Reservoir Tillage unit runs between rows with 10-in. teeth that fracture soil profile.

Reservoir Tillage Unit "Catches" Rain

The new Reservoir Tillage unit from Willmar Fabrication is designed to work fields so they capture more rainfall or irrigation. The RT850 runs between the rows with 10-in. teeth that fracture the soil profile. It can be used to incorporate liquid or dry fertilizers or used simply for its soil profile benefits.

"It creates a soil profile with better infiltration and permeation, allowing farmers to make optimal use of available water, whether it gets to the field as rainfall or irrigation," says Steve Clausen, Willmar Fabrication.

The RT850 is available with 1, 2 or 3 teeth per row for 22, 22-30 and 30 to 40-in. row spacings. The teeth are "austempered" ductile iron blades. Austempering is a relatively new heat treatment process that makes high strength, low cost, abrasion resistant material.

Row units have independent suspension with rubber rod inserts that allow the teeth to roll out of the ground if they hit a rock or obstruction without losing down-pressure. Row units have up to 16 in. of travel (10 in. up or 6 in. down) from operating position.

Row units are available individually or mounted on a 7 by 7-in. toolbar in multiples from 6 to 16 rows. The 3-pt. hitch is Cat. III or IV, depending on row number. Sand can be added to the row units to increase down pressure.

Unit is available with 1, 2 or 3 teeth per row depending on row spacing.

Clausen advises using the RT850 in the spring or shortly after planting. "The best time to use it is when corn is between 4 and 12 in. tall," he says.

For pricing or to discuss units beyond 16-row configurations, contact the company. Check out a video of the RT850 at www.farmshow.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Willmar Fabrication, 2400 19th Ave. S.W., Willmar, Minn. (ph 320 214-7888; toll free 877 332-2551; www.willmarfab.com).

"I built it to lift and push invasive dead trees away from a fence in our pasture, but it'll lift just about anything," says Terry Benoit, who converted a 3-pt. mounted boom pole to a loader bucket-mounted unit.

Bucket-Mounted Boom Pole

Terry Benoit, Orange, Texas, converted a 3-pt. mounted boom pole he already had to a loader bucket-mounted unit. He uses it on his Kubota L235 tractor.

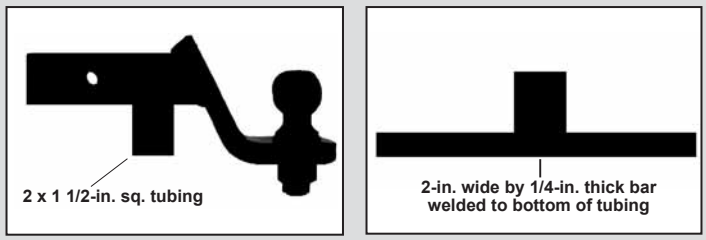
"It works great for a variety of jobs," says Benoit. "I built it to lift and push invasive dead trees away from a fence in our pasture, but it'll lift just about anything. We've even used it to place trusses when we were building a barn. With the bucket raised all the way, it can reach about 20 ft., which is much more than it could on the 3-pt. The visibility and control is also much better."

If Benoit wants, he can replace the U-shaped bracket with a 4-ft. blade, which he uses to reach out and cut grass and weeds along the edge of his pond. "The blade is just a piece of flat bar sharpened on one edge," he says. "I reach the boom out into the pond as far as I can and let the boom down, then back up. It does a nice job of clearing weeds and debris away."

The 12-ft. long boom attaches to the bucket with 3 pins. Benoit welded a small metal bracket on top of the bucket to support a short pipe that pins onto the boom's 3-pt. top link mounting bracket. He also drilled two holes in the bottom of the bucket, which match holes drilled into brackets welded to the boom's lift arm mounting points.

He uses the U-shaped bracket on front of the boom to move dead trees. He welded a pair of 6-in. channel irons about 1 ft. apart onto one side of a rectangular steel plate, and also welded a metal arm on the other side that pins onto the boom.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Terry Benoit, 1077 Bobcat Circle, Orange, Texas 77632 (ph 409 332-9124; terry.benoit@gerdau.com).



