

## Timber Trailer Makes Steep Terrain Manageable

Arwel Davies, known as @thefabricating-farmer on Instagram, has built a lightweight trailer for transporting bulky fencing tools across steep or boggy terrain.

"We have a lot of fencing that needed to be done on the farm, and the next place we were going was at the top of a steep and wet field," says Davies. "We cut a road, but it could still only be accessed by tracked excavators and ATVs." His solution was to build a lightweight skeleton trailer that could handle a decent-sized load without getting stuck. This would save time and labor compared to transporting small loads with an ATV.

Davies began the building process with six cow stalls sourced from a mid-century milking parlor. "I cut and welded those six into the three ribs of the trailer," he says. "I then used two pieces of new 2-in. box section to form the drawbar/chassis and axle. For this, I measured an ATV water tanker to get the correct ratio for balance, and the axle is wider than the ATV for stability."

He made a headboard for the trailer by bending a flat bar into the same shape as the ribs and welding a piece of box section on top to form a frame. Off-cut mesh and thick gauge sheet metal were both used to cover half the frame. "The mesh gives you better visibility when reversing without a load and



Davies used six cow stalls from a mid-century milking parlor as ribs for his trailer.

reduces the weight a little," he explains.

Davies built holders on the headboard to make it easier to transport his large fencing tools. "I added two chain links to the middle rib to tie a load down if needed."

The headboard is joined to the front rib, and the middle rib is joined to the axle with flat bars, while all the ends of the box section are capped with flat bars to add strength and make a better finish.

"The balance of it is just right when loaded, and it can carry a good load of wood and fence posts," says Davies.

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Momper customized pallets with caster wheels to hold 3-pt. attachments when not in use.



## 3-Pt. Rolling Equipment Pallets

"In the past, whenever I needed to move 3-pt. equipment stored in my shed, I had to attach them to my tractor, move them, and then unhook them. Now I just roll them around," says LeRoy Momper, Fredonia, Wis.

"I built heavy-duty pallets fitted with heavy-duty caster wheels to hold my snowblower, flail mower, and rototiller. They're easy to roll wherever I need them.

"There are two other advantages to having equipment on pallets. First, I can pick up the equipment with pallet forks to move it to another location for power washing or to make repairs. Second, it's easier to hook up the equipment when you can roll it around."

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## He Modified His Deere Zero-Turn

Francis Ehemann of Hattiesville, Ark., has customized his Deere Z425 lawn mower by mounting a step deck between the front wheels. He took the step off a 6000 series Deere tractor. "But you can make a step from just about anything," he says. "I just had this one lying around." The step is centered between the wheels and 9 in. off the ground, allowing for approximately 8 in. of clearance.

Near the step, Ehemann added a 3/4-in. pipe that's welded vertically to the mower's deck to provide a handhold for stepping up onto it.

Four years ago, Ehemann modified his mower with a foot lift on the left side that made it possible to raise the mowing deck hands-free. "Sometimes, when mowing, you need to raise the deck to get more clearance over objects in your way," he says. "I added a foot pedal to raise the deck quickly, and when I take my foot away, the deck comes down to where it was before."

Ehemann is an innovator in other areas as well. He's invented a patent-pending winch



Ehemann put a step on the front of his zero-turn mower to make it easier to get on and off.

lift to get rolls of net wrap onto Deere balers (Vol. 43, No. 6).

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## Post Driver Used To Remove T-Posts

A T-post removal hack caught our attention recently because of its simplicity. It uses the same post-hole driver that's used to install T-posts.

For a quick, 2-min. lesson, check out the gardener demonstrating the technique on YouTube. Search for "removing a T-post with a post driver."

Place the driver with the solid end down on the ground about a foot from the T-post. Slip the open end under one of the post's notches. Then shove or pull the post against the driver until it lifts slightly out of the ground. Straighten the post, reset the driver in another notch, and repeat the process until the T-post is out of the ground. The technique is similar to using a car jack.

Post driver can be used to remove T-posts using the driver for leverage.



## Bed Leveler Makes Planting Easier

Roscoe Lynn of Bryceville, Fla., says the bed leveler he built makes it a lot easier to make garden beds with his tractor. Before, he would prep his garden with a bedder and then go over the newly formed beds by hand with a rake.

"After spending way too much time raking down the top of the beds to make them flat and smooth before planting them year after year, I decided to make something to save time gardening," he says.

Lynn fabricated an attachment out of a scrap piece of heavy-duty expanded metal that he made some adjustments to. It flattens the garden bed and leaves a smooth top for planting. The attachment folds up when not needed and is easy to take off the bedder by removing two bolts. "It took lots of trial and error to set it up to pivot," he says. "Now I can flip it up at the end of the row for easier turning to start the next one."

Lynn uses it to maintain a garden space that's as much for the greater community as for him. He's been known to offer 4-H lessons on his property and is willing to talk to anyone about the projects he's tinkering on. "I'll do anything to help kids and future generations to learn about self-sufficiency,"



Lynn fabricated an attachment out of a scrap piece of heavy-duty expanded metal that flattens the garden bed and leaves a smooth top for planting.

he says. "And for my garden, I give away as much as I eat. I call it heart medicine".

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Starter uses a series of levers to pull on a cord connected from a foot pedal to the chainsaw's starter.

## Foot-Powered Chainsaw Starter

Harlen Grovom of Park River, N.D., has built a chainsaw starter that he can operate with his foot. At 91, he needed to modify his equipment to match his capabilities. "My elbows hurt after two pulls. Now, I use my leg and feet to start it," he says.

The starter uses a series of levers to pull on a cord connected from a foot pedal to the chainsaw's starter, which he rests on a waist-high platform. One or two gentle pumps with the foot are usually enough to start the chainsaw, providing it's well-primed. He has

the chainsaw fastened down so it doesn't jump around.

Grovom made the starter from odds and ends, including scrap 2 by 4s and plywood. He's used it successfully many times and has even had a neighbor ask to borrow it. "It wouldn't hurt to make it out of aluminum so it would be lighter," says Grovom. "However, it's portable enough that I can take it right out to my woodpile without a problem."

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