



Sather's tow-behind flame weeder is available from 16 to 30 row widths and carries two 500 gal. propane tanks.

Flame Weeder Builder Now Has "The Perfect Machine"

Western Minnesota organic farmer John Sather went looking for the perfect flame weeder and finally decided to build one himself. Then he built another and another. Each time he sold the "new improved" version to a fellow organic farmer and then he built one better.

"We've built seven different flame weeders for ourselves over the years," says Sather. "We think we have finally settled on the perfect machine."

He is satisfied enough that he and his employees build two or three every winter for sale. The response without doing any advertising encouraged him to start Freyr Manufacturing and turn the sideline into a business. It appears that what he wanted in a flame weeder is shared by others.

"I know too many guys who have burned up tractors with a mounted flame weeder," says Sather. "I decided to make mine super safe by getting the heat a long way from the tractor."

He went with a pull-type unit, which is also easy to hook up and unhook. Hitching up includes attaching three hydraulic hoses and hanging the control pad in the cab.

He also wanted plenty of storage for propane. Most of the ones he builds carry two 500-gal. tanks. He says it keeps operators and their suppliers happy.

"I can cover about 80 acres with a 1,000-gal. tank at about 15 gal. per acre, depending on the weed pressure," says Sather. "Most farmers don't own a tender truck, and the co-ops would rather make fewer trips."

While propane prices are on the rise, Sather doesn't expect it to affect demand for flammers. For organic farmers, it is a no-brainer. He used to harrow corn, then rototill and then cultivate two or three times. Now he flames his weeds two or three times and enjoys clean fields. He notes that it does its best work on broadleaves, but also knocks back grasses and sets back thistles.

"You see a 30 to 40-bushel increase in corn yield on most organic fields," says Sather. "At \$10 per bushel, the flame weeder pays for itself fast."

Prices vary from 16 to 30-row widths. He did build a 22-in., 36-row machine, but it is the exception.

"It was a monster," recalls Sather. "Most of my orders are for 30-row machines."

As he went into harvest this fall, Sather suggested a 30-in., 16-row machine would run about \$90,000. That could change, he notes, as production costs fluctuate.

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Tree Stand Doubles As A Game Cart

Delmar Miller of LaGrange, Ind., is a long-time hunter who didn't like having to haul so much equipment to the woods for deer hunting.

His 20-ft. aluminum tree stand folds down onto an easy-to-roll game cart. The idea came to him after years of hauling a tree stand out to the woods, bagging a deer, and then having to head home to get equipment to haul the deer home for processing.

"I used to go out with a portable climber type of tree stand," he recalls. "But it wouldn't work on trees with a bunch of limbs on it. I wanted something that would work on any tree."

Miller's stand is 20 ft. fully extended and leads up to a small platform with a seat. The seat is attached to the platform. A safety strap secures the platform to the tree.

Getting a ladder that tall to collapse onto a game cart took some work. He thought about the concept for a year and took another 8 mos. to create a working prototype.

"The powder-coated, lightweight ladder itself is 18-ft. tall and it divides into three 6-ft. segments," Miller says. There are hinges on the ladder that allow it to fold.

"The platform and seat both fold down too," he says. "When everything is folded up, the game cart is just over 6 ft. long"

Miller is building his first batch of 10 deer



Miller's combination tree stand and game cart folds down to just over 6 ft. long.

stands/game carts. A N.Y. hunter already bought two stands, and Miller is looking to move the rest of them.

He's already had several dealer inquiries about the product, which sells for \$900.

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This modified Allis C has live hydraulics, a self-leveling loader and a wide front end with power steering.

Modified Allis Chalmers C

"I thought FARM SHOW readers might be interested in the modifications that my grandfather, Albert Holt of Butternut, Wis., and I made to our Allis Chalmers C tractor. It has many 'made it myself' features such as live hydraulics, a self-leveling loader, and a wide front end with power steering," says Helton Vandebush, Butternut, Wis.

"Shortly after he bought the tractor several years ago, he began adding a live hydraulic system to it. A hydraulic pump that was added to the front of the tractor is direct-driven by a shaft coupled to the front motor pulley. The shaft is routed through the housing which originally existed for the hand crank starter.

"His next project was building a self-leveling loader that has upward and downward hydraulic pressure, as well as a hydraulic tilting bucket. The loader is self-leveling due to a clever design that my grandfather came up with. The loader features two lift arms configured in a parallelogram, which controls the tilt of the bucket when the loader is raised or lowered. The self-leveling feature prevents the need for the operator to continuously adjust the tilt angle of the bucket as a load is raised or lowered.

"This tractor originally had a narrow front-

end. It worked fine but my grandfather, my brother Grayson, and I decided to build a wide front end for the tractor. The wide front end is sturdy and provides more stability than the original narrow front end, and it has a couple of unique features. The front end was built as an 'A' frame configuration with two pillow block bearings connecting it to the tractor. This design allows the front wheels to move up and down independently of the rear wheels while going over bumps. Perhaps the most interesting part of the front end is the unique steering system. The pivot point for steering the wheels is directly above the centerline of each wheel, so much less steering force is needed to turn the wheels to the left or right compared to traditional steering mechanisms. Our final step was to add power steering to the tractor by tapping into the live hydraulic system.

"My grandfather taught me many lessons about design work and fabrication while working on this tractor. My brother, grandfather and I were very proud to finish the tractor in the Spring of 2021."

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Super Tarp has a full length sleeve that can hold a 3-in. dia. pipe and has cut-outs every 3 ft. for tie downs. The tarps can last up to 5 seasons.

Super Tarp Protects Big Stacks Of Bales

Instead of building expensive sheds, Rocky Meadow Farm offers the Super Tarp as a solution to protect hay and straw bales. The tarp stands out from others in a couple of ways.

First, it is made with 7 1/2-oz. waterproof, UV-resistant fabric with the strongest tensile strength available. Its silver exterior reflects sunlight and the white interior reduces the temperature 15 to 20 degrees.

But it's the full-length sleeves on the sides that really set the tarp apart.

Grommets tear out, says Steve Musser, owner of Rocky Meadow Farm, but the sleeve distributes the stress more evenly. The sleeve can hold up to a 3-in. diameter pipe - metal or pvc - and has cut-outs every 3 ft. for tie-downs.

Musser explains that the best method to secure the tarps is to place wire every 3 ft. on the ground and stack the bales on top of them. Place the tarp over the bales, slide the

pipe in the sleeve, wrap the wire around the pipe at the cut-outs and slide a high tensile fence ratchet on to tighten the wire. As the bales settle, the tarp should be retightened to prevent wind damage.

Rocky Meadow Farm offers the tarp in 36 and 48-ft. lengths in widths from 20 to 33-ft. The company website has a chart to show the width needed according to round bale sizes. (They also work for square bales.) Prices range from \$140 to \$349.

The tarps, which are sold throughout the U.S. and Canada, can be ordered online or by calling the company.

The tarps typically last three to five seasons and offer a good alternative to building a shed and paying property taxes, Musser says.

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