

## Desotell's Inventive Ideas

Vern Desotell of Clarissa, Minn., has been a FARM SHOW subscriber for 30 years. In the summer of 2022, he showed our staff more than 20 shop tips and inventive ideas that he says “came to me in the middle of the night when I was reading FARM SHOW issues over and over because I couldn’t sleep.” Desotell says he hopes other readers find these ideas interesting.



### Shop Crane

“I made a handy shop crane using parts from an International 720 chopper,” Desotell says. “The crane rides on the chopper’s wheel hubs so it can move across my shop floor. The uprights are 4 by 4-in. tubular pieces from a pull-type corn planter. I put angled bracing about 3 ft. up to provide support. The cross pipe is another piece of tubular steel that’s welded in place with angled braces to the uprights. I hook a chain lift to the eye hooks on top and lift a lot of heavy

things in my shop. The idea came to me when I was in an equipment dealership and saw one that had two spindles on top and a pivot point in the middle. I built one for my neighbor with a 5-in. by 5-in. piece that extends out about 10 in. from the wall. I’m not sure how much it will lift, so a person just has to use common sense. He can lift the front end of a tractor with his.”



### Windshield For ATV

“My ATV didn’t have a windshield or a toolbox and I didn’t want to spend money for those accessories, so I made them myself. For the windshield, I took one off an old snowmobile and cut an opening so it would fit around the headlight on the ATV. My toolbox is an old metal basket that students used to store their gym clothes in at school. The basket is sturdy, so I bolted it to the platform on top of the front cowling. It holds tools, and I can also use it to hold rocks I pick up in the field.



### Handy Meat Saw

Using a brake rotor and repurposed motor, he made a handy saw to cut meat. “The hardest part was getting the motor to drive the rotor at the right speed for the blade to work well. It was a fairly easy project that didn’t cost me much more than parts I had around the shop.”



### Step For My Skid Steer

“The top of my skid steer bucket is smooth and when it’s muddy or wet, it’s slippery and dangerous to stand on to get into my machine.

I welded an old piece of metal grating 3 ft. wide to the top edge of the bucket. It only took me a few minutes to make, and the grating makes it a lot safer and easier to step into my machine.”



### Hospital Cart Tool Chest

“Buying a rolling tool chest is expensive, so I built my own from a discarded hospital medicine cart. The cart is really strong and has good size casters, so it rolls well on my shop floor. The drawers were wide and deep so I could put in poly containers to hold different parts and tools. The right side has larger drawers to hold bigger parts and things like battery-powered drills and drivers.”

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Farmall F-20 is owned by Czech Republic collector Lukas Kulhanek. He displays it at local shows, complete with a U.S. flag, where it stands out from other models.



## Czech Farmer Restores F-20 Farmall

Czech Republic farmer Lukas Kulhanek loves tractors, even those produced thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean from his farm in Czechoslovakia. Kulhanek owns a 70-year-old Farmall M and a nearly 90-year-old Farmall F-20. He bought the F-20 from a Pennsylvania farmer, shipped it overseas to his country, and restored it to like new condition.

Kulhanek says he doesn’t use the tractor in the field, only to attend shows and parades. In the spring of 2023, he drove the F-20 to a gathering of historic tractors and vehicles in Dobrichovice to show his handiwork to others. Kulhanek says visitors to the event enjoyed his shiny red tractor, complete with

OEM decals and new rubber tires. Kulhanek was awarded second place in the commercial vehicle category for his handiwork.

Throughout the summer, he’ll attend other shows and parades in nearby communities so other Czech Republic farmers can get a glimpse of the old Farmall, which he says purrs like a kitten. When shows and events are too far to drive the F-20 or the M, he trailers them and often takes his grandkids along.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lukas Kulhanek, Czech Republic. (Facebook: Farmall Restorations, Rebuilds and Repairs).



Bobcat T7X all-electric compact track loader is being introduced with a limited launch through Sunbelt Rentals for customers to rent, mainly in California.

## Electric Bobcat Track Loader

Imagine autonomously cleaning out a poultry barn with an electric track loader without a cab or driver. Minimal noise, zero emissions, and very little labor. Visitors got a glimpse of that possibility at the CONEXPO-CON/AGG construction trade show with Bobcat’s RogueX.

Though some visitors were ready to order one, it’s only a concept machine to show what’s possible, and it won’t be on the market anytime soon, says Joel Honeyman, Doosan Bobcat vice president of global innovation.

Bobcat does have a new electric option, however. The Bobcat T7X all-electric compact track loader is being introduced with a limited launch through Sunbelt Rentals for customers to rent, mainly in California, to meet government mandates. It weighs more than 10,000 lbs. and is comparable to a medium-large compact machine, such as the Bobcat T76, a diesel-hydraulic compact track loader.

“It has lots of power that feels more powerful than diesel because it’s instantaneous,” Honeyman says, noting that the machine’s responsiveness, minimal vibration, and quiet operation astounds people.

“There are a lot of requests for lower noise machines in urban settings and indoor

applications such as livestock barns, transfer stations, etc.,” he says.

With the technology, extra features can be added, such as bucket shake to remove material or 100 percent power to move through difficult areas.

“There’s no idle on electric machines, so you’re only consuming energy when you’re operating the joysticks,” Honeyman says. The 60.5-kWh, lithium-ion battery lasts about 4 hrs., which is equivalent to most working days excluding idle time. The battery takes 10 hrs. to recharge with a Class 2 plug and 220 outlet. Without fuel, hydraulics, filters, etc., the operating cost of the electric machine is 90 percent less than its diesel-hydraulic equivalent.

In its early stages, the initial cost of the all-electric track loader is two to three times higher than a diesel equivalent. With supply chain challenges and a lack of electric grid infrastructure, it’ll likely be years before electric compact equipment like the T7X becomes more common. A skid-steer loader version, the Bobcat S7X, is also getting closer to production.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bobcat (www.bobcat.com).

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