the thawed dirt a ways farther, put the ember/coals back in, and added more wood to continue thawing the ground underneath.

Skid Loader-Mounted "Gutter Cleaner" Bucket

Robert Adelmeyer, Adelmeyer Welding, Lomira, Wis., recently sent photos of a skid loader-mounted "gutter cleaner" bucket he built for a local customer to clean the gutters in his dairy barn.

"The customer got out of farming for a while. When he started back up again the barn cleaner chain in his dairy barn had to be junked out. Rather than buy a new chain, he asked me to build something that he could use with his skid loader to do the job," says Adelmeyer.

The 5-ft. wide bucket is made from 1/4-in. thick steel and is designed with an 18-in. wide "chute" on one side that extends 1 ft. down below the bottom of the bucket.

The operator drives alongside the gutter with the chute lowered down into the gutter. As he drives forward, the manure slides into the chute, piles up, and eventually spills sideways through an opening into the main part of the bucket. Once the bucket is full the operator dumps the manure into a manure

Eventually the manure spills sideways through an opening into main part of bucket and can then be dumped.

spreader.

A pair of front-end tractor weights on the opposite side of the bucket help counterbalance the weight of the gutter scoop.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Adelmeyer, Box 201, 1025 North Water St., Lomira, Wis. 53048 (ph 920 269-4357 or cell 920 948-0263).