Fred Brockman came up with a "double horseshoe" step that's welded to his pickup's 2-in. receiver hitch. Horseshoes welded onto each side of a metal bar welded on under the hitch form right and left steps.

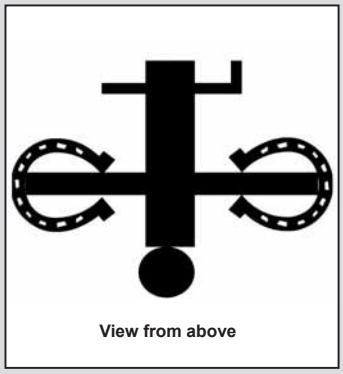
Double Horseshoe Hitch Step

With pickup boxes getting harder to climb up into all the time, Fred Brockman came up with a nifty "double horseshoe" step that welds to his truck's 2-in. receiver hitch.

He welded a short piece of 2 by 1 1/2-in. square metal tubing to the bottom of the hitch and then welded a 10-in. long piece of 2-in. wide, 1/4-in. thick steel bar across the bottom of that. Next, he welded a horseshoe to each side of the flat bar to form right and left steps.

Brockman notes that not only does the step look good on his truck, but he can also move it from truck to truck as needed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fred Brockman, P.O. Box 163, Red Bluff, Calif. 96080 (ph 530 529-3362).



Bill Medley converted an old walk-behind brush cut mower into a 3-pt. model. Mower blade and a new drive motor mounts at one end of arm, with a counterweight at the other end.

3-pt. Mower Follows The Slope

Bill Medley's rough-cut mower follows the ground surface no matter how much it dips or climbs. Fabricated from some salvaged steel and an old Gravely mower, it does the job like nothing on the market.

"I tried to buy a mower that would do what I wanted, and there was nothing close," says Medley. "The closest I could find was a weed eater string mower for the back of a tractor."

Medley wanted something tougher with a good blade. He has a mile-long roadway that the state highway maintenance crew seldom mows.

He got to be thinking about the old Gravely brush cutter mower with its single blade. Gravely walk-behind tractors and a multitude of attachments were originally manufactured in West Virginia where Medley lives.

"Gravelys and their attachments are pretty common around here," he says. "I found the 30-in. brush cutter at a Gravely parts salvage yard.

Medley liked the way the brush cut mower pivoted from its mount to the frame of the walk-behind tractor. Small skids mounted to either side of the mower keep it parallel to the ground.

He wanted the mower to hang past the side of the rear right wheel. He used 2 by 6-in. steel tubing that he recovered from a scrap bin for an 8-ft. long horizontal arm and a 2-ft. upright. The horizontal arm has pins for the 3-pt. arms, and the upright is the connecting point for the top link. The end of the arm extends out about 4 ft. to support the 6 1/2 hp. gas engine and a mount for the mower gearbox. Given the position of the mower and the motor and size of the drive pulley on the mower, Medley needed 2 idler pulleys for the belt to keep it separate and tight. He ran the throttle control up to the top link so he can control it from the tractor seat.

"Once I mounted the engine and mower, it hung crooked," says Medley. "I needed a counterweight."

He slipped a length of 1 1/2 by 6-in. steel tubing into the left end of the mower arm. He welded a bracket on it to hold the weight from the tractor's front bumper.

"I slid the inside tube out until it balanced the mower, drilled holes through the 2 tubes and pinned them," says Medley. "I slide it in for storage."

He added 2 kickstands to the frame to support it when not on the tractor.

The drive motor was the most expensive part Medley had to purchase. The Gravely mower cost about $50, and the motor cost about $95 at Harbor Freight.

"I built the whole thing for less than $500," says Medley. "I can mow both sides of my roadway in a couple of hours."

He likes being able to mow alongside a road bank that is sloping down or up. The pivot point on the Gravely allows the mower to be turned a full 90 degrees.

"It follows the ground no matter how steep," says Medley. "The pivot also makes it easy to sharpen the blade. Just raise the 3-pt. and tip the mower up."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, William Medley, 1065 Douglas Branch Rd., Elkview, W. Va. 25071 (ph 304 545-7738).