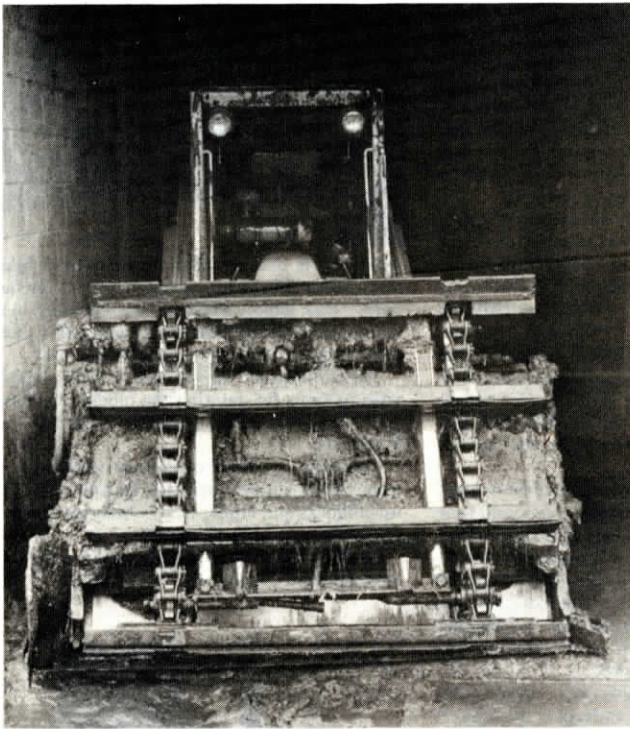


**“Made
it
Myself”**

Some of the best new products we hear about are “made it myself” innovations born in farmers’ workshops. If you’ve got a new invention or favorite gadget you’re proud of, we’d like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? (Send to: FARM SHOW, Box 704, Lakeville, MN 55044).

Harold M. Johnson, Editor



Self-Loading Liquid Manure Bucket

Wisconsin farmer, Alan Koepke, of Oconomowoc, built a manure bucket for his New Holland skid steer loader that self-loads liquid and semi-liquid manure.

The unusual looking bucket features a conveyor system that lifts liquid and semi-liquid manure up and into the bucket. The entire conveyor system sits on a steel panel hinged at the top of the bucket. This panel, powered hydraulically, seals the bucket — keeping the liquid manure from running out — and raises

for dumping the manure, and for loading solid manure.

The conveyor system, powered by an orbital motor, has 5 ft. long paddles spaced 1 ft. apart with rubber belting (5 in. wide) attached. The paddles pick up the manure and carry it up against the panel and into the bucket.

Two cylinders keep the heavy duty paddle chains tight. Koepke notes that the heavy-duty bucket weighs 1,100 lbs. and can carry about 1,000 lbs.

Wind-Controlled Mineral Feeder

“I’ve used the same feeder for 15 years and all I’ve ever done to it is to paint it every couple years with a galvanized paint,” says Russell Brosseau, Afton, Mich., who has blueprints available for his do-it-yourself mineral feeder.

The feeder features two large round plates that catch the wind, shifting the feeder’s re-



volving hood with the wind so the “back” is always against the wind, protecting the salt or minerals from the elements.

The feeder sits on two poles anchored 3½ ft. into the ground so cattle can’t tip it over while the hood pivots on an old car hub. The tub, made from an old kettle, holds 400 lbs. of mineral and can be set at different heights.

Brousseau sells blueprints for the feeder for \$10.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Russell Brosseau, Box 47, Afton, Mich. 49705 (ph 616 238-9830).

Knife-Sharpening Vise

“It’s a real time-saver,” says Robert Spereslage, Greeley, Iowa, about the vise he welded together for sharpening chopper knives and sickle sections, or for working on any lengthy piece of metal that’s awkward to handle.

Key to the success of the vise is a metal hold-down bar made from a flat piece of iron, and two big, fine-threaded bolts welded to a narrow metal table mounted on a 3-legged stand. A narrow strip of metal between the table of the vise and the hold-down bar works as a spacer so you can easily slip in a knife or sickle section and, with a wrench, quickly tighten down the bolts.

“It’s important to use fine-threaded bolts for a firm hold. Coarse threads could vibrate

loose. You should also use just two hold-down bolts so you can put metal of varying thicknesses into the vise,” explains Spereslage. “Also, the vise is very lightweight and has three self-leveling legs so I can easily set it up anywhere that’s convenient.”

The table is made from a piece of heavy-duty U-shaped metal with a second piece of U-shaped iron turned upside down on top of it. The top piece slides back and forth but is wedged tightly to the table by a back support bar.

Spereslage says he not only saves time using the vise but does a better, more accurate job sharpening. He uses a Sears hand-held grinder for sharpening on the vise.

