



Gary Schultz added foot-operated steering controls to keep the front caster wheels from turning and drifting downhill on his zero turn riding mower.

Foot Steering Added To Zero Turn Mowers

"I have 4 1/2 acres of lawn that's real hilly, which sometimes made it hard to control my Country Clipper 52-in. zero turn mower. To solve the problem, I mounted foot controls on front of the mower. They let me keep the front caster wheels from turning and drifting downhill. I also replaced the rear wheels with ATV tires, which provide much better traction," says Gary Schultz, Janesville, Wis.

The foot pedals consist of 5-in. wide rubber pads off an old motorcycle that are bolted to metal brackets at each end of a 1 1/2-ft. long metal bar. The center of the bar pivots on a vertical rod that rides on a bearing inside a metal bracket. The bracket is attached to a tie rod that connects the machine's front wheels.

"It really works good. Some of the hills I mow are so steep that I can hardly stand on them, yet I no longer have any trouble mowing them," says Schultz. "The foot-operated controls keep the front end of the mower from drifting downhill. I still use the machine's original hand-operated levers to steer the rear wheels."

He keeps the ATV tires filled with about 10 lbs. of air. "The ATV tires are much softer



He also added belt-driven foot steering controls to his Dixie Chopper. Two L-shaped levers are attached to small pulleys, which belt-drive larger pulleys attached to mower's front caster wheels. A long belt connects the 2 wheels. Pushing on either lever tightens belt and causes the wheels to turn.

than regular turf tires and far less likely to spin on hillsides. They're the same size as the original turf tires and have the same bolt pattern."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary A. Schultz, 2436 Belmont Ct., Janesville, Wis. 53548 (ph 608 752-7318).



Vernon Foubert modified his new MTD Gold, 38-in. zero turn mower, adding a front-mount blade, a rear weight carrier, drive wheel chains, and foot pedals.

He Modified A Brand New Mower

Vernon Foubert couldn't wait to start modifying his new MTD Gold, 38-in. zero turn mower. Since buying it last fall, he has added a front mount blade, a rear weight carrier, drive wheel chains, and foot pedals. The 74-year old, expert machinist once built parts for an Apollo spacecraft going to the moon and helicopters going to Vietnam. Still a fulltime machine operator and maintenance supervisor, Foubert enjoyed making over the brand new mower.

"I made a bracket to mount on the front frame for the blade and ran support straps



He added a bracket on mower's front frame to mount the blade.

Tow-Behind Push Mower

Tim Pickles, Kiowa, Colo., recently sent photos of a "side kick" tow-behind mower attachment that lets him pull a conventional push mower behind his riding mower.

The attachment consists of a triangle-shaped metal offset towbar that hooks around the mower's front axle next to the wheels, and a metal tongue that hooks on behind the riding mower. A clevis pin goes through a hole in each hook to prevent the wheels from accidentally disengaging. A spring and rope is used to hold the push mower's safety handles together.

"It reduces my mowing time by up to one third. By removing 2 clevis pins and disconnecting a spring, I can quickly remove the push mower and use it in places where my riding mower can't reach," says Pickles.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tim Pickles, 6619 Shannon Circle, Kiowa, Colo. 80117 (ph 303 646-4824; picklesproducts@skybeam.com; www.picklesproducts.com).



"Side kick" tow-behind mower attachment lets Tim Pickles pull a conventional push mower behind his riding mower.



Front-mounted deck operates by pushing the up-and-down lever to engage the belt.

He Moved Mower Deck To Front Of Tractor

Richard Townsend turned a "worst buy" into a "best buy" when he reconfigured a lawn tractor that just wasn't working right.

"I bought the garden tractor about a year ago because a leading magazine claimed it was the best one on the market," he says. "But once I started using it, the deck would vibrate and tore up the drive belt. I bought another belt and it tore up that one, too. I said, 'No more'."

Townsend and his stepson removed the deck and mounted it up front. It operates by pushing the up and down lever to engage the belt.

It took some welding and lining up to get

everything to work.

"The pulley that runs the blade was split," Townsend explains. "My stepson welded it back together with another pulley welded to that one to bring it in line with the pulleys out front."

The mower works great, and Townsend made it more comfortable by upgrading with a seat off an old power chair.

"I think I will rename this thing and paint it another color," Townsend says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Townsend, 120 Lake Access Rd. S., Camden, Tenn. 38320.

from the front wheel mount frame," says Foubert. "I had to modify the mower deck some so I could mount chains on the drive wheels."

The 48-in. blade was from an old Craftsman garden tractor. Though intended mainly for snow removal, it's heavy duty enough to push gravel around to level a driveway.

In case he needed more weight on the drive wheels, Foubert framed a 48-in. long, 2 by 10-in. base with 2 by 4's and mounted it to the rear frame.

"It's about 2 in. wider than it should be for turning around trees and posts," notes Foubert. "I built it to hold cement blocks for weight, but it's handy for carrying a chainsaw and supplies."

Foubert also mounted a hitch under the box, attaching it to the frame as well. He uses it when he needs to pull a cart or other attachment around the yard.

Not satisfied with the hand controls for steering the mower, Foubert added toe/heel foot pedals that hinge to the front edge of

the operator platform. They send the mower forward when the top halves are pressed and in reverse when the bottom halves of the pedals are pressed.

He notes the mower came with cup holders, but they can't be used with hand bar controls. His foot pedals connect to the bracket for the hand bars that he also modified.

"I added a bracket to raise the hand bars so they didn't come down across my knees," says Foubert. "I also put spring loaded detents on the hand grips so they won't flop over when I am using the foot pedals and sipping a soda or having a cigarette."

His most recent modification, but not likely his last, was to mount lights front and rear with separate control switches for each set. He also mounted a hard cover over the headlights, allowing him to step on them if necessary.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vernon Foubert, 27086 Courtney Place Circle, Warrenton, Mo. 63383 (ph 636 456-0248; dfoubert@hotmail.com).