



Tandem Axle Grain Truck Hauls 9 Big Bales

"It cost less than \$500 to outfit my tandem axle grain truck to haul round bales," says Robert Garton, Moundville, Mo., who added steel racks to either side of his 1968 Chevrolet tandem axle grain truck, allowing it to haul up to nine big round bales at a time.

Made from 1 1/2-in. sq., 1/4-in. thick steel tubing, the racks slip into the truck's stake pockets, raising the sides about 2 ft. and adding 1 1/2 ft. of width. A 2 by 8 plank is bolted to the top of each rack. The sides of the truck are reinforced by a 3-in. sq. steel tube frame that's welded to the truck chassis.

A front-end loader is used to load bales into the truck. Three bales are pushed on from the back, then three bales are loaded on top on each side. Bales are unloaded by

raising the truck hoist.

"I use it for transporting bales up to 20 miles away," says Garton, a custom hay hauler. "The top layer of bales slope down toward the center of the truck so they won't fall off. I had been using the truck to pull a pup dump trailer and hauling bales over long distances. However, it became uneconomical when gas prices went up. It works especially well for customers who don't have loaders to unload the bales or don't have enough room for a semi truck."

"I use a front-end loader to lift both frames into place. It takes only about 10 minutes to remove them and put side extensions back on for hauling grain."

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Shipping Containers Get New Life On Farm

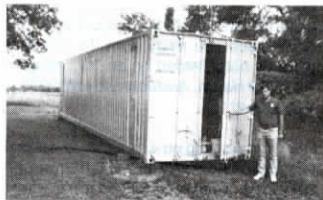
When Daniel Voss decided to turn his 50 by 100-ft. machine shed into a calf barn and to put up a new 60 by 100-ft. machine shed this spring, he needed temporary storage space for all his tools.

The Ramsey, Ill., dairy farmer found the storage space he required in an unlikely item: old sea-going shipping containers. After such containers are no longer deemed fit for sea duty, they'll still last virtually forever as landlocked storage containers.

And farmers like Voss are finding them useful for storing machinery and equipment as well as tools, according to Carolyn Robinette, Vandalia, Ill. She rents, sells and delivers the refurbished containers.

Of more than 100 units she rents, three or four are usually rented to farmers, Robinette says.

For example, Voss rented the larger of two sizes of containers, 8 ft. high by 8 ft. wide by 40 ft. long, for six months from



Robinette. Cost was \$65 a month. Smaller, 8 ft. by 8 ft. by 20 ft. containers rent for about \$50 a month.

"If I was going to need longer-term storage, I'd probably buy one," says Voss.

Robinette sells the bigger steel containers for \$3,000 to \$3,200, depending on condition. The smaller containers sell for \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carolyn Robinette, Self Storage Containers, U.S. Rt. 51 N., Vandalia, Ill. (ph 618 283 2949).

Field Cultivator C-Shanks Replaced With New S-Tines

When the C-shanks wore out on his 50-ft. Deere field cultivator, Curtis Close, Bellevue, Ohio, replaced them with heavy-duty Unverferth S-tines, saving several thousand dollars and even improving the cultivator's performance.

"It was a little more work than I anticipated, but when I was done my 15-year-old cultivator worked like new," says Close, who replaced the shanks a year ago. "The cultivator frame was in good shape but the C-shanks were worn out. Unverferth S-tines have high clearance for trash and are much heavier than regular S-tines so they should last a long time. I bought 100 new shanks and brackets from a Case-IH dealer.

My total cost was about \$3,000. It would've cost \$5,000 to \$6,000 to replace the original C-shanks. A new field cultivator would have cost about \$20,000.

"The S-tine shanks are mounted on 6-in. spacings. They have a different mounting angle than the original C-shanks so I had to stagger some brackets in order to make them fit. I also made some modifications to the cultivator frame, changing some sections by adding steel tubing in order to make the spacing come out right."

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"Best Ideas"

Automotive "Spare" Make Good Equipment Wheels

You know those tiny hard-rubber spare tires most cars come with? Illinois farmer Roland Beckmeyer, of Hoyleton, discovered there's a big surplus of those at junkyards and most of them have no wear on them at all.

He bought a bunch of them and adapted them to various pieces of farm equipment. They can't puncture because they're solid rubber which he says makes them ideal for mowers and other equipment. He's also used them to replace steel wheels on older equipment.



He Uses Combine To "Drill Fill" Soybean Seed

One problem with drilling soybeans is the time it takes to fill the drill with seed. Chuck Weeks, Sharon, Wis., solved the problem by using his combine as a "drill fill" for his Deere 30-ft. no-till drill.

He had a flexible tube made out of canvas (10 ft. long, 8 in. dia.) that straps onto the end of the unloading auger on his Case-IH 1660 combine.

"It's an inexpensive way to handle bulk soybean seed," says Weeks, who has used the system for two years. "My only cost was \$35 for the canvas. It would take 80 bags of soybeans to fill the drill and a lot of labor and time. It takes only three minutes to load the drill with the combine."

"I operate the unloading auger with the combine at idle speed. I installed slide plates on the cross auger at the bottom of the grain

tank so the auger doesn't fill the drill too fast. One advantage is that the driver sits up high and has a good view of the drill as it's being filled. I can load seed on-the-go. If one drill hopper is getting full I can squeeze off the end of the canvas and move it over to the next hopper."

Weeks used an old semi truck tarp to make a water tight cover for the grain tank so that he can leave the combine in the field all the time.

He uses a 14-in. wide rubber belt elevator to keep seed from breaking as it's unloaded from a gravity wagon and into the combine's grain tank. He paid \$1,000 for the conveyor.

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70-Bu. Beans In 30-In. Rows

Quincy, Ill., soybean grower Jim Callahan has twice reached 70 bu. per acre yields in soybeans with beans grown on 30-in. rows so he's feeling no pressure to start drilling his crop in narrower rows.

Callahan tried drilling beans into conventionally-tilled ground 14 years ago and then switched to ridge-tilled 30-in. rows. He says there wasn't enough yield difference to justify the cost of a drill and he saved more than enough money through ridge-tilling to pay for his ridge-till cultivator, which was the most expensive

piece of equipment he had to buy in making the switch.

"I've been farming long enough to see a lot of fads come and go," Callahan says, adding that he's open to new ways of doing things but only if they're cost effective. Even though the current fashion is to no-till drill beans, he likes that fact that ridges let him get in and plant earlier whenever there's a cool, wet spring. (Ridge Till Hotline, Brookfield, Wis.)