



Dale McLaen rebuilt an old 3-pt. mounted mower by stripping it down and building a new deck out of 1/4-in. steel.

Mower Rebuilt To “Better Than New”

A beat up abandoned 3-pt. mower turned out better than new after being rebuilt by Dale McLaen. Left behind at an old farmstead, the big mower had been junked.

“A friend of mine bought an old farmstead and was cleaning up the yard and buildings when he saw it,” says McLaen. “He told me I could have it for free.”

McLaen took it back to his shop and stripped it down. He could see that the gearbox, tail wheel and some of the bracing were still good.

“I measured all the dimensions of the original frame and body of the old cutter, cut out those pieces that could be salvaged and then duplicated the deck and side with new 1/4-in. steel,” says McLaen. “The new steel about doubled the weight and strength of the deck.”

McLaen also replaced seals and changed oil in the gearbox, installed new blades, and made the pto shaft safe again.



Mower’s original deck was all beat up.

“It works as good as a new one, plus it’s extremely sturdy,” says McLaen. “The total cost was \$275 for the new materials and paint.”

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Drive-over gate comes with adjustable ramps. When you drive your wheels onto them the gate drops down.

Drive-Over Gate Sets Up Anywhere

The purpose of Lakeland’s Push ‘N’ Drive Over Gates is simple. No more getting out to open gates. Drive your wheels onto the adjustable ramps and the gate drops down so you can drive over. The gate works both ways.

“We started making them about 10 years ago,” says Andy Deayton, general manager for Lakeland, a Manitoba-based business. “You can drive over them (gates) with a truck or 4-wheeler. If you have cows grazing, they can’t push it open.”

Farmers and ranchers with fenced pasture who drive through a few times a day appreciate the time and labor the gate saves. The gate also works with irrigation pivots for systems that go through different fields. The heavy-

gauge, spring steel is on a spring and works in winter too, as long as the mechanism is free of snow.

“There’s not a lot to go wrong, they are pretty maintenance-free,” Deayton says. “If a spring breaks, we ship a new one.”

The gates come in three sizes: 6, 14 and 16-ft. Prices range from \$1,300 to \$2,200 including shipping in North America. Lakeland also has a U.S. division in Minnesota.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lakeland Farm & Ranch Direct, Box 1310, 1 Limestone Dr., Stonewall, Man. Canada R0C 2Z0; or 14250 Judicial Rd., Burnsville, Minn. 55306 (ph 866 443-7444; www.lakelandfarmandranch.com).



Jasper Enterprises rebuilds worn-out manure tanks with “a higher quality steel than is often found in new tanks,” says Clarence Martin.

Rebuilt Manure Tanks Sell For Half The Cost Of New

Jasper Enterprises makes worn-out manure tanks as good or even better than new. The custom manure haulers got into the business after rebuilding a rusted-out tank for themselves.

“Steel tanks rust out in as little as 15 years or less,” says Clarence Martin, Jasper Enterprises. “We decided to rebuild the first tank with stainless steel, and after using it, thought others might be interested. We advertised it, and sold it quickly.”

Since then, Martin has bought, rebuilt and sold rebuilt manure tanks throughout the Midwest, with one going to Canada. The smallest size to date is 6,300 gal. but 7,300 gal. is the most common size.

“A new, 7,300-gal., stainless steel tank can run \$100,000,” says Martin. “We currently rebuild Houle/GEA tanks for around \$56,000, depending on options.”

The rebuild uses 3/16-in. grade, 304 stainless steel. “We use a higher quality than often found in new stainless steel tanks,” says Martin. “We also install baffles and double weld all seams inside and out whenever possible.”

Jasper Enterprises reinforces the tanks in several places where older tanks often display cracks. They also go through the undercarriage, replacing hydraulic lines, installing new brake systems and changing out steering cables. Worn out bushings are



Company rebuilds Houle/GEA tanks for about \$56,000, depending on options.

replaced, as are axle spindles if necessary. Cylinders are repacked. The chassis often also gets new tires.

“We try to have the undercarriage where it is close to as good as new and will give years of trouble-free service,” says Martin. “We often buy tanks that are thin and build a new stainless tank on the rebuilt undercarriage.”

Occasionally a rebuilt tank is available in stock. More common is for a customer to buy a tank that is in the process of being rebuilt.

“Our tanks are often sold before we finish them,” says Martin.

The company offers various options, including stainless steel fenders, extra work lights, fill gauges, upgraded brakes and more. Several tire options and sizes are available.

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Babson milker’s pulsator and bucket had been modified for milking goats, with 2 quarters sealed off. Miller tore the old compressor apart and replaced valves and a pressure gauge.



A Low-Cost Way To Milk One Cow

When Sandra Kay Miller needed a way to milk her daughter’s 4-H cow, she turned to equipment that was well over 50 years old.

“An older neighbor I bought hay from was selling his dairy goats,” recalls Miller. “He gave me a Babson milker, but said I’d need a new compressor for it.”

Miller asked him if all it needed was a new compressor, and he said yes. So she bought one at Harbor Freight. When the milker didn’t work, she tore it apart and rebuilt the pulsator. It still didn’t work, so she asked another neighbor for help.

“He asked me if I was trying to blow the milk back into the cow’s udder,” laughs Miller. “He then explained I needed a vacuum compressor, not an air compressor.”

Miller went to work on the old compressor, tearing it apart and replacing valves and a pressure gauge. Once she learned about Hamby Dairy Supply, Mayville, Mo., it was fairly easy. They carry parts and products for dairy producers, whether cow, sheep or

goat. The company also has a long list of manuals for everything from pulsators and vacuum pumps to calf pulling instructions. Each can be downloaded as a PDF from the site at no cost.

“The great thing about Babson Brothers vacuum compressors, which were first produced in 1939, is that they have such an elegant and simple design,” says Miller. “Thomas Edison helped them with the design. Once I rebuilt it, it worked like a charm.”

She says old equipment like her milker can be a low-cost way to get started in dairy. “When I mentor young farmers, I tell them to go on eBay and to farm auctions of older farmers and look for similar equipment,” says Miller. “A new belt may be all that is needed.” Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Painted Hand Farm, P.O. Box 256, Mt. Holly Springs, Penn. 17065 (ph 717 860-9385; sandra@paintedhandfarm.com; www.paintedhandfarm.com).