



Hand-operated cylinder raises camper to its full height.

BOOSTS OVER-THE-ROAD GAS MILEAGE

Pop-Up Truck Camper Lowers For Transport

"It saves 3 to 4 mpg - or about 30% - on most pickups," says Jeff Osmundson, general manager of Alaskan Campers, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., a new pop-up camper for pickups that lowers hydraulically to cut wind resistance in transport.

The camper looks like most pickup campers except that at each corner, on the outside, there's a steel track and a hydraulic cylinder inside. To raise the roof of the camper to its full height, you just reach inside the rear door and pump it up in seconds with a hand-operated hydraulic pump. Depending on the model, it raises about 2 ft. When you want to take it back on the road, simply turn

a lever and the unit settles back down into the closed position with only about 1 ft. of camper extending above the pickup cab.

Pop-up Alaskan campers are fully insulated and feature all of the amenities found in other pickup campers. Osmundson says the various 8 to 12-ft. models are competitively priced with conventional pickup campers. They're sold only direct from the factory.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alaskan Campers, 1005 East Benson Road, Sioux Falls, S. Dak. 57104 (ph 605 334-8372 or 335-0302).



Camper lowers about 2 ft. to minimize wind resistance for travel.



"It's superior to discs or field cultivators," says inventor McCoy.

MIXES ORGANIC MATERIAL WITH TOPSOIL

"Spider Plow" Chews Up Surface Residue

"I needed a machine that would do a good job shredding plant and animal residue into tiny pieces and then mix it into the top 3 to 4 in. of soil," says David C. McCoy, a Fredericktown, Ohio farmer who has built the majority of the equipment he uses in his no-till, "organic" farming operation.

McCoy compares his "Spider Plow" with the way his cows chew their cud. "Cows produce nature's most perfect food by chewing and rechewing forage into small enough pieces for the bacteria in their rumen to break it down. In the same way, this revolutionary new tillage tool renders crop and animal residue into small enough pieces so soil bacteria can convert it into a form my crops can use. This process must take place in the upper layer of soil where there's enough oxygen to speed decomposition."

The Spider Plow gets its name from the large, 21-in. dia. spider wheels, mounted in an intermeshing pattern, that work over residue and top soil layers. McCoy says he can easily adjust the V-shaped pattern of twin gangs from slight tillage to extremely aggressive tillage by simply changing the angle of attack. "That's what makes this one of the most universal tillage tools ever built," he told FARM SHOW.

Use of the Spider Plow has eliminated two passes over cornfields and improved quality of the seedbed. "I used to chop my cornstalks and then disc them once in the fall. Then in the spring, before sowing hay or another crop, I'd disc or field cultivate twice. Now I chop the stalks in the fall and wait till spring to cross the fields once diagonally with the Spider Plow. No other tillage

is needed," says McCoy, noting that the new plow would be the perfect tool for no-till farmers who occasionally want to mix accumulated soil residue into upper layers of soil. "It's superior to discs, field cultivators and other tillage tools because you can so easily change the angle of attack." McCoy adds that in many cases use of the Spider plow alone in the spring or fall is often enough to prepare the seedbed.

By setting the angle of attack in a less aggressive mode and precisely controlling depth of penetration with the lift wheels, McCoy says the Spider Plow can also be used for chemical incorporation, and as a pasture aeration tool. He pulls it at speeds of 6 to 7 mph with an 80 hp. tractor. Effective working width is 11 ft.

The Spider Plow has just 8 moving parts, is self-cleaning, and ground-driven. It requires minimum horsepower to pull due to the rolling effect of the spider wheels. McCoy built the machine on the frame of a 12-ft. Allis Chalmers 600 no-till planter with 28 spider wheels from Lilliston. He used standards and standard frames from a Deere 11 1/2-ft. disc. The only routine maintenance required is grease for the 16 grease zerks and the only adjustment is for the angle of attack, which changes quickly with one lever. Total cost was just \$1,000.

McCoy has been negotiating with manufacturers to bring the machine to market.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David C. McCoy, Rt. 1, 16413 Old Mansfield Road, Fredericktown, Ohio 43019 (ph 614 397-4664).



The Toyota trailer carries loads up to 2,000 lbs.

TOWS BEHIND YOUR CAR OR PICKUP

New Pickup Trailer For Work Or Play

Chances are you've never seen a trailer quite like the new "pickup trailer" introduced by Erickson Mfg., of Eagle Grove, Iowa.

Made from new Toyota pickup beds, they're built to take chore loads up to about 2,000 lbs. When the chores are done, they become sporty carriers for hauling motorcycles, snowmobiles, camping supplies and other gear.

The trailers come equipped with 6:50 by 13 tires and a ball hitch. Interior bed length

is 71.5 in.; width is 56.5 in. Bed depth is 16 in. and distance between fender wells is 40.5 in. Available with topper, box liner, side rails and other options. Weighs 440 lbs empty and comes in a variety of colors to match your pickup or car.

Sells for \$744.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Erickson Mfg., Box 192, Eagle Grove, Iowa 50533 (ph 515 825-3121).