Shop-Built Bean Buggy

"Commercial bean buggies with hydrostatic drive cost at least $3,000," says Paul E. Dillard, who built his own bean buggy out of motorcycle parts for about $400.

The three-wheel buggy sports 3.5 by 18-in. motorcycle tires that don't get stuck easily yet keep crop damage to a minimum.

"The tires hardly leave a track in drilled or rowed beans up to 24 in. tall," says the St. Mary, Mo., farmer. "If you ever do get stuck with it, you just get off, put the drive lever into reverse and push it out."

Dillard's bean buggy is 7 ft. long and has ground clearance of 32 in. Its main frame is made out of 2 by 3-in. tubing.

It's powered by a 16 hp Briggs and Stratton engine and hydrostatic drive out of an old Simplicity lawn tractor.

"The transmission is offset to the left side so it bolts to the drive sprocket where the left wheel of the tractor was," he explains. "I connected a 1-in. shaft and bearings to the opposite drive wheel hub and extended the shaft out to the width I wanted. We plant beans in 20-in. rows so I extended the shaft out to 76 in. to straddle four rows of soybeans or two rows of corn planted in 36-in. rows."

The operator steers the buggy with his feet from a comfortable boat seat on a slide-mount off a Deere 4320 tractor. The slide permits adjusting the seat 6 in. forward or backward to accommodate both tall and short operators. The hydrostat is controlled with a lever mounted just behind the steering mechanism. The buggy can hit speeds of up to 9 mph, with speed controlled by a throttle lever on the operator's left side.

A 25-gal. tank and 12-volt pump supply a spot spray wand. Herbicides can also be broadcast with an 8-row folding boom mounted in back.

Dillard hauls the buggy from field to field on a special-built trailer.

"We've used it for two seasons on about 1,200 acres and it works great for spot treating or spraying Johnsongrass, our problem weed," he says. "The only thing I changed was blocking reverse on the transmission to keep speed down when backing up. If you go too fast in reverse it will get kind of squirrely on you. Otherwise, it handles great."

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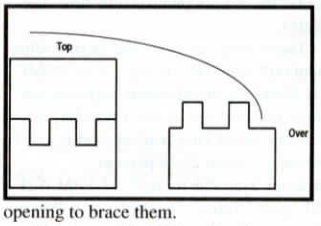
Bale Feeders Made Out Of Fuel Storage Tank

You can make nifty bale feeders out of underground fuel storage tanks, says Bob Ouverson who made six durable feeders out of a single surplus tank.

"It's a good way to get value out of these old tanks," says the Fertile, Iowa, farmer. "These feeders are built so heavy they'll easily outlast my lifetime."

Ouverson used a 10,000-gal. diesel tank with 1/4-in. thick sidewall. The 9-ft. dia., 27-ft. long tank was thoroughly cleaned out before he cut it into three equal 9-ft. sections.

Next, Ouverson cut a zigzag pattern through the center of the tank resulting in two feeders per section, each with 10 15-in. wide, 60-in. deep openings. Because of the way he cut them up, there was no metal left over to throw away. He cut a 1-ft. dia. hole in the bottom of each end section for drainage. In the four other sections, he welded an H-frame made out of 2-in. dia. pipe into the bottoms to keep them round. And Ouverson welded a piece of 3/8-in. by 3-in. strap iron across the top of each feeder



opening to brace them.

He also welded 2-in. dia. pipe onto the bottom and side of each opening to keep cattle from cutting themselves on sharp edges.

Ouverson made the bale feeders a couple of years ago. He's since loaded hundreds of big 6-ft. dia. bales into them with the front end loader on his tractor.

"They work real well," he says. "There isn't any more or less hay waste than there is with any other bale feeder I've ever seen."

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Home-Built Lime Spreader

"I made a pull-type lime spreader out of a salvaged lime truck which I bought for $285. I cut the frame off just behind the cab of the truck. I then added another truck axle just ahead of the original truck drive axle to balance the load and to give more flotation. I also had to put a new conveyor bottom in the box," says Homer Goering, Moundridge, Kan.

"I made the hitch and added axle from parts I had laying around the farm, so the total cost was minimal - not counting the approximately 120 hours I spent on the project. The spreader holds 6 or 7 tons of lime and it takes at least an 80 hp. tractor to pull it. It has worked satisfactorily for me for the last couple years, liming about 1,000 acres."

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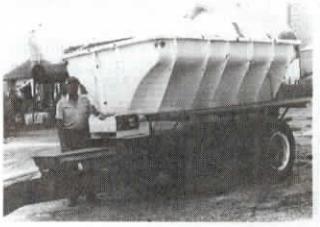

"One-Man" Sawmill Built From Old Hay Conditioner

Using parts from a junked-out hay conditioner and grain elevator as well as an old "arbor saw" originally designed to be belt-driven off a tractor, Jerome A. Wallenfang, Fremont, Wis., built a low-cost, one-man sawmill.

"It works fast and makes it easy to saw logs up to 8 ft. long into firewood," says Wallenfang.

The rig is equipped with a pto-powered saw blade and a hydraulic-driven elevator that drops the cut-off logs into a pile. A moveable carriage mounted on rollers at the back of the rig is used to push the log into the saw blade. The carriage is secured to the back of the rig with bunge straps so that it automatically returns once the operator lets go. The cut-off log then falls onto the elevator.

He used sq. steel tubing and parts of an old Fox Brady soybean extruder to build the frame. The gearbox, wheels, and tires are off a Fox Brady hay crimper. The pto-driven gearbox belt-drives the "arbor". An orbit motor chain-drives the elevator while a flow control valve regulates elevator speed.

"I put it together by the seat of my pants without any drawings, but it works good," says Wallenfang. "The cut-off logs fall onto a 4 by 8-ft. sheet of plywood that I mounted inside a loader bucket and that I position under the end of the elevator. Once the sheet of plywood is full I dump the firewood into a wagon. I use a chain saw on logs more than 6 to 8 in. in diameter because they're too heavy to lift onto the carriage. My neighbor John Coenen fabricated the guards for the belts and orbit motor."

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