

## Belly-Mount Sicklebar Mower Fitted To Garden Tractor

Claude Peloquin needed a sicklebar mower to mow farm lanes and along ditches and fence lines - places where he couldn't easily go with a bigger machine. So the Quebec farmer mounted an old 4-ft. long, belly-mount sicklebar mower alongside his 2014 Kioti CS2410 24-hp. loader tractor, belt-driving it off the tractor's front pto.

"It's a nice little mower for small jobs and didn't cost much to mount it," says Peloquin. "I have a great view of the mower, and the tractor's 4-WD, live pto, power steering and hydraulic lift make it easy to operate.

"The Haban Cyclo-Mo sickle mower was made in Racine, Wis., to fit garden tractors of the late 1950's or early 1960's," says Peloquin. "I got it from a used car dealer who didn't know what it was and gave it to me."

Figuring out the parts needed to adapt the mower to the tractor was a challenge, says Peloquin. "I couldn't use the gearbox or pto shaft, but figured I could attach the mower under the tractor and belt-drive it off the tractor's mid 2,000 rpm front pto. I installed a shaft on two bearings and a 3-in. pulley to drive the mower's 6-in. pulley. To attach the

mower, I installed 2 steel brackets on the front part of the tractor frame and another one close to the rear hitch."

The mower is raised and lowered by cables attached to the tractor's 3-pt. lift arms with 2 pulleys. "The mower is designed to operate at 700 to 1,000 strokes per minute, which requires the tractor's engine to operate at 2,000 to 2,500 rpm's," says Peloquin. "That rpm range allows the tractor's HST transmission to operate efficiently. When I want to mow heavy brush, long thick hay, or saplings up to an inch in diameter, I increase the engine rpm's to 2,800 rpm's. There's a trip mechanism on the sicklebar so if it hits something solid it'll release backward. When I put the tractor's transmission in reverse, the sicklebar clicks back in place."

Peloquin says his total out-of-pocket cost was about \$75. "The only parts I bought were two bearings, a shaft and pulley, and a longer belt," he notes.

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Belly-mount sicklebar mower mounts alongside Peloquin's 24 hp. loader tractor, and is belt-driven off tractor's front pto.

## Mobile Watering System Stores Tubing On Cord Reel

Jordan Lantz, Zanesville, Ohio, says 500 ft. of 1/4-in. dia. poly irrigation tubing, stored on an extension cord reel, works great in his rotational grazing system. He hooks the tubing up to his garden hose.

"I use it to fill my water trailer. It saves time because I don't have to drive home to refill the tank," says Lantz. "The tubing is lightweight and cheap. I bought it on eBay for about \$25."

He installed a fitting on one end of the tubing that attaches to the garden hose. Lantz carries a 275-gal. IBC tote tank on a trailer to provide water on pasture and runs the tubing into the tank to fill.

"The flow is about 1 pint per minute or 180 gal. per day, depending on the water pressure. That's enough for my 10 to 20 head," says Lantz, who backgrounds calves by rotating them on pasture and then fattening them on grain. "I leave the water running 24 hrs. a day so I can keep the tank full all the time. It's quick and easy to roll up the hose when we need to move."

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Lantz uses 1/4-in. dia. poly irrigation tubing, stored on a cord reel, to fill the water trailer he uses in his rotational grazing system. It hooks up to his garden hose.

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## UTV Fitted With Turn Signals

The need for greater safety on the road prompted Jim Pettis, Plainview, Minn., to assemble a low-cost, "easy on, easy off" turn signal system for his 2018 Polaris Ranger. It's powered by the UTV's battery and includes both front and rear blinkers. Most of the components were purchased at a local auto parts store.

"I think it's much safer to drive a utility vehicle with turn signals," says Pettis. "I looked at various aftermarket systems, but they're expensive and require drilling holes in the vehicle. My system requires only a couple of hours to set up and can be removed or reinstalled in only about a half hour."

His total cost was about \$200, with about half of that for the control box. "Commercial systems cost about twice as much and require drilling holes in the vehicle's fenders. I bought an electric connector from Polaris that hooks up to the power busbar and supplies a keyed hot wire or a constant hot wire and a ground."

The system consists of a control box with turn signal that mounts on the steering column; four 12-volt LED lights; a flasher relay; and bulk wiring. "The LED lights are attached to small aluminum diamond plates that mount in existing bolt holes in the vehicle's front grill or rear frame," says Pettis,



Jim Pettis added a low-cost turn signal system to his 2018 Polaris Ranger, mounting a control box with turn signal on the steering column. System includes both front and rear blinkers.



who invites anyone with questions about how he put the system together, or who would like a list of parts used, to contact him.

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## Downed Cow Lift "Chair"

Larry Osterhaus was looking for a better way to save cows that go down. He invented a lift with a chair-like frame that does not require rolling the animal over.

The frame, combined with a strap harness, supports the cow and offers a more natural lifting posture that causes less stress to the animal.

It can be used with any tractor with a front bucket or forks, and gives the operator control of both the front and back of the cow.

To get the lifting chair under the cow, a hook rod is slid under the cow in front of the udder. Then pull the strap back under the cow and place the "chair" between the

legs of the cow and then connect the strap for lifting.

Once the cow is up and able to support itself, the lifting chair becomes a safety net allowing the cow to stabilize and gain confidence in her ability to stand.

Osterhaus has lived and raised cows in the United States and Australia. He used his background in spinal care to design the chair.

The Upsi Daisy Cow Lifter comes in 3 sizes. The cost is \$450 plus shipping.

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Chair-like frame, combined with a strap harness, supports cow. It can be used with a loader bucket or forks.