



"It has an open deck that doesn't plug up with wet grass like a regular push mower," says Dan Kern about his 3-wheeled, 22-in. wide string mower/trimmer. It uses the largest trimmer string line on the market.



Trimmer's front caster wheel makes it more maneuverable than a 2-wheeled string trimmer, says Kern.

"Made It Myself" 3-Wheeled String Trimmer

Since building his 3-wheeled string mower/trimmer, yard work has been easier for Dan Kern.

"I have to mow around many bushes, trees, planters, and other obstacles. The wet Nebraska grass plugs up and weighs down a regular push mower, and the two-wheeled string trimmers are cumbersome for yard trimming. So I made my own," explains Kern.

Two features make it work very well. The open deck prevents clogging while the front caster wheel gives it maneuverability.

Kern measured his old push mower, made drawings, and then cut parts with a CNC plasma cutter to make the deck and reel disk out of 12-ga. mild steel. He mounted the engine and handlebars from his old mower, and purchased two 10-in. foam-filled pneumatic tires for the back and an 8-in.

caster wheel for the front.

"It uses the largest trimmer string line on the market and cuts 22-in. wide," Kern says.

He added a guard on the front to keep grass from clogging the caster wheel and a guard on back to stop grass from hitting him as he mows.

Though the trimmer is a marketable idea, he built it for his own use. He's been pleased with how easy it is to push around objects and

that he no longer has to unplug packed grass under the deck.

Check out a video of the trimmer in action at FARMSHOW.COM.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Kern, Linwood, Neb. 68036 (drafterman001@gmail.com).

Hog Carcasses Cart

The Scoop & Pull Carcass Cart is designed to haul hog carcasses out of buildings. The Pennsylvania agriculture supply company worked with a manufacturer to bring the cart to market.

"There was a need in the industry for something that fits through the walkways, corners and 18-in. alleyways of many hog facilities," says Jeremy Martin, who works in sales and purchasing for Farmer Boy Ag. "This is different because you don't need a winch, pulley cables or pneumatic tires." Just tilt the cart and scoop to load the animal, pull it upright and then wheel it away.

The steel 16 by 44-in. cart is easy to pull and has a gooseneck wheel that turns 360 degrees. It has a 1,000-lb. weight capacity, and the rubber wheels with Delrin bearings hold up well in temperatures ranging from -40 to 180 F, as well as in pit gas when left inside the facility.

Only on the market since late 2016, the cart has been very popular with operators of large hog operations, Martin says. In addition to hauling carcasses, it moves downer pigs



You tilt the cart and scoop to load animal, then pull cart upright and wheel it away.

safely and serves as a utility cart for wean-to-finish barns – to haul bags of feed, mats, brooders, heaters, etc.

The carcass cart sells for \$425, plus shipping. Check out YouTube for videos on ways to use the cart and how to assemble it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Farmer Boy Ag, 50 West Stoever Ave., Myerstown, Penn. 17067 (ph 800 845-3374; www.FarmerBoyAg.com).

Powered Carcass Cart

Here's an innovative rig to haul dead pigs out of barns. The German-built Porky's Pickup is a battery-powered sled you walk behind or you can attach a trolley and ride along.

The machine measures 21 in. wide and 3 1/2 ft. long with 3-ft. high handlebars. It has rollers with teeth on its front half that grab a dead animal and pull it onto the sled. Pulling the animal up involves starting the rollers and driving forward at the same time. To unload you simply reverse the rollers.

Maximum weight is up to 300 lbs. so it's not meant for sows. When the pig is fully loaded on the cart, most of the weight is over the axle. Top speed is about 3 mph. Sells for about \$7,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary McDuffee, Hog Slat Midwest Division, 1112 20th St. N., P.O. Box 543, Humboldt, Iowa 50548 (ph 800 294-4014; www.hogslat.com; gmcduffee@hogslat.com).



The operator can walk behind Porky's Pickup carcass cart, or attach a trolley and ride along.

Front-Mounted Cover Crop Seeders Lets You Till Behind

"You can pull a tillage tool behind the tractor to spread and incorporate the cover crop spread by our up-front seeder. It's an economical way to plant cover crops after corn or soybean harvest," says Gerry Wenzinger, Wenzinger Farms, New Bavaria, Ohio.

His company introduced the European-built seeder at the recent National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky. It's available in 2 models, both of which mount on a specially designed 3-pt. hitch made by Wenzinger Farms. It can be mounted on suitcase weights or directly on front of the tractor frame, and also on back of the tractor.

One model is a broadcast spinner spreader with a capacity of 10.6 cu. ft. The other is a pendulum spreader that's available in capacities from 10.6 to 42.4 cu. ft. Both models are driven by a hydraulic motor and come with a 540 pto shaft, allowing the spreader to also be 3-pt. mounted on back of the tractor.

The spreader is made by BMC Agricola, a Spanish company, and Wenzinger Farms is a dealer for them.

"We've designed this system mainly for use after corn harvest to plant cereal rye. It's the only cover crop you can put on that late and still get enough root growth to do some good," says Wenzinger. "We've experimented with this seeder for the past 3 years, planting rye and pulling a vertical till disk behind to incorporate the seed. We got a perfect stand every year. Planting the seed and tilling it in one pass eliminates the risk that rain will prevent making a second pass with your disk."

The pendulum spreader comes with a hard plastic tube that extends about 3 ft. in front, and in operation it swings continually from side to side like a pendulum, says Wenzinger. "A pendulum spreader is more accurate than spinner-type spreaders, and delivers an overlapping spread pattern that allows for more driving forgiveness with no skips or wasted seed due to double coverage."

One of the main goals of cover crops is to ensure that any nutrients not used by the crop



Front-mounted cover crop seeders are available in 2 models, both of which mount on a specially designed front 3-pt.

will be taken up by the cover crop for release the following year. "Farmers in northwest Ohio are particularly interested in reducing phosphorus runoff," says Wenzinger. "Our local Soil and Water Service offers financial incentives to help farmers get started planting cover crops. Cover crops also take up leftover nitrogen."

He says the system offers a relatively inexpensive way to seed cover crops. "It's a lot less expensive than aerial seeding. Some farmers use their grain drill to seed cover crops, but it doesn't take long before they have to spend a lot of money to replace all the wear parts on the drill."

Wenzinger says some farmers may want to use the unit to spread fertilizer. "In that case they can just unbolt the hydraulic motor and bolt the pto shaft on," he notes.

A 3-pt. hitch designed to mount on suitcase weights sells for \$500; and \$600 when mounted on the tractor frame. The broadcast spreader sells for \$1,600. Pendulum spreaders sell for \$2,300 to \$3,400 depending on size.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerry and Robert Wenzinger, Wenzinger Farms, 14-406 Co. Rd. Y, New Bavaria, Ohio 43548 (ph 800 972-7919; rswnz@henry-net.com).