



Reining added electric lift to his Wheel Horse by installing a 12-volt electric screw jack between the tractor's frame and existing lift handle.

Electric Lift Installed On Wheel Horse Tractor

Steven Reining, Mt. Zion, Ill., recently added an electric lift system on his 1974 Wheel Horse 12 hp. garden tractor. The tractor came factory-equipped with a hydrostatic transmission with manual lift.

"It was a simple conversion that required minimal modifications to the tractor. Electric lift really comes in handy for rototilling and moldboard plowing work," he says.

Reining says most factory electric lifts are built into the tractor and work good for a long time. Repairing them, however, can be a very time-consuming project. "The conversion I designed can be easily and affordably done to any manual lift tractor. It's much simpler than adding an internal package."

He bought a 12-volt electric screw jack on eBay, and attached it between the tractor frame and the existing lift handle. "The screw jack you use should have at least a 10-in. stroke and about 300 lbs. of force," says Reining.

He used a split pipe to build an attachment block that goes around the lift handle to give it more strength. He then made a fixed lift tab that bolts onto the tractor frame. "The

lift tab has to be strong because it holds up the screw jack and takes all the weight of the implement," says Reining. Then he clamped the lift bar attachment to the tractor and connected the screw jack ends to the 2 points.

The next step was to install a 12-volt DC rocker or toggle switch that is "spring return to center" so the switch is on-off-on. "Don't use a detent switch as you'll likely burn the screw jack motor by leaving it powered in one direction or the other," says Reining.

"The last step is to either remove or block out the detents on the tractor's original lift, because you don't want the lift to get stuck in the original mechanical notches. Locate the controls where they're most convenient to use."

Reining says the electric lift makes it easy to adjust implement height. "When you stop the screw jack's movement, that's where the implement's lift height stays because you can't push the screw jack in or out," he notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steven L. Reining, 120 W. Main St., Mt. Zion, Ill. 62549 (ph 217 864-4664; slreining@gmail.com).

They Sell Replica Gauges For Tractors

Whether a tractor was built in the 1920s or is brand new, there's a good chance T.H.E. Company Parts Store has the gauges, rubber, lights, engine parts and other parts farmers need for most makes and models of tractors, combines, or implements - including hard-to-find parts.

"Gauges and rubber components are just one area of our expertise," says Tom Hassenfritz, owner of T.H.E. Company. "We have gone to great pains to make our gauges as close as possible to the originals. As a result, we have extremely precise, detailed replacement gauges at a price that is competitive to the lesser quality, generic ones sold in big box stores."

Each year he works with manufacturers to create more aftermarket gauges for additional models, starting from 2-cylinder tractors in the mid-20s. Hassenfritz provides the manufacturer with original parts and then tests prototypes until they meet T.H.E. Company's standards. The gauges have glass (not plastic) faces and look like the originals. T.H.E. Company also specializes in LED lighting.

Hassenfritz says, "Over time we have adapted the LED technology to older tractors to replace incandescent lights. Among other items we have had manufactured, are an LED fender-mounted flasher and a replacement for the G.E. 4411 bulb. Both of these lights have been commonly used for over 30 years in farm machinery, but with the LED technology we have been able to increase the safety of the tractor while improving the lumen output of the light."

They have a catalog, website, and knowledgeable staff answering the phone



T.H.E.'s aftermarket gauges for tractors have glass faces and look like the originals.



at their retail store in Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, T.H.E. Company, 1300 W. Washington St., Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641 (ph 800 634-4885; www.THE-CO.com; th9080@gmail.com).



Schafer's 40-ft. poultry processing container is available with a new Freeze/Chill Box that chills between -5F and 55F.

Poultry Processing Container Offers Refrigeration

David Schafer's new Freeze/Chill Box for processed poultry has come a long way from the \$5 poultry plucker he shared with FARM SHOW readers 25 years ago (Vol. 20, Issue 1). The latest innovation is ideal for producers who raise and direct sell 10,000 or more birds a year.

Built by a Missouri neighbor starting with good-condition, one-time-use shipping containers, the cold storage areas are a recent addition to Schafer's Plant in a Box.

"It's a turnkey solution that customers appreciate because it meets USDA inspection requirements," says Schafer. The 40-ft. containers include his Featherman Equipment that allows producers to kill, scald, pluck, eviscerate and chill up to 200 birds/hour. He has offered Plant in a Box since 2012 with a chill tank. Last year, he added the Freeze/Chill Box option that ranges from -5F to 55F.

"A dedicated chilling facility or room is more efficient than water chilling," Schafer says. Customers decide how much space in the trailer is used for the room - usually it's

10 or 12 ft. by 7 ft., which is enough to hold up to 1,000 processed birds.

The cost of the Plant in a Box with the freeze/chill box is \$120,000. Without the freeze/chill box prices start at \$95,000.

"It's plug and play so you are up and running in a couple of weeks. It's cheaper than building, and it's a temporary structure so you are not taxed," Schafer says. Plus, the container can be sold and moved to another location.

Demand for birds increased dramatically in 2020, and Schafer anticipates growing interest in Plant in a Box with the help of COVID funds for businesses. He adds that customers can use them for commercial kitchens also. The poultry equipment can be removed, and stoves or other equipment brought in to make everything from bone broth to banana bread.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Schafer, Plant in a Box, LLC, Jamesport, Mo. (ph 660 973-4040; www.plantinabox.com; david@plantinabox.com).



Thunderstruck double action revolver fires two .22 magnum bullets at the same time. The cylinder holds 8 rounds, so 4 shots can be fired in just seconds.

Revolver Shoots Two Bullets At Once

Folks looking for a weapon to dispatch pests on the farm or to provide personal protection have a new option. The S333 Thunderstruck is the only revolver that shoots two .22 magnum rounds at the same time.

"This gun is very simple to use," says Lou Frutuoso, president of Standard Manufacturing, who developed and started selling the gun in 2019. "The advantage is system redundancy. Two tiny bullets create the same energy on the attacker with the advantage of a gun without a recoil."

If one bullet misfires, the other one fires. Plus, the cylinder holds 8 rounds so 4 shots can be fired in seconds with the double barrel, double action revolver. Besides regular .22 magnum shells, .22 magnum birdshot shells can be used.

"The beauty is you can put a bullet and

birdshot in to shoot at the same time," Frutuoso says. That works well for shooting everything from snakes to bigger pests on the farm or ranch.

The 3 1/2-in. long revolver with a 1 1/4-in. barrel is a short range gun designed for 12 yards or closer. It has an easy, long trigger pull with a toggle safety. It's safe and simple to use, even for people who don't do a lot of shooting.

"It's not a gimmick. It's a novel idea from people thinking out of the box. It's been very popular," Frutuoso says.

The revolver sells for \$429, and buyers must have a handgun permit.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Standard Manufacturing, 100 Burrill St., New Britain, Ct. 06053 (ph 860 225-6581; www.stdgun.com; info@standardmfgllc.com).