

# Made It Myself

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## Truck-Mounted Hesston Stack Mover Also Plows Snow

By Keith Schole

An old pull-type Hesston stack mover mounted on a used 1-ton truck makes a great low-cost hay mover, says Bill Glebe of Pickardville, Alberta.

"It saves a lot of wear and tear on my tractor and cost less than \$4,000 to build. I found a way to get more use out of the truck by mounting a 10-ft. steel blade on back of the Stak Mover to plow snow," says Glebe.

He paid \$2,000 for the truck, which was equipped with a 350 cu. in. diesel engine and an automatic transmission, and \$1,200 for the Stak Mover. He shortened the truck frame 4 in. and welded steel brackets onto it as well as onto the Stak Mover, then bolted the Stak Mover on keeping the original wheels and axle on back. The brackets are hinged so that the back end of the Stak Mover can be tipped down to load the stack. A 2-in. dia. hydraulic cylinder raises or lowers the deck.

A hydraulic pump belt-driven off the engine is used to power a hydraulic motor that drives the Stak Mover's loading and unloading chains and also operates the hydraulic cylinder.

"It works even better than we thought it would," says Glebe, who made the conversion three years ago. "It took me and my brother Floyd about a week to do. We built it because our hay land is several miles away from where we feed our cattle. We had been hauling them on a tractor-pulled Stak Mover, but it went slow and I didn't want to use my tractor just to haul

hay. Now I can travel 25 to 30 mph on the road. I could go faster but any loose hay might blow off. To load the stack I pull on a flow control valve that causes the electric clutch to engage the hydraulic pump. Pushing the valve in shuts off the pump.

"It takes only about 20 minutes to feed the cows. After unloading the stack I back into it again and push it around so that all the cows have equal access to the hay. The result is similar to that of the original Stak Mover which unloads with a built-in slicing device and conveyor system. The deck can also hold up to three round bales. When the deck is empty the truck springs hold the Stak Mover wheels off the ground.

"The only disadvantage of a truck-mounted Stak Mover is that in very muddy feeding conditions even the 4-WD truck doesn't have adequate traction so I have to use my original pull-type Stak Mover, which I kept for that reason. As a safety precaution, I rerouted the exhaust muffler out the right side of the cab and straight up to keep sparks off the hay. I also mounted lights on top of the truck cab."

Glebe used 1/4-in. thick steel to make the quick-tach snow blade. It attaches with two bolts to a pair of angle iron plates that bolt on top of the Stak Mover frame. He simply tips the mover and puts the truck in reverse to clean snow out of his yard and away from the stacks.

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## Rear-Mount Blade Bolts To Garden Tractor

"It does a good job scraping and leveling dirt and also works great for clearing snow," says Calvin Nordberg, South Haven, Minn., about the rear-mounted 4-ft. blade he made for his International Cub Cadet garden tractor.

Nordberg has been doing custom fabricating in his shop since retiring from his former job as a millwright. "This blade is simple but it works," he says.

He built it for a church camp that wanted to clear snow off a skating rink. Nordberg tried using the snowblower on his Cub Cadet, but it couldn't get down to bare ice. To make the blade, he bent a 4-ft. long, 1-ft. high, 3/16-in. thick steel plate into a curve, then welded on a 3-in. high, 3/8-in.

thick steel plate along the bottom to form the cutting edge. He used 11 gauge, 1-in. sq. steel tubing to make a frame and bolted it onto the rear of the tractor using existing holes in the tractor frame. The blade is also supported by a chain fitted with a load binder.

The blade can be rotated to either side by removing two bolts. There are two angle settings for each side. Nordberg raises the blade by pulling the lever on the load binder, which raises the blade up. The blade rotates 180 degrees so it can be used in forward or reverse.

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## "Garden Edger" Mounts On Riding Mower

"We have four large garden areas in our back yard that are bordered on all sides by grass. It was always a big job to use a spade to edge all around each garden to keep grass from creeping in. I solved the problem by mounting an old disk blade on a steel arm that bolts to the side of my Deere 425 riding mower. A hydraulic cylinder raises and lowers the blade," says Earl Line, Lelita, Manitoba.

Line used scrap metal to make a bracket that bolts onto the side of the tractor. He borrowed the cylinder from a snowblower designed to mount on front of the riding mower and used a short length of pipe and two pins to make a hinge for it. The other end of the cylinder pins onto a steel arm

that supports the disc.

"It works well and saves hours of work. The best part is that I don't have to remove the mower deck in order to use the edger," says Line. "I use a lever on the steering column to raise or lower the disc which is 18 in. in diameter and will dig 6 to 8 in. deep. It makes an even cut and throws dirt back into the garden. It just misses the right front wheel whenever I turn. The cylinder hose plugs into the mower's remote outlets. To take the unit off I just remove two pins and unplug the hydraulic hoses."

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