



Crop Cart improves harvesting efficiency by 50%, says inventor.

INNOVATIVE VEGGIE PICKING CART FEATURES PIVOTING SEAT

Pedaled Crop Cart Makes Picking Easy

"It has the most comfortable seat I've ever sat in," says Karen Upper of the low-riding, pedal-powered Crop Cart introduced to vegetable growers this summer.

"It's a really great thing for weeding and harvesting crops," says Upper, who's president of the Wisconsin Fresh Vegetable Growers Association.

The Crop Cart - the only one of its kind made in the U.S. - is the brainchild of Rusty Leffingwell, Fairbury, Ill.

"The whole secret to the Crop Cart is the seat," says Leffingwell. "When the operator is sitting so low, leaning over and picking vegetables, the seat has to move right along with him or her to reduce fatigue. That was the biggest challenge of designing the cart - and it's the most expensive component of it."

To get the seat to tilt as the operator leans to pick vegetables, Leffingwell devised a three-piece swivel. One piece is mounted underneath the seat and two pieces are mounted on the frame. To get the seat to return to an upright position as picked vegetables are deposited into the cart's picking trays, Leffingwell mounted compression springs out of an old 6-cyl. Chevy engine underneath each side of the seat. (Four springs come with the cart; two can be removed for lighter operators).

For added comfort, the seat also features flanges on either side that wrap around the rib cage. That's so the operator's not leaning with easily fatigued stomach muscles.

"You can work comfortably in that seat for eight hours," Leffingwell claims. Growers say their efficiency increases by as much as 50%, he adds.

As vegetables or fruit is picked, it's placed in picking trays or loading racks, one on each side of the operator. Racks are adjustable front to back to accommodate varying arm spans of operators, and height is adjustable as well. As loading trays get full, vegetables are moved onto a 24-in. wide by 32-in long carrying tray over the front wheel.

The wheelbase is 72-in. long. Rear wheels can be adjusted from widths of 60 in. to 90 in. to accommodate a wide variety of row spacings. Height is adjustable from 21 in. to 34 in.

Price of the Crop Cart is \$850.

By January, Leffingwell expects to be marketing two powered models that will have a 1 1/2-ft. longer wheelbase than the pedal cart.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rusty Leffingwell, Rusty's Ag Sales and Manufacturing, 412 N. 7th St., Fairbury, Ill. 61739-1341 (ph 800 373-2809).

New Wiring Harness For 4-WD Pickups

"It lets you use low range for pulling heavy loads yet leave the front wheels disengaged," says Louie Reindel, Spencerville, Ohio, about his simple and inexpensive new electronic kit for 1988 or newer GM and Chevrolet 4-WD full-size pickups.

"The problem on these pickups is that there's no way to use low range without being in 4-WD, which puts more strain on the drivetrain," says Reindel. "My wiring harness electronically disengages the front wheels while keeping the transfer case in low range. It lets you haul big loads with less stress on the engine and transmission.

If you come to a steep hill or a railroad track, you can flip the switch to 4-WD without having to come to a complete stop, then shift back out again when no longer needed."

The new wiring harness plugs into the pickup's existing 4-WD harness and is activated by a switch that installs in the dash. You simply disconnect the coupling already in the harness and hook up the new harness.

"It also reduces premature wear on the front tires," notes Reindel. Sells for \$85.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Louie Reindel, 13875 Purdy Rd., Spencerville, Ohio 45887 (ph 419 647-6153).



"Terra-Tine" row cleaner features a "foot" that limits tine depth and keeps trash from wrapping.

SELF-LIMITING DEPTH CONTROL KEEPS THEM FROM GOUGING SOIL

"Single Wheel" Tined Row Cleaner

This new "single wheel" tine row cleaner moves trash out of the row ahead of planter row units without gouging the soil or plugging up with trash, says Ausherman GP, Assaria, Kan.

The "Terra-Tine" row cleaner mounts on any 1 1/2-in. dia. round fertilizer coupler shank, either behind or in front of the coupler hub. It can also mount directly on a front toolbar if there are no fertilizer couplers in use. The 16-in. dia. wheel runs at about a 45 degree angle to the direction of travel. It's mounted on a floating arm and is equipped with replaceable spring steel tines that clear a 7 to 9-in. wide path in the row. Spring pressure on the tines can be adjusted by changing the position of bolts on the floating arm's mounting bracket.

"It avoids a lot of the problems associated with row cleaners that use pairs of intersecting wheels," says John Martin, product manager. "Because it mounts on a fertilizer coupler or fertilizer bar instead of the planter unit there's no problem finding room for it. The floating arm allows it to work well in a variety of conditions and always keeps the wheel turning without allowing

the tines to dig too far into the soil. The curve, or 'foot', at the end of each tine acts like a depth gauge to limit tine depth in the soil, unlike straight spikes which can dig too deep. The "foot" also keeps trash from wrapping up on the wheel. Another advantage is that a single wheel requires less maintenance.

"The wheel has six sets of replaceable spring tines, with two tines per section. The tines are held in place by two bolt-on plates. If a tine breaks you can replace it by unbolting the plates and inserting a new tine assembly."

A set screw is used to secure the collar to the shank and to set the angle of the wheel. "The wheel should be set so that the tines just clear the coupler blade and carriage," notes Martin. A bolt-on extension arm can be used to mount the wheel behind the coupler hub. If you don't use fertilizer couplers, a clamp kit and shank is available to mount wheel directly onto fertilizer bar. Sells for \$170 per row.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ausherman GP, Box 218, Assaria, Kan. 67416 (ph 913 667-4755).



Meri Crusher crushes "just about anything", plus mulches to a depth of 8 in.

Land Clearing "Crusher"

The new Meri Crusher land clearing "crusher" from Finland cleans up just about anything - logs, stumps, brush, etc. - and could even replace plows and discs because it'll mulch down to a depth of 8 in., says the U.S. importer.

The pto-driven roller crusher is 8 ft. 3 in. wide and fitted with 85 replaceable cut-

ting teeth on the 14-in. dia. disc drum. The crusher requires an 80 to 110 hp tractor, depending on the job.

Prices range from \$12,000 to \$30,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Hudon Sales, Inc., Woodcutters Headquarters, Rt. 12 & 28, Barneveld, N.Y. 13304 (ph 315 896-2217; fax 896-2815).