

## Off-Road E-Truck Runs For 2¢ Per Mile

An electric work truck from Electric Vehicle Options isn't cheap to buy, but operating costs are rock bottom. The off-road EXV-2 only costs 2¢ per mile to charge and requires limited maintenance, thanks to its lithiumion batteries and electric drive. However, the nine 8V lithiumion batteries do contribute to the \$25,000 to \$30,000 price tag.

"We don't use lead acid batteries due to maintenance problems," says Skip Gosser of Electric Vehicle Options. "We use lithiumion batteries with a life span of 7 to 12 years."

Gosser notes that the trucks are built in Minnesota, and designed to stand up to extreme weather. "We've had very few problems with trucks we've sold. But if you do have a problem, parts are readily

available," says Gosser.

The EXV-2 has a maximum speed of 25 mph and a gross vehicle weight of 3,000 lbs. The riveted aluminum unibody, made with fiberglass composites, runs on R14 radial tires. The 155-in. long by 61 1/2-in. wide e-truck has a 71 by 58-in. cargo deck. It has a full range of standard features including 4-wheel disc brakes.

"There are all kinds of options from open deck to pickup box-style and covered decks with passenger seats," says Gosser.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Electric Vehicle Options, G. W. "Skip" Gosser, P.O. Box 811, Aumsville, Ore. 97325 (ph 503 749-1601; www.ev-options.com).



Off-road EXV-2 E-truck only costs 2 cents per mile to charge and requires limited maintenance, thanks to its lithiumion batteries and electric drive.



"It works great," says Vance Jones, who converted an old Case flat belt-driven silo filler into this heavy-duty wood chipper.

## Old Silo Filler Converted To Heavy-Duty Wood Chipper

"A friend who owns a local junkyard gave me an old 1930 Case flat belt-driven silo filler, which I converted into a heavy-duty wood chipper. Works great," says Vance Jones, Iron Mountain, Mich.

The silo filler was originally designed to ride on a pair of axles and had a steering tongue, all of which were missing. Corn bundles were laid down into a long metal tray located on front of the machine, and a chain-driven auger was used to pull the corn bundles into the cutter knives. The chopped corn was then blown into the silo. Jones shortened the tray and turned the machine around to face backward. He also mounted it on a single axle and added a solid tongue and a pto shaft.

"I use my Deere B 25 hp. tractor to operate it. It has plenty of power to do the job," says Jones, who built the unit last winter. "The silo filler had sat around for a long time, but it's made mostly from galvanized steel so it's still in good shape. It came with four 14-in. long chopping knives and they're still there, but now they're chipping wood instead of chopping corn."

A local machine shop removed the belt pulley and made an adapter to mount a pto shaft. Jones used 4 1/2-in. handheld grinder to sharpen the knives and finished sharpening them with a file to touch them up. He also greased the gears and chains that drive the auger.

"It'll chip 3 to 4-in. dia. wood with no trouble," says Jones. "I reach in to feed brush and get the branches started, and from there a drum with metal teeth on it delivers them into the cutting knives. The cut-down tray is still long enough that I can't reach in too far for it to be dangerous. If the knives ever start to plug up because I'm putting too much wood in, I pull on a clutch-type lever located next to the tray to disengage them."

"A number of people have seen me use it and are amazed at how well it works. I spent about \$400, whereas a new commercial pto-



Jones uses his Deere "B" 25 hp tractor to operate the wood chipper.

driven wood chipper sells for about \$10,000."

Jones says he came up with the idea because he has six acres with a lot of spruce trees, and spruce budworms have killed a lot of them. "I cut up the tree trunks for firewood and convert the leftover limbs and brush into wood chips. I've seen stories in FARM SHOW where farmers converted one-row corn choppers into wood chippers. I found one but the owner wanted \$500 for it, which was more than I wanted to pay. So when I found the silo filler I decided to see what I could do with it."

He says he's old enough to remember farmers in his area using this kind of 4-wheeled silo filler back in the 1930's and '40's. "In those days they pulled the machine around from neighbor to neighbor at silo filling time. There probably aren't too many of these old silo fillers still around."

The silo filler still has its original blower spout. However, Jones didn't want chips blowing all over so he cut the bottom out of a big burlap bag and tied it over the end of the chute. "It directs all the wood chips down toward the ground and into a small pile. I have a walking trail on my property, and whenever I want to spread more chips on it I just shovel them into my Cub Cadet 6 by 4 utility vehicle. I go down the trail and dump them wherever they're needed."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vance W. Jones, W7949 Herzog Rd., Iron Mountain, Mich. 49801 (ph 906 542-6955).

## "Bin Scraper" Removes Grain Stuck On Bin Walls

This new handheld bin scraper works great for removing grain stuck on bin walls that can lead to grain spoilage, says inventor Steve Carr.

The 4-ft. long tool is made of 3/16-in. thick mild steel and is available in two corrugated-groove head sizes to match your bin wall (depending on bin model, i.e. 2.66 in. vs. 4.0 in. from corrugated ridge – peak to peak).

"It removes caked-on grain cleanly," says Carr. "If you want a shorter handle, you can cut it down so that it'll fit into the hammer loop on your pants when climbing bins. The remaining cut-off piece can be used as a breaker bar extension."

Both models sell for \$32 including S&H.



Handheld bin scraper removes caked-on grain from bin walls. It's available in 2 corrugated-groove head sizes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve Carr, 19964 County Rd. 8, Wykoff, Minn. 55990 (ph 507 398-8649; www.binscraper.com; sales@binscraper.com).

## Fish Line Used To Stop Deer

"We live back in the hills of Vermont where deer are a real problem for gardeners," says Gerry Hawkes, Woodstock, Vt.

"For the past 15 years or so, we've had excellent success keeping deer out of our garden by simply stringing a single strand of 30-lb. test monofilament fishing line around the perimeter at mid-thigh height. Deer can't see the line to jump it so when they unexpectedly bump into it, they are spooked away. The 30-lb. line is strong enough to keep from breaking yet still hard for deer to see."

"Each spring, before we plant and put up the line, we see lots of deer tracks through the tilled soil of the garden. As soon as we put the line up, there are no more tracks. When we take the line down after harvest, the tracks start appearing again right away."



Gerry Hawkes keeps deer out of his garden by stringing a single strand of 30-lb. test monofilament fish line around the perimeter at mid-thigh height.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerry Hawkes, 796 Wayside Rd. Ext., Woodstock, Vt. 05091 (ph 802 457-2669).

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