



"When I retired my Deere 6600 combine after nearly 30 years of service, I hated to send it off to the junk yard. So I converted it into a lo-boy tractor," says Virgil Davis.



He cut the combine's frame apart and moved the steering wheels from the back to the front. The hood was made from the back section of the combine.

Deere 6600 Combine Converted Into "Lo-Boy" Tractor

When Virgil Davis retired his Deere 6600 combine after nearly 30 years of service, he says the engine, cab, hydraulics and drive train were still in good working condition. "I hated to send it off to the junk yard for parts, so I decided right then to make something special from it," Davis says. Piece by piece he dismantled the machine, removing the grain tank, cab, the engine, the feeder house and the grain separator system.

"I really just tore the machine apart and got down to the drive and steering wheels and the chassis, then figured out how to rebuild it. The engine, cab, transmission, lift cylinders on the feederhouse and the steering were all good, so I just set out to make it into a tractor."

Davis first cut the frame apart and moved the steering wheels from the back of the machine to the front. He made the frame long enough to allow room for the cab and for the engine to set in front of the large drive wheels and behind the front wheels. The fuel

tank mounts between the rear wheels. "Now the cab is just one step off the ground so you don't need a ladder," Davis says.

The inside of the cab has the same configuration as the combine, with the shift lever, throttle and hydraulic controls to the right of the seat. The front of his tractor has a nicely formed hood made from the back section of the combine. The front fenders are made from sheet metal and the rear fenders are cut from a black poly water tank. Davis added a hitch in front of the wheels so he can use the tractor to pull or push wagons in his yard.

The back of Davis's machine has a heavy-duty work station complete with a 3-pt. lift and quick hitch. He adapted the feederhouse cylinder mounts to hold the bottom of the two lift arms. A heavy-duty U-bracket mounts above the transmission frame to hold the cylinder that raises and lowers the hitch. Triangulated braces from the top of the hitch and a cross bracket to the frame of the tractor

provide extra stability for the hitch.

Davis uses the tractor to mow, grade, plow and can even use the tractor for tillage. In the winter, Davis has a large 10-ft. snow bucket that he uses to push and pile snow. The bucket has 18-in. extensions on both sides to cover the full width of the machine.

"I can't really lift and pile snow like a loader would," Davis says, "but I sure can push it and pack it because it's so wide". He mounted an 18-in. convex mirror just behind and to the side of the cab so he can easily see what he's pushing just by looking to the side. "I really like how the tractor turned out, especially that it has a 3 pt. hitch, a pto and live hydraulics. It took me several months to build it, but I didn't have to buy a lot of extra parts," Davis says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Virgil Davis, 2686 250th St., Humboldt, Iowa 50548 (ph 515 378-3344).



Back end of machine is fitted with a 3-pt. hitch, pto, and live hydraulics.



John Van Engelen mounted a sow shower in an unused alleyway of a hog building by mounting a mister used for cooling cattle on the wall. Above a set of cattle brushes.

His Sows Love To Shower

Cleaning and disinfecting a farrowing room doesn't do much good if you bring in sows that have been in loose housing, says John Van Engelen of Hog-Tied Farms in Thedford, Ont. He solved the problem by adding a sow shower.

He renovated an unused hallway that had a gutter underneath by removing the plywood floor and installing concrete slats. He mounted a used sprinkler system (mister used for cooling cattle) on the wall, set up an animal-safe soap disinfectant applicator and placed cattle brushes on the wall.

"The sows were not scared and there wasn't a problem with the shower. They were walking around scrubbing themselves, especially on hot summer days," Van Engelen says. "But I need to take the brushes out and

put indoor/outdoor carpet on the walls. The brushes were a little too hard for the sows, and they started getting scratch marks."

Harvest season slowed him down, but he hopes to add the carpet and a water heater to give the sows lukewarm water for the winter.

"I also plan to use the same sprinkler on the wean sows," he adds.

While he doesn't have a lot of problems with bacteria and health issue in his family's 250-sow farrow-to-finish operation, Van Engelen says he thinks the shower provides extra insurance for the group sow housing setup he converted to a couple of years ago.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Van Engelen, Hog-Tied Farms, 7912 Gordon Rd., Thedford, Ontario Canada N0M 2N0 (ph 519 933-6514; hogtied@execulink.com).

They're Still Making Water-Pumping Windmills

American West Windmill & Solar says there will always be a market for water-pumping windmills because they're simple and cost very little to run.

American West has been manufacturing and marketing quality windmills with precision components since the early 1990's. The company is an offshoot of Aermotor, one of the pioneering companies in wind power.

Today's American West windmills aren't much different than windmills made 100 years ago, but components are precision manufactured and backed by extended warranties. Even with new manufacturing technology, parts are interchangeable with the famous model 702 Aermotor made since the early 1930's. Wheels range from 6 to 16 ft. in dia. to provide pumping power that can raise water from depths in excess of 1,000 ft.

American West windmill motors are known for their strong, powerful wheel, replaceable babbit bearings, nodular pinion gears, positive lubrication, balanced self-regulating operation, and a galvanized steel helmet that protects internal parts from the elements. The company makes its own castings, machines its own bull gears, and precisely cuts threads into the wheel hubs. Components are checked for tolerances, fit, tension and alignment before assembly and shipping.

Windmills from American West can be sized to practically any pumping or power generating need. Components are chosen based on well size and depth, amount of water needed over time and typical wind speed for



American West Windmill and Solar is a large supplier of new windmills and replacement parts, including fan blades, gearboxes and other components.



the area.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, American West Windmill & Solar Company, Amarillo, Texas (ph 888 535-4788; www.awwasc.com).