



Photos courtesy Swamp Buggy Inc.

Racers at the Florida Sports Park swamp buggy races enter water as deep as 5 1/2 ft. Tall skinny tires keep drivers' heads above water.

## How To Drive An ATV Under Water

When you race in water as deep as 5 1/2 ft., you need to do some serious waterproofing on your ATV or "swamp buggy".

We recently spotted these pictures in Four Wheeler Magazine of racers at the Florida Sports Park swamp buggy races. Tall skinny tires help drivers keep their heads above water through the deepest water holes. Silicone and other sealants are liberally coated on important component parts such as distributors, carburetor air intake tubes and fuel cells to keep them dry and working.

Air intakes are kept as high as possible and exhaust pipes usually go straight up from the engine to reach above the water line.

Despite the modifications, racers disassemble many of the components after every race to get rid of water and sand. They also drain lubrication components from the driveline and clean the starter after every racing weekend.

(Information provided by Four Wheeler magazine, [www.fourwheeler.com](http://www.fourwheeler.com)).



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SmartBob sensors work by dropping a cable with a weighted probe to grain surface in bin. When probe comes into contact with grain, it automatically retracts and sends a measurement that can be accessed from your personal computer or smartphone.



## "Plumb Bob" Grain Bin Level Sends Info To Smartphone

A new "plumb bob" measuring device lets you use your computer or SmartPhone to check the grain level in your bins.

The SmartBob sensor mounts on top of a bin and works like an automated tape measure, dropping a cable with a weighted stainless steel probe through a hole in the bin's roof to the grain surface inside the bin. When the probe comes into contact with the grain, it automatically retracts and sends a measurement to your personal computer or a Smartphone. You can set up the sensors

to take measurements at scheduled time intervals throughout the day or on demand when you need one right away.

The system can be set up to send automated email alerts if bins get below or above a preset level.

Prices for the SmartBob system start at about \$1,800.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, BinMaster Level Controls, 7201 N. 98<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, Neb. 68507 (ph 800-278-4241 or 402 434-9102; [www.binmaster.com](http://www.binmaster.com)).



Virgil Pook needed an easier way to move the cutterhead on his Deere forage harvester, so he built this 3-pt. stand and hitch. It lets him pick up the cutterhead and move it anywhere with his tractor.



## 3 Pt. Lift Easily Moves Deere Cutterhead

"Removing the cutterhead on our 6000 Series Deere Forage Harvester is one of the toughest jobs on our farm," says Iowa custom harvester Virgil Pook. "We made it a lot easier when we built a simple stand with a 3 pt. hitch adapter so a tractor can move it anywhere."

Before that Pook used to drive his machine to the local dealership to have them remove the cutterhead. "I tried to remove it a few times myself before we made the stand," says Pook, "but the part weighs more than 3,000 lbs, so it's not something one person can or should try to move."

Pook and his son Travis came up with the simple stand that fits under the cutterhead without having the corn or hay head hooked up. They used 4 by 6-in. steel tubing for the main beams. Then they welded 2 by 3-in. tubing to the beams, which hook up to the front of the cutterhead with a steel shaft that runs through two existing holes in the cutterhead. Two bottle jacks are used under the back of the cutterhead to hold it upright. With this device in place, a corn or hay head doesn't have to be on the cutterhead to take

it off the machine. Pook says that without the head on a person can very easily work on the cutterhead. Virgil tried to move the cutterhead with his skid loader but found out it wouldn't lift it. With the cutterhead sitting in the middle of the shop, they had to figure out a way to move it.

The Pooks owned a 6000 to 5000 series head adapter that came with a Kemper head, but they'd never used it. "It's a good thing that Dad never throws anything out, because that's what we used to move the cutterhead," says son Travis. Pook says the adapter just bolted to the cutterhead, so all they had to do was modify it to a 3-pt. hook up that fits their tractor. Now they can move the cutterhead anywhere they need to with the tractor.

Pook says everything they used for this project was in the scrap pile, so all the device cost them was 3 hrs. of labor. He says if they had had to buy new steel it probably would have cost them \$500 in material alone.

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The calf can't get out and MacLennan can easily slip between the bars.

## Bale Ring Makes Quick Calf Catcher

Warren MacLennan uses a modified hay bale ring to catch new calves safely. Attached to the front of his loader-mounted bale carrier, the ring offers a safe place to work calves.

"It is always tricky working new calves, but the bale ring lets me do it without worrying about the mother," says MacLennan.

The only modification needed on the ring was to add 2 chain anchor rings separated by about a third of the ring circumference. To use, MacLennan approaches the bale ring opposite the anchor rings and slips the bale

spears into it. He then runs chains from the anchoring rings to the top of the bale carrier frame.

"I can drive up to a calf and lower the ring over it," says MacLennan. "The calf can't get out easily, but I can easily slip between the bars."

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