



Carl Belohlavek built his firewood processor to handle up to 18-in. diameter logs using a 23 hp. Kubota motor.

## Hands-Off Firewood Processor

At 78, Carl Belohlavek is reaping the benefits of the time and labor he put into building a firewood processor 4 years ago.

"I don't have to touch the wood with my hands at all," he notes, except for throwing it into the outdoor stove that heats his Wisconsin home and 2,000-sq. ft. shop.

He picks up several 10-ft. logs at a time with the grapple on his skidsteer and drops them on to the live deck of his processor. It drops one log at a time on a belt that takes it to a 24-in. saw with a carbide chain. The firewood length blocks drop into the splitter that self-centers the block to be split in half or quarters. The split wood falls onto a 24-ft. conveyor belt that carries it to the woodshed where it falls in a pile.

With experience in maintenance and equipment design, Belohlavek looked at many processors to pick out the best ideas to create his own. (FARM SHOW readers may remember the composter he built, Vol. 32, Issue 3).

"I bought the power unit with the hydraulic

reservoir and cooling system. The rest I designed and built, from the trailer on up," he says. Since he plans to use it for a long time, he purchased new steel and hydraulics. He estimates he spent about a third the cost of purchasing a processor.

"It handles wood up to 18-in. in dia., and I can cut off an 8-in. oak log in 3 or 4 seconds," Belohlavek says. "It has only a 23 hp. Kubota motor so I can run it 8 to 10-hours a day and it uses less than 8 gal. of fuel."

With a ball hitch and sections that fold up, such as the live deck, it's portable and can be stored inside a building.

It gets plenty of use processing the 15 cords of firewood he needs each year, plus wood for all the friends who he helps out.

"I've had it 4 seasons and it works just fantastic," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carl Belohlavek, 150680 Redfield Rd., Mosinee, Wis. 54455 (ph 715 581-3501; carlb@tds.net).

## Electronic Ignition Upgrades For Vintage Tractors

Diamond Farm Tractor Parts of Brighton, Ontario says their carburetors and electronic ignition upgrades are a big hit with antique tractor owners.

Operations Manager, Shawn Van Meeuwen, says all they need to know to get an upgrade started is the distributor number and whether you have a 6 or 12-volt system. Then it's a simple matter to remove the points and condenser from the distributor and install a small plate inside with the attaching wire.

He explains the original copper-based engine wires need to be swapped out plus the coil must be upgraded to a hot or super coil. Beyond this, no other parts need to be replaced.

"It's not hard to make it work and it's straightforward to change. All standard stuff," says Van Meeuwen. "You never have to change your points again. Instructions come with the kits, but you don't have to be a super mechanic to get it done, just have basic knowledge of the tractors."

Their in-stock parts target the Ford 2N, 8N and 9N tractors to improve performance over the originally installed equipment. They can supply kits for many other tractor models as well.



**Diamond Garm recommends Pertronix kits to convert tractors to electronic ignition.**

The carburetors are sold for \$200. The electronic ignition kit is \$25 for the wire set and \$60 for the upgraded coil. Complete kits sell for \$280 Canadian.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Shawn Van Meeuwen, Diamond Farm Tractor Parts, 16385 Telephone Rd., Brighton, Ontario Canada K0K 1H0 (ph 800 481-1353; parts@diamondfarmtractorparts.com; www.diamondfarmtractorparts.com).



Agri-Door's wagon has both feed and water tanks.

## Transport Wagon Brings Feed, Water Out To Pasture

After John Stoltzfus observed the lengths farmers would go to when bringing water and feed to livestock on pasture, the manufacturer of bins, silo doors, and related hardware came up with a towable Feed & Water Transport Wagon that consists of poly feed hoppers and water tanks mounted on a rubber-wheeled steel frame.

Agri-Door's poly feed hoppers come in 11 different sizes ranging from .8 to 2.8 tons. Unloading of the feed tank is accomplished with either an electric or hydraulic motor connected to a tractor, truck or whatever is used to pull the wagon.

The water tanks are also made of poly and operate with a gas-powered pump or by gravity flow through a hose. They can be matched to the size of the feed hoppers with options available from 200 to 275 gal.

Most of the production, manufacturing and shipping occurs from Agri-Door's Myerstown, Penn. location.

Stoltzfus urges buyers to consider the distance traveled to pasture along with roughness of land when deciding on size of tanks. For bumpy pastures he doesn't recommend the largest sizes as it can be too hard on the wagon and the machine towing it.

"We saw a need for this kind of equipment and thought we should build it," says Stoltzfus. "We got things going in spring and it's now on the market. It seems to be working well for farmers."

Costs of the wagons are variable depending on water tank and feed bin sizes, but prices start around \$5,500 for the basic, smallest, gravity flow units. Larger tank models with a gas-powered pump sell for approximately \$9,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Stoltzfus, Agri-Door, 649 S. Ramona Rd., Myerstown, Penn. 17067 (ph 717 949-2034; www.agri-door.com).



Extremely Tough Feeders use 3/4-in. solid steel bars and a tractor tire to make a feeder that lasts. Stainless steel fasteners bolt the feeder to a 42-in. or larger used tractor tire.

## Tire Base Makes A Tough Bale Feeder

Extremely Tough Feeders are just that, extremely tough. Manufactured from heavy gauge steel, it is the tire base that really sets them apart from the competition - and from the mud.

"Over our years farming, we saw how many round bale feeders got junked and destroyed," says Jerome Brunner, Extremely Tough Feeders. "The lower rings always rusted out. We decided there had to be something better."

Brunner started with the steel. He uses 3/4 by 3/4-in. solid steel bars for the uprights. The bottom ring is 1 1/2 by 1 1/2 by 1/4-in. steel. The upper ring is 1 1/4 by 1 1/4 by 3/16 in. It is all heavy gauge. The 46-in. tall feeder is 96-in. dia. at the top, narrowing to 70 in. at the bottom.

"A lot of bale feeders use thin material, sometimes even 14 gauge," says Brunner. "They rust out or wear out."

Good steel is one reason Brunner offers a 6-year warranty. Equally important is attaching the feeder to a 42-in. or larger, used tractor tire.

"Our customers supply the tire," says Brunner. "They are practically indestructible

and often hard to get rid of. The tire takes the abuse of equipment like skid steers working around it, and it lasts and lasts."

The feeder splits in half for shipping. Setting one up is just a matter of bolting it together and bolting it to the tire. Stainless steel fasteners add to longevity.

"People tell us they really like the idea of a bale feeder that will last, doesn't freeze down, and at only \$750, isn't expensive," says Brunner.

He suggests adding a stall mat at the bottom of the tire for feeding silage, grain or a TMR ration.

The Extremely Tough Feeder will soon have a sister product. Brunner is working on a mineral feeder using the same concept.

"Rusted-out mineral feeders are a big problem for cattle farmers and horse owners alike," says Brunner. "We are working on the solution in our shop right now."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Extremely Tough Feeders, 10709 Tesch Ln., Rothschild, Wis. 54474 (ph 715 506-2336 or 715 850-0908; extremelytoughfeeders@yahoo.com).