

# He Built His Own Heavy-Duty Bush Hog

"It's built strong and cost less than a commercial bush hog mower," says Phillip Morris, Enterprise, Ala., who built his own heavy-duty, 7-ft. bush hog. It rides on 12-in. caster wheels on back and has a 1-ft. deep deck with an old-style, squared-off look.

Morris operates an automotive shop and built the 3-pt. mounted machine in his spare time and on weekends. "Customers who came into the shop were shocked when they saw what I was doing. They had never heard of anyone building their own bush hog," says Morris. "I looked at several different brands before I built it, and decided to build something heavier. I used it for the first time last spring with my Massey Ferguson 1135 2-WD tractor on about 300 brushy acres, and it worked great."

He says he did a lot of mig welding and used a lot of 2-in. square tubing and 3/8 and 1/2-in. thick steel to build the machine. "It weighs at least 2,500 lbs., whereas most commercial models of comparable size weigh up to 1,800 lbs.," says Morris.

His cost for metal, a gearbox, blades and stump jumper was about \$2,600. "I saved a lot of money because if you figured in the labor and cost of materials, it would cost about \$6,500 to build one. A new bush hog of comparable size sells for about \$8,100," says Morris.

Power is provided by an 85 hp. gearbox welded onto a 1/2-in. thick round steel plate. "A lot of commercial bush hogs rust out around the gearbox, and the steel plate will help keep that from happening. Also, the gearbox and shaft absorb most of the blade's cutting force, and the plate provides reinforcement."

A stump jumper is attached to the bottom of the gearbox, and the blades are bolted to it.

The top of the deck was made by welding together a pair of 4 by 8, 3/8-in. thick steel plates and then cutting them down to 7 1/2 ft. wide. Each side of the deck was made from two 5-in. lengths of 1/4-in. thick channel iron, covered by 11/32-in. thick sheet metal. "I spot welded the sides to make them look like they're riveted on," says Morris.

The front part of the deck is reinforced by a pair of welded-on, 2-in. sq. tubes and also by a pair of 4-in. wide, 1/4-in. thick flat steel bars. The vertical support mounts for the 3-pt. hitch are made from 2 1/2-in. square tubing.

The arms that support the caster wheels were made by sliding lengths of 2-in. square tubing inside 2 1/2-in. tubing and then welding the tubes together for strength.

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Home-built, 7-ft. bush hog rides on caster wheels on back and has a 1-ft. deep deck with an old-style, squared-off look.



A stump jumper is attached to bottom of mower's gearbox, with the blades bolted to it.

## Towable Feed Bunk Business Still Going Strong



Towable 14-ft. feed bunks can be hooked together to tow behind a tractor or pickup. Bunks are steerable so each one follows in the track of the one ahead of it.

Back in 2001 Bob Lutz, Powersville, Mo., introduced towable feed bunks on wheels that can be hooked together so the entire string can be moved around with a tractor or pickup (Vol. 26, No. 5). He and wife Irene still sell the 14-ft. mobile bunks, and have also branched into other products under their company, Feed Train, LLC.

The all-steel, 2-wheeled bunks measure 12 ft. long, 26 in. wide, and 12 in. deep. A special hitch on the front bunk hooks to the tow vehicle. The bunks are "steerable" so

each successive bunk follows in the tracks of the one ahead of it, even when making sharp corners. A drain built into the bottom of each bunk lets water out.

"Our mobile feed bunks were slow to take off and have sold in spurts over the years," says Bob. "However, our design is patented and I don't know of anyone else who sells towable feed bunks. The only change we've made over the years is to add an optional fenceline feeder, which bolts on inside the bunk to keep cows from crossing to the

other side."

A few years ago a Nebraska rancher bought 23 of their towable bunks. "He tows them about 7 miles every day to cattle in 4 different pastures," says Bob.

A year ago the company got a phone call from another rancher, who had contacted the company soon after the original FARM SHOW article was published. "He couldn't afford to buy the bunks back then," says Irene. "However, he had saved the article for all those years and decided now that he's

older it might be the time to buy."

Bob and Irene say the rest of their products - including creep feeders, bulk bins, ATV and UTV feeders - have all sold well. The company recently introduced a pair of small creep feeders available in 650 and 1,000-lb. capacities.

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A Nebraska rancher bought 23 of the towable bunks and tows them about 7 miles every day, to cattle on 4 different pastures.

## "Stool And Bucket" Combo Straddles Garden Rows



Stool with bucket attached to one side straddles garden row, allowing Kress to pick beans and peas while sitting directly over the row.

"As far as I know, there's nothing on the market designed to straddle the row like my 'stool and bucket' garden stool. It's so easy to use," says Doug Kress, Tell City, Ind., who uses the one-piece unit to pick green beans and peas in his garden.

He used scrap steel and 1 1/2-in. round tubing from an old trampoline to make an 18-in. wide, 18-in. high stool, then attached a 5-gal. plastic bucket to one side of it. The bucket sets inside a 12-in. dia. metal ring welded to one of the stool's legs, with the bottom of the bucket about 4 in. off the ground. An 8-in. wide rebar handle is welded on front of the stool, which sets on a pair of legs welded to 16-in. long horizontal metal

skids. The top of the stool is made from plywood, with shag carpeting stapled onto it.

The design allows Kress to pick beans and peas while sitting directly over the row, and without having to bend over. "Sitting above the row, I can easily lay the bean stalks or pea vines over to one side and see all the pods," says Kress. "When I want to move, I just grab the handle and slide the stool forward. The bucket stays out of the dirt and doesn't get caked with mud, so I'm always able to bring a clean bucket of vegetables into the house."

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