Carrier is designed using a hydraulic cylinder to support and lift either a drag or dirt blade.

Double Duty Drag Lift

Tom Chaney needed a way to get his spike tooth drag to the field, so he built a carrier to get it there. The carrier is in two sections with a single-acting hydraulic cylinder over the pivot points to provide lift.

"I needed to drag my hayfields to smooth them out, and the carrier gets it there," says Chaney. "After building it for the drag, I realized I could also hang a dirt blade for grading. All I had to do was remove the 3-pt. hitch and chain the blade frame in place."

The dual-purpose carrier has a rectangular front frame of 2 by 2-in. angle iron with cross supports. Chaney mounted a V-shaped hitch from an old Deere grain drill to the frame. A square steel tube runs down the center of the hitch and is bolted to it and the front and rear sides of the frame. A second steel tube is bolted to the front side of the frame and the two arms of the hitch for more strength.

The rear section of the carrier has an angle iron frame with two steel plate decks and two 15-in. car wheels at its rear. The wheel spindles are welded to pipe that makes two 90-degree turns before connecting to the rear section.

Two sets of steel straps welded to the platform's steel plate decks extend forward. They're pinned to the rear side of the carrier frame to form pivot points for the two sections.

The hydraulic cylinder is mounted to the rear section frame with its ram pinned to an upright on the steel tube on the front section frame. When the ram is extended, it draws the pivot points up. This forces the wheels down and forward, lifting the front section.

"The biggest challenge was getting the correct height for the upright," says Chaney. "It had to be the right angle to get the lift I wanted."

Chaney designed the carrier frame to match the center section of the drag. This lets him lift the wings for transit. To attach the drag, he simply backs over it and drops the carrier down before chaining the drag to the carrier at multiple points.

The same system is used to mount the dirt blade frame with the addition of a steel plate that is first attached to the carrier. It provides support to the dirt blade turntable frame.

"The carrier works great with the drag," says Chaney. "When I mount the blade on it, it's like having a grader for blading roads."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Chaney, 14732 E. 1800th Rd., Chrisman, Ill.

Sticker Burr Roller Clears Yards Quickly

Stacy Stubbs gets rid of all the goat heads and sticker burrs that show up in his farmyard. His Sticker Burr Roller grabs the burrs and deposits them in a basket for disposal. The nasty burrs with their long, sharp spikes can penetrate thin shoes, bike tires, and pet and livestock feet.

"I tried everything I could think of to clear the burrs out of my yard," says Stubbs. "I started with a short length of log wrapped in a doormat. I used parts of lawn mowers and pieces of pipe and every type of material possible. It took four years to develop a solution."

Stubbs' Sticker Burr Roller is a 14-in. wide, 6-in. dia. foam roller covered with window screening. The window screening passes around the roller and around a pipe that rests over the catch basket before returning to the roller. The frame for the roller, screen and basket is 15 in. long. The handle is 44 in. long.

As the roller is pushed across the yard, thorn ends pass through holes in the screen to embed in the foam roller. As the screen leaves the roller surface on its way to the catch basket, the burrs are pulled away from the foam roller and fall off into the basket.

"It's a great way to keep goat head stickers and grass burrs from latching onto you, your clothes and your pets," says Stubbs.

A lot of people suddenly agreed. He had been marketing the roller full-time for two years when he posted a short video of it in use on TikTok, the social media app. By the next morning, it had been viewed 1 1/2 million times. Within 48 hours, it had more than 10 million views and 10,000 comments. It has since exceeded 25 million views, and his website has had over 10,000 visitors.

Stubbs Sticker Burr Roller is a 14-in. wide, 6-in. diameter foam roller covered with window screening.

More than 1,000 orders flowed in practically overnight. "We had to regroup fast," says Stubbs. "I got hold of our fabricators and said they needed to quickly step-up production."

Stubbs is confident he'll get caught up with orders. It may be just in time for a new rush as he introduces a tow-behind model. "I expect to have it in production in early fall," he says.

The Sticker Burr Roller is currently available only from the company website. It's priced at $200.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sticker Bur Roller, 1020 W. Utah Ave., Hildale, Utah 84784 (ph 435-229-3776; stickerburroller@gmail.com; www.stickerburrroller.com).

Extracted protein is used in pig feed with any waste returned to the land. A small percentage of larvae are retained for reproductive purposes.

Insects Bred For Oil In Pig Feed

InnovaFeed, a French biotech company is focused on insect breeding and production with the goal of adding insect oil to swine diets.

They raise and transform Black Soldier Flies for animal and plant nutrition, offering an alternative to other oils traditionally used in animal feed.

Dr. Graziano Nantovani of Cargill's Western Europe swine division believes adding this novel ingredient to hog feed will impact both performance and sustainability. Insect oil has also been shown to positively affect gut health in hogs due to its fatty acid profile and lauric acid level which is known for its antimicrobial properties.

Chloe Phan Van Phi of InnovaFeed says insects are one of the most promising ingredient sources to boost global food system sustainability as they can upcycle poor quality food waste into top ingredients like protein.

Using the Black Soldier Fly, InnovaFeed has developed an efficient vertical farming model to reduce land and limit resource use and carbon dioxide emissions. Human interaction is reduced, and insects are offered an adapted 100 percent vegetable feed diet helping protect them from disease.

In their France-based facilities, larvae are grown in substrate wheat soluble and bran and mechanically harvested. Extracted protein is used in pig feed with any waste returned to the land. A small percentage of larvae are retained for reproductive purposes.

With two production sites operating in France and a third planned for the U.S., InnovaFeed has the largest insect production capacity in the world.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, InnovaFeed, 85 rue de Maubeuge, 75010 Paris (ph +33(0) 1 84 60 50 09; www.innovafeed.com).

You weigh the dryer and approximately 200 grams of forage, corn, silage or haylage. Then connect and run the dryer for 15 minutes to 1.5 hours depending on the sample.

Made-It-Myself Forage Tester On The Market

Twenty-five years ago, Lewis Martin saw an article featuring students building a forage and silage moisture tester. He later purchased one for himself.

Over the years, he used it to balance TMR feeds for cattle and ensure silage wasn't too damp before filling holding silos. Eventually, he began working to improve the students' design. His upgraded version works as well as expensive testers on the market.

"You weigh the dryer and approximately 200 grams of forage, corn, silage or haylage. Then connect and run the dryer for 15 minutes to 1.5 hours depending on the sample. Weigh everything again and subtract the dry gross from the wet gross weight to get an accurate moisture content."

As the Chairman of Happy Hearts Workshop, a place for the handicapped who can't hold a regular job, Martin believed they could play a productive role by building the pieces of his improved tester.

The stainless-steel top is made elsewhere, and the dryer is purchased through a dealer. The Happy Hearts workers cut out and make most of the other parts including the lid, screen and filter. Instructions for use are also organized and printed at the workshop.

Once all the pieces are ready, Martin assembles the completed units at his farm. The project is just getting started with about a dozen testers ready for purchase at the workshop.

The forage and silage moisture testers retail for $195 including S&H. They can be shipped anywhere across the country.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lewis Martin, Happy Hearts Workshop, 2948 Benton Jerusalem Townline Rd., Penn Yan, NY 14527-9221 (ph 315-536-1091).