

Pull-Type Rod Weeder Converted To 2-Pt. Model

Darry Markle, Claresholm, Alberta, recently sent FARM SHOW photos of an old 10-ft. wide, Deere pull-type rod weeder he converted to an 8-ft. wide, 2-pt. hitch model.

"I use it to control weeds and grass between rows of trees in my farm's shelter belt. I want to make sure any rain we get goes to the trees and not the weeds," says Markle. "Weeds really don't like this machine. I use a 30 hp, 4-WD tractor to pull it."

He got the 1960's ground-driven rod weeder from a neighbor. It was equipped with a drawbar hitch and a pair of big lugged wheels on front, with a pair of caster wheels on back. He removed the hitch and had a local machine shop cut the rig's front shaft axle down to 8 ft. and also cut new keyways into the axle. Then he welded a pair of steel brackets fitted with pins on front of the machine's frame, which hook up to the lift arms on his tractor's 3-pt. hitch. He also gave the machine a new coat of paint.

"The rod weeder is equipped with a hand-operated depth control lever on back. The operator had to get off the tractor in order to lift the machine out of the ground," says Markle. "By converting the rig to a 2-pt. hitch model, I can just set the depth control lever to the proper working depth and leave it there, and then at the end of the row use the 2-pt. hitch to lift the machine out of the ground. As I turn, the rod weeder pivots on the caster wheels to follow the tractor. I didn't convert the machine to a 3-pt. model because it would have been too heavy for a small tractor like mine."

"I had been using an 8-ft. wide, 3-pt. mounted field cultivator to control weeds in the shelterbelt, but it killed only about 70 percent of the weeds. My rod weeder pulls weeds completely out of the ground and then lays them back down so they haven't got a chance to grow back again. It results in close to a 100 percent kill. I still use the cultivator



"Weeds really don't like this machine," says Darry Markle, who converted an old 10-ft. wide, Deere pull-type rod weeder to this 8-ft. wide, 2-pt. model.

occasionally to loosen the soil and keep it from getting packed down too hard."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,

Darry Markle, P.O. Box 2199, Claresholm, Alberta Canada T0L 0T0 (ph 403 489-1956; darrymarkle@gmail.com).

"Tarp Flipper" Makes Covering Loader Tractors Easy

"I used to have to climb up on slippery fenders many times each winter to drag a heavy canvas tarp over the top of my home-built mini loader tractor. I finally decided to make a tarp flipper to make the job easier," says Don Campbell, Gaylord, Mich.

The flipper consists of a lightweight pole frame that snaps on and off the back. When Campbell wants to cover the loader, he fits the pipes to the back of the machine and then simply flips it up over the top to pull the tarp

over. When he's ready to use it again, he flips the tarp back up and over and disconnects the framework. Takes less than a minute to cover the machine.

There's a video at www.farmshow.com that shows Campbell putting the tarp on and off.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Campbell, P.O. box 132, Gaylord, Mich. 49374 (ph 989 732-3946; doncampbellmodels@yahoo.com).



To cover the loader, Campbell fits the lightweight pole frame to back of machine and then flips it up over the top.



Don Campbell converted a floor shop crane to this 3-pt. mounted crane equipped with forks. Works great to move light loads on pallets and for other jobs.

Floor Shop Crane Converted To 3-Pt. Mounted Forklift

Don Campbell, Gaylord, Mich., converted a floor shop crane to a 3-pt. mounted crane equipped with forks.

"I made use out of something that was just taking up space and not being used at all," he says.

A few years ago he bought the cherry picker-type crane mounted on 4 steel wheels to use in his workshop. But after using it a couple times he decided to convert it to fit on back of his home-built, miniature Deere 4020 garden tractor. He used it to tow garden tractors around his yard.

But then he kicked it up a notch by angling the leg ends to work like forks, so that he can use the crane to move light loads on pallets, too. The forks fold up, and 2 pins hold them in position out of the way.

"I left the crane's wheels in place so when the unit is detached, I can roll it around on a cement floor with the forks in the upright position," says Campbell.

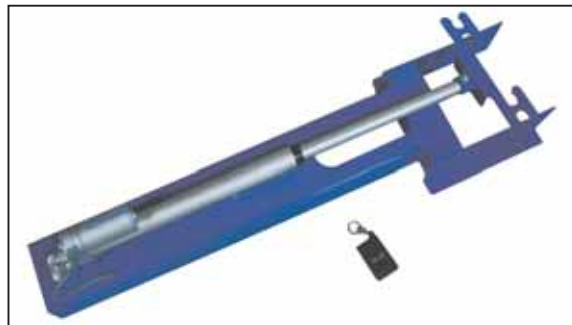
He lowered the crane's 3-pt. arms almost all the way and measured where the attachment pins needed to go. Then he took some 2-in.

wide by 1/4-in. thick metal and welded it between the top and bottom of the crane's frame to support a horizontal mounting bar, which he made from more 2 by 1/4-in. metal. He cut two 4-in. long pieces and drilled 3/4-in. dia. holes for the pins. After hooking the pins in the 3-pt. swivel balls he marked and welded them in place.

"I measured the third link bracket and welded another shorter crossbar in place," says Campbell. "Then I cut two more 4-in. long pieces and drilled 3/4-in. dia. holes in them for a pin to hold the top link. That way I can raise and lower the crane from the tractor. I then cut the wheels off the folding legs and tapered the ends similar to a forklift."

"The forks can be easily raised by changing the position of 2 pins on each side. With the forks upright, I can use the crane to lift a garden tractor and tow it to my workshop."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Campbell, P.O. Box 132, 433 N. Ohio Ave., Gaylord, Mich. 49734 (ph 989 732-3946; doncampbellmodels@yahoo.com).



Battery-operated seed box opener is opened and closed by using a wireless keychain remote.

Student Invents Seed Box Opener

Climbing up onto wagons or tenders to open seed boxes by hand can be a tedious, and even dangerous, job. This new "Seedslide" eliminates the need to leave the seat of your tractor or skid loader.

The seed box opener is designed to be quickly installed onto a seedbox, which is then raised up over a seed tender or onto a conveyor. It operates on a Milwaukee 112-volt battery and charging station. A wireless keychain remote is used to control the device.

Josh Doering, a senior majoring in ag marketing at Morningside College, invented the Seedslide. He helps at his father's seed business, where bulk seed totes are used extensively. After taking first prize in a recent inventors' competition, he sold a couple units to other dealers, then partnered with a

Hubbard, Iowa shop to produce the Seedslide commercially.

"This box opener lets the operator stay on the forklift and wirelessly operate the box gate opener to open the gate from the seat of his forklift, which is much safer than getting off the forklift and climbing up onto a tender to open the box," says Doering. "Features include a spring-loaded latching tab to ensure unit stays on the box and tabs that lock it in place upon closing."

The seed box opener sells for \$949 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Central Iowa Powder Coating, 26950 U.S. 65, Hubbard, Iowa 50122 (ph 641 864-2829; www.seedslide.com).

Soccer Ball Smooths Out Tractor Ride

"Here's how I cushion the ride on my garden tractor when moving the lawn. I place a partially deflated soccer ball under the seat," says Lawrence Vande Kieft, Street, Md.

"It's easy to change the amount of cushioning by adjusting the air pressure in the ball. Works great."



Partially deflated soccer ball fits under tractor seat to smooth out the ride.