



**Trailing rock picker was built out of a Grimme potato harvester and a 4-row Lockwood potato windrower. A pair of pto-driven, 30-in. wide chain conveyors ride on top of rollers.**



**Side-mounted conveyor on back raises and lowers hydraulically to dump rocks into a semi trailer.**

## Potato Harvester Converted To Heavy-Duty Rock Digger

"It works good and was relatively inexpensive to build," says Leslie Shamburg of Monte Vista, Colo., about the heavy-duty, trailing rock picker he built out of an old Grimme potato harvester and a 4-row Lockwood potato windrower.

Shamburg built the rock picker 17 years ago for a local potato farmer, who is still using the machine.

"I owned a machine shop at the time and charged \$10,000 in labor to build the rig. The

farmer spent \$400 to buy the two machines for a total cost of less than \$11,000. He would have had to spend at least twice that much at the time for a similar-size commercial rock picker," says Shamburg.

The rock picker is equipped with 2 pto-driven, 30-in. wide hook chain conveyors that ride on top of rollers. Each conveyor section is made up of 60-in. wide sets of chains. The conveyor in front came off the Lockwood windrower and drops dirt and rocks into the

second section, which Shamburg built out of new hook chain mounted on top of a channel iron frame. A side-mounted conveyor on back raises and lowers hydraulically to dump the rocks into either a semi trailer or a semi dump truck. It folds vertically for transport.

Shamburg used only the center 2 rows of the Lockwood windrower. He hard surfaced a used, flat snowplow truck blade and mounted it on front of the machine in order to handle dirt and rocks.

"The first conveyor is 5 ft. high at the top. The second section 9 ft. high and equipped with small pitched chain, so by the time rocks reach the side conveyor there's no dirt," notes Shamburg.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leslie Shamburg, 120 Franklin St., Monte Vista, Colo. 81144 (ph 719 849-0026; shamburgg@gmail.com).

## He Lets Pigs Till His Garden

For about three days every fall and spring, Luke Eising runs a strand or two of electric fence wire around his garden and lets his pigs take over. They eat leftover veggies and grub out roots and vegetation. Eising gets free fertilizer and a deeply-tilled garden ready to disc and plant.

"I do a lot of plowing with pigs," says the White Cloud, Mich., farmer. He and his wife, Caitlin, own Provision Family Farms, and make about half their income selling pasture-raised pork, with the rest coming from selling pasture-raised beef, sheep and poultry.

Eising first used pigs several years ago to start a new garden. He needed to separate the boar from the sows, so he built an 8 by 12-ft. pen with green treated lumber bolted to log skids. Each day the boar rooted up the entire

area within the pen. Each day Eising pulled the pen ahead with his 30 hp. IH tractor.

"It was sort of like a chicken tractor for pigs," he says. He provided water with a hose and nipple waterer and shade with a piece of tin over part of the pen. The boar had plenty to eat, and Eising got his garden spot cleared and fertilized.

It worked well for that application, Eising says, noting he hasn't used it for a few years since moving to the current farm where he and his wife raise a half-acre garden for their own use. It's big enough for about 40 pigs to till up over three days.

He also uses his "pig plows" to work up small acreages he wants to plant for feed.

"They work the ground and manure it thoroughly where they winter," Eising



**Luke Eising runs a couple strands of electric fence wire around his garden and lets his pigs "plow" it (left). He used the same idea on an 8 by 12-ft. pen with green treated lumber bolted to log skids.**



says, noting that the method of disturbance followed by several recovery years of rest works well for him. One of his favorite crops to plant in the pig-tilled ground is Sudex, a sorghum-sudangrass hybrid that is sweet and nutritious for the pigs to pasture on.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Luke Eising, Provision Family Farm, 5274 E. 6 Mile Rd., White Cloud, Mich. 49349 (ph 231 689-0457; www.provisionfamilyfarms.com; provisionfamilyfarms@gmail.com).

## New System Prevents Grain Bin Falls

Grain bin checks can be a lot safer with a grain bin fall protection system developed by Northern Strands, a Canadian safety equipment company.

The system is placed along the ladder on the outside of the bin to arrest falls inside or outside. An anchor plate bolted at the top near the bin opening holds a cable that runs down the bin.

"The line attaches to the bottom of the ladder to create tension so the climber can go up smoothly," Rossen says. The person climbing the ladder wears a harness with a shock-absorbing lanyard that snaps onto a D-ring on the wire rope grab that moves with him or her as they climb.

If the climber falls off the ladder the clip will catch, suspending the person until they can get back on the ladder. Should they fall inside, they will be suspended in the harness. A rescue plan should always be developed before using the Grain Bin Fall Protection System in case of a fall, Rossen notes.

He adds that the system was developed with input from producers about the need for such a system as well as cost.

The anchor system (bin package) sells for about \$360 retail in Canada (about \$260 in the U.S.). The harness, lanyard and wire rope grab (user package) is \$500 in Canada (about \$400 U.S.).

He cautions that the system is engineered



**Grain bin fall protection system consists of a D-ring that slides along a cable next to ladder.**

for each specific grain bin. Right now it's available for Westeel 1805 bins but testing is in progress on other models. The galvanized plate, cable, and stainless steel traveler system can be easily installed with a drill and a few tools in about half an hour by most producers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Northern Strands, 3235 Millar Ave., Saskatoon, Sask. Canada S7K 5Y3 (ph 306 242-7073; www.northernstrands.com; info@northernstrands.com).



**Bob Manzke points his pvc contraption at an angle to blow leaves out of his gutters.**

## He Cleans Rain Gutters Without Climbing Ladders

"It keeps me off the ladder," says Bob Manzke about his pvc contraption to blow leaves out of his home's rain gutters. At 74, he decided it was smarter to avoid heights and do the job from the ground.

The setup is simple - a 10-ft. length of 1 1/2-in. pvc pipe (that fits into his leaf blower with a 2-in. adapter) and two 90-degree elbows with a short piece of PVC in between.

"I heated the end (of the pvc pipe) with a torch and flattened it with a vise. I hold it over the gutter and point it at an angle to blow out the leaves," Manzke says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Manzke, Sunnybook Farm, N8646 Miller Rd., Seymour, Wis. 54165 (sunnybook@aol.com).