

# Field Roller Made From Anhydrous Tanks

“My dad Brian and I looked at the cost of buying a new or used land roller last winter and decided it was way too expensive, so we decided to build one ourselves if we could find the right toolbar,” says Brad Farmer. “Building tools or smaller equipment, welding and fabrication has been a big part of my life growing up, so taking on this large of a project wasn’t a problem.”

Farmer says his design ideas came from the 14-ft. used roller his dad bought at an auction several years ago. “The owner built it out of an old LP tank and used 10-20 truck tires to transport it. We use it every year, rolling fields after seeding small grain, and it works great, so we thought, why not make a large one using the same concept?”

Farmer turned to an internet marketplace website to locate a toolbar that he could use to transport his roller. Just 20 minutes from his shop, he found a used Deere 7000 16-row planter toolbar without any row units. “It was the perfect carrier, and all I needed to do was remove hardware and bracing that held the markers, fertilizer pump, and coulter mounts,” Farmer says. To make the rollers, he bought two used anhydrous tanks from a local scrap yard and another from a local farmer. He removed the ends of all



Farmer built a three-section 42-ft. wide field roller using the frame and wheels from a Deere 7000 16-row planter and three used anhydrous tanks.

three tanks with his plasma cutter, removed the filler pipe fittings, and then welded plate steel over the openings to keep dirt from getting inside the rollers.

“I wanted the end pieces to be very precise, so I had a local welding shop with a computer plasma cut them to size,” Farmer says. “Each one is 41 5/16 in. in diameter, 3/8 in. thick with a 2-in. by 7/16-in. solid shaft for the axle. Each roller weighs about 2,700 lbs., is 14 1/2 ft. long and 42 in. in diameter.”

Farmer mounted the wing rollers on the bar using 5/8-in. thick flat steel brackets. He extended the ends of both wings with 7 by 7-in. by 3/8-in. thick square tubing. “It was

very important to do this so that each side drum would have at least one foot of overlap to the rear drum and drop about 7 in. below the toolbar so I could raise the wheels in the field,” Farmer says. The wing rollers are mounted 36 in. behind the bar with 5/8-in. brackets and gusseted frame-work.

The rear roller is built onto a subframe made of 7 by 7-in. square tubing that extends about 5 ft. behind the main toolbar. Hydraulic cylinders on the main frame fold the two wings forward and to the center, where they lock in place with a separate cylinder for road travel. Farmer uses the 2-pt. hitch on his tractor to raise the front of the roller. Two cylinders raise the back wheels, providing 14 in. of road clearance. A manual safety lock secures the wheel’s cylinders. The entire 42-ft. roller folds to 15 ft. wide for road travel, slightly larger than the width of the center roller.

Farmer designed the hydraulics with one remote and an electric control box so he can fold and unfold the roller from the tractor cab. One solenoid handles the transport wheels, another folds and closes the wings, and a third locks the wings. “I plan to streamline this for next year by plumbing the remotes direct and eliminating the solenoids,” Farmer says.

For an investment of about \$10,000 and his time for labor, Farmer says that he and his dad now have a custom-built roller that’s just as good as a new one, for about a third of the cost or less.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brad Farmer, 3596 Trophy Ave., Osage, Iowa 50461 (farmer3596@gmail.com).

## The Everything Bee Vacuum

This crazy fellow got into beekeeping. He really enjoyed removing unwanted colonies from walls & sheds but got frustrated with no

easy tool to vacuum up the structures without killing the bees, so the ultimate bee vacuum was developed. It runs over 6 hours on a single battery charge, has a variable speed control to have just the right suction, and easily captures 40,000+ bees. It weighs under 10 lbs. and has a backpack carrier for going up ladders. There’s even a Pro model that runs 12+ hours for professionals doing removals all day long. No other bee vacuum in the world comes close to the Everything Bee Vacuum.

Call us at (512) 995-0058, or email sales@allmybees.com to ask questions. See the beekeeping vacuums at www.AllMyBees.com.



Reader Inquiry No. 83

## P.F. ENGINEERING

Garden Tractor Upgrades Loaders Backhoes

Helping D.I.Y. equipment builders for 25 years with detailed plans and friendly customer service.



Micro-Hoe Backhoe plans • \$85  
Hydraulic Dump Trailer plans • \$70  
Mid-Mount Loader plans • \$60  
Pin-On Mini Payloader plans • \$60  
Log Splitter plans • \$40

p.f.engineering@gmail.com • www.pf-engineering.com • (413) 835-5801

Reader Inquiry No. 72