



Thornton piles firewood onto a section of old hay ring, then uses his tractor's 3-pt. bale spear to move it around.

Illustration By Kurt Holdorf

## Hay Ring Firewood Hauler

George Thornton figured out an easy step-saving way to pile and move firewood using a section of an old hay ring. The Gray, Georgia, farmer set the ring section on a couple of planks, then loads it up with firewood chunks. With his tractor's 3-pt. bale spear he slips the two short stabilizer spears under the ring to move it. Forks would also work, he says.

"I can pick up about half a cord of wood at a time," Thornton says. He sets the ring

filled with wood next to his outdoor wood-burning furnace.

Now 95 and legally blind, Thornton says he no longer burns wood for heat. But for the years when he did, his hay ring stacker/hauler worked very well.

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## "Fold-Flat" Portable Grooming Chute

Anyone who exhibits animals at livestock shows will be interested in this portable grooming chute that folds for easy transport and storage. According to the manufacturer, CK Mfg. in Lancaster, Penn., it's big enough for grooming show cattle and works great for sheep and goats.

The lightweight aluminum cattle chute is built from 2-in. aluminum tubing and measures 7 ft. long by 3 ft. wide, but folds down to just 9 in. high. It rides on 2 small wheels and comes with a handle at one end that makes it easy to move around. It weighs 131 lbs. There's an adjustable headlock at one end, and a foam floor that provides good traction.

The chute comes with 4-position side rails that can be mounted horizontally or vertically using holes provided in the frame. It collapses by removing 2 steel pins to remove the braces and then pulling the side rails out.

Sells for \$908 plus S&H.



Portable grooming chute folds down to just 9 in. high.

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## Golf Shoe Cleats Boost Winter Traction

To get more traction on snow and ice, Mike Peters attaches golf shoe cleats to the bottom of workboots.

"If plastic golf shoe cleats can boost traction on grass, I figured they could on ice, too," says Peters. "But unlike with other shoe traction devices, I can walk indoors on smooth surfaces without slipping and falling, and on carpets without snagging on them. I use only older work shoes with rubber soles at least 3/4 in. thick."

He drills a hole into the bottom of the sole and squirts super glue in the hole, then inserts the base of the cleat—by pounding it into the sole—before adding more glue and screwing the cleat into the base.

"I can walk on icy, inclined surfaces

where I wouldn't have gone in the past with no problem," says Peters. "I have several different pairs of shoes with cleats on them, and use each shoe for a different purpose. I wear a size 13 and generally install 8 cleats per boot. Many second hand stores sell used winter work shoes cheap, which work great if you don't want to drill holes into new shoes."

Peters came up with the idea after he bought a pair of slip-on Yaktrax traction cleats, which are designed with a coil system that slips on over the shoe. "One time I went shopping at Walmart while wearing Yaktrax cleats, and I slipped on the floor and lost my balance. Fortunately I was able to grab onto a nearby shopping cart so I didn't fall and get hurt. I noticed that some other shoppers

were removing their Yaktrax cleats before entering the store, and putting them back on again when they left. I thought there had to be a better way."

Word of his traction cleats got around, and now Peters says he modifies quite a few shoes for friends and neighbors. Last winter he gave several pairs of modified shoes to patients at a local nursing home, who were able to go on a day trip and walk safely outdoors. "Some of the people were so thrilled they now think I walk on water," he notes.

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When weather conditions become icy, Peters pulls on a pair of work boots fitted with golf shoe cleats.

## Drawbar-Mounted Electric Winch

"I've enjoyed FARM SHOW for quite a few years and always look forward to reading about the creative projects of other readers," says David Gauch, Garrettsville, Ohio. "However, it wasn't until I read the 'slide-on trailer ball hitch' story in your last issue (Vol. 44, No. 6) that I decided my drawbar-mounted winch might be worthy of FARM SHOW. I use the winch on my 15 hp. Satoh Beaver loader tractor."

Gauch bought a Harbor Freight UTV electric winch and bolted it to a homemade steel bracket, which slides onto the tractor's drawbar.

"The pulling power of the winch helps with clean-up activities on my property," says Gauch. "It comes in handy for removing brush and pulling downed trees to an open area where they can be cut up. It's especially helpful when there isn't room for the tractor to get up close to the material."

"With the winch's remote control I can stand safely to the side while operating it. I also use it to move non-running project lawn tractors around."

The winch along with its fairlead and circuit breaker box are bolted to a 6-in. long, 1/4-in. thick steel plate. Gauch formed a 9-in. long steel plate into a U-shape and welded it on under the 6-in. plate to slide over the drawbar. A hitch pin between the winch and circuit breaker box holds the assembly onto



Remote-operated electric winch is bolted to a homemade bracket that slides onto tractor's drawbar.

the drawbar. He wired a quick disconnect to the battery and mounted on a bracket that's attached to one of the tractor's fenders.

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## Excavator-Mounted Log Splitter

Skid loader-mounted log splitters have been around for years, but this is the first excavator-mounted splitter we've seen.

Dean Zimmerman, Tunas, Mo., mounted a home-built log splitter in place of the bucket on his Takeuchi TB 240 compact excavator, which is equipped with a 35 hp., 4-cyl. Yanmar diesel engine.

"It lets me split firewood and load it into a truck or trailer without ever getting off the excavator," says Zimmerman. "I can swing the splitter around just like I would swing the bucket around, without moving the machine and tearing up the ground. I can position the splitter horizontally to 'pinch' the log, then swing the excavator around and rotate the splitter to a vertical position so that as the wood is split it falls into the truck or trailer."

"My 92-year-old dad came out to watch me operate it one day and he commented, 'I never thought I'd see the day when you could split firewood while sitting in a seat.'"

The splitter consists of a 5-ft. steel I-beam with a fixed splitting wedge at one end, and a push plate that slides back and forth on a pair of steel rollers powered by a 4-in. dia., 2-ft. stroke hydraulic cylinder.

The splitter originally was designed to be trailer-mounted, and Zimmerman used it with his tractor that way for years. To make the



Log splitter mounts in place of the bucket on Zimmerman's compact excavator.

conversion he welded a quick tach mounting bracket near the center of the I-beam, which hooks up to the quick hitch on the excavator. He also removed the splitter's hydraulic valves in order to use the hydraulics on the excavator's thumb, making it hands-free and more machine friendly to operate. "I use the thumb hydraulics to operate the splitter," notes Zimmerman.

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