



Downed cow is rolled onto rubber mat and pulled into trailer, which is then filled with water to float animal into standing position.

RISING WATER INSIDE CONTAINER FLOATS COW UP OFF HER FEET

Water Rescue Trailer For Downed Dairy Cows

The challenge of trying to find an "injury proof" way to raise downed cows led to the invention of a new water rescue trailer that "floats" cows up onto their feet.

The new "Aqua Cow" system lets you float a downed cow up onto its legs again without using any kind of clamp, belts or chains. You roll the cow onto a rubber mat and use a tractor to pull it into the trailer. Then you close the two watertight end doors and fill the container with water that's been heated to the cow's body temperature. Some of the water can be drained out after 2 to 4 hours, allowing the cow to place more of her body weight on her legs. Once she's ready to walk out by herself, the rest of the water is drained out.

"It's a painless way to lift cows," says Ric Kirby, Kirby Mfg., Merced, Calif. "Hip clamps, belts, slings, and chains often can cause physical injury to cows by bruising or tearing their muscles. The Aqua Cow doesn't harm the cow at all. It's been used by dairy farmers in Denmark for several years, ever since hip clamps were outlawed."

The 8-ft. long, 4-ft. 4-in. wide, 4 1/2-ft. high container holds 850 gal. of water and is equipped with a fill-drain valve at the bottom.

Sells for \$4,500.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kirby Mfg. Inc., P.O. Box 989, Merced, Calif. 95341-0989 (ph 209 723-0778).

SEMI TRUCK "LOCOMOTIVE" CAN PULL UP TO 14 LOADED RAILROAD HOPPER CARS

"Railroad Grain Truck" Runs On Road Or Rail

Showgoers at the Spokane Ag Expo in Spokane, Wash., recently got a close look at a new 25-ton, \$300,000 truck with a split personality - it's the only rig in the world that rides the rails as readily as it rolls down the road.

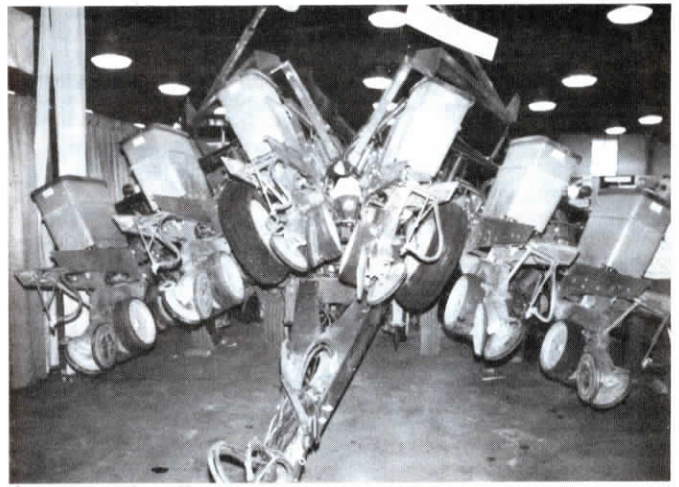
The "Road-Railer" is a modified Kenworth semi tractor fitted with three extra axles and six railroad wheels so it can do double duty on railroad tracks. One minute it's a truck, the next it's a locomotive, pulling up to 14 loaded railroad hopper cars at speeds up to 25 mph. Each car holds 3,000 bu. weighing up to 90 tons.

Southern Rails, a cooperative of local wheat farmers who got together when facing local rail abandonments, runs the "Road-Railer". The cooperative bought two abandoned rail branch lines from a pair of Canadian