



Grovom's gate closer ensures a tight gate without using a fence stretcher.

Made-It-Myself Gate Closer Easy Enough For Kids

Harlen Grovom of Park River, N.D., created an easy gate closer system. "I got tired of using my arm to close the gate," he says. "This system sure beats hugging the post to get the wire around it."

Grovom's system uses a cable with a hand crank to close the gate. "There's no fence stretcher needed, and it ensures you always have a tight gate. I use a homemade hand crank and a nail to hold the pipe from unwinding, and it uses a cable with a hand crank to close the gate."

He made it entirely out of scrap metal. "I have made multiple and have altered where you attach it to the gate, but location doesn't seem to affect how it works."

Grovom uses a cable for the part that goes over the gate post and attaches the cable to

a pipe. "I have a center sleeve on the pipe attached to the post mount," he says. "I put a hole in the sleeve and the pipe to create a lock using a nail to keep the cable tight. Then I created a handle on both sides to crank and a mount to attach to the fence post."

To date, Grovom has made multiples of this latch, keeping the same basic design and altering it according to the scrap metal he has on hand. Overall, he prefers a horizontal design, though vertical designs also work.

"It takes me under 2 hrs. to make one," he says. "Using the latch is so easy that a kid can do it."

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Live Floor Trailer System Offers Easy Loading

The ANTS Trailer System's live bottom conveyor belt floor simplifies loading and unloading, saving time and effort on job sites. It can also kneel and tilt, making it adaptable to various working situations.

"Our ANTS Trailers, which stands for Advanced Nimble Trailer System, were born out of our deep expertise in military trailers and concrete construction," explains Craig Raasio, ANTS Director of Sales and Marketing. "They started with manufacturing the JRadS RTS Trailer, which the military used in war zones for rapid vehicle and equipment recovery."

The company pulled from decades of experience for the conveyor belt design. "It's invented by Niel Somero, co-owner of Davis Village Solutions LLC," Raasio says. "Since they had the trailer manufacturing company, they decided to invent a unique trailer for their concrete construction company in New Hampshire. The two prototypes proved themselves and are still being used today."

It's this unique design that sets ANTS Trailers apart. "Unlike traditional trailers, our models—whether it's the 14/16 Conveyor or Hydraulic Drop Deck variants—eliminate the need for ramps," says Raasio. "This feature alone transforms efficiency on job sites, allowing for precise material handling without the logistical headaches of maneuvering ramps."

A Honda GX390 gas engine powers the Live Floor Trailer and comes equipped with a hydraulic chain drive winching headboard capable of pulling up to 7,500 lbs. Likewise, the optional sideboard discharge unit is easy to install when needed and can be stored under the trailer otherwise. The 14/16 live bottom trailer measures 80 1/2 in. wide and 16 ft. 4in. long. It has an empty weight of 4,640 lbs. and a load capacity of 11,460 lbs.



"Unlike traditional trailers, our models—whether it's the 14/16 Conveyor or Hydraulic Drop Deck variants—eliminate the need for ramps," says Raasio.

A lockable storage box, spare tire, and built-in tarp cover are included.

Raasio insists that using ANTS trailers is intuitive once operators understand the controls. "The initial setup involves ensuring hydraulic and electrical connections are in place, but our trailers are engineered with user-friendly functionality."

These Live Floor trailers are well-suited to a range of industries. Says Raasio, "They excel in demanding environments such as landscaping, construction, agriculture and beyond. Whether you're transporting loose materials like gravel and mulch or heavy equipment requiring a low load angle, our trailers are built to handle the task with precision and reliability."

The base price is \$32,000 and includes a spare tire, rollup tarp cover, and wireless remote control. Optional add-ons include a rear-end side discharge attachment, 2-ft. aluminum side kits, and more.

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Shows different cover plates with center drop (right) and more open plates successively to left.

Concave Plates Cut Yield Loss

TNT Cover Plates from Thunderstruck Ag Equipment cut yield loss with a more even distribution of the crop through concaves. The plates control where material drops to effectively increase the separating area, producing a cleaner sample and greater machine capacity. Although Thunderstruck designed and developed the plates, the concept was the idea of an Australian farmer.

"Robert Ruwoltd suggested that if we could control where we were dropping the material onto the separating area, we could balance the sieve load and thus better balance the combine," says Jeremy Matuszewski, Thunderstruck Ag Equipment. "It took a few different iterations to get it to work; however, once we got it, we knew we were on to something."

The plates were first developed for use on the company's Copperhead Concaves for use in single-rotor Deere and IH combines. They addressed a common issue of sieve loss and non-grain material due to imbalanced delivery of grain from the concaves onto the sieve sections of the combine.

The cover plates are now available for Case IH and Deere round bar concaves. They're currently being tested on the JDx9 and Fendt Twin Rotor combines with plans to expand to New Holland.

A set of plates consists of a solid plate and four plates with multiple opening configurations. Which plates are used depends on the harvested crop and its threshing difficulty. Closing off the first concave, followed by the center drop plate on the second concave with successively more open plates push hard-to-thresh varieties of

wheat, canola or barley back before dropping onto the sieves. The company suggests using the center drop plate on the first concave, followed by the successively more open plates for easy-to-thresh corn. This prevents overloading the front concave or the screens to either side.

"Reducing sieve loss is a significant concern in small grains and is considered more important than increased sample quality," notes Matuszewski. "Farmers are used to being docked a few percentage points, regardless of how clean their sample is, but preventing yield loss is dollars in their pocket."

Prototypes were developed and tested in Australia in 2021 and in Canada and the U.S. in 2022. The plates were launched into Canada and the U.S. on a limited basis in 2023, with a full launch in 2024. The suggested retail price is \$1,599 CAD (\$1,150 USD) for Deere and \$2,699 (\$1,900 USD) for Case IH single rotor combines.

The TNT Cover Plates earned the company first place in the Innovation Showcase at Manitoba Ag Days early this year. Developing and introducing the cover plates was a new experience for the farmer-developed equipment distributor. It's one the company plans to continue.

"We have a few other products that have patents pending in the prototype and testing phases," reports Matuszewski.

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Zero-Turn Mower Features Massive Deck

Hustler Turf recently developed its Super 104, a 104-in. wide grass mower to tackle large acreages, farmyards, golf courses, and industrial yards.

The zero-turn mower comes with a choice of 38.5-hp. Kawasaki or 40-hp. Vanguard engines. Cutting heights are adjustable from 1 to 5 1/2 in., and a Hyperdrive system accommodates cutting speeds up to 11 mph. The transmission is a double-pump Danfoss with Parker TG wheel motors. Drive tires measure 26 by 12-12, and front tires measure 15 by 6-6. The Super 104 fuel capacity is 15 gal. to keep the unit mowing for hours.

At the touch of a button, outside wings fold up to an 80 in. width to accommodate trailer loading, hauling, and storage.

Accessories and options include a roll bar-mounted light and flashers kit containing two 12-volt lights and switches, separate front lights, seven heavy-duty anti-scalp rollers, a mulch kit, a rear hitch, airless radial tires, steering lever extensions, flex forks and semi-pneumatic front tires.

Hustler offers discounts for active mem-



Hustler mower features a 104-in. deck and can mow at speeds up to 11 mph.

bers and veterans of each branch of the U.S. Armed Services, along with a fleet program and long-term warranties.

Manufacturing is done in Hesston, Kan. The retail price of the Super 104 starts above \$30,000 and ranges upward depending on options and accessories.

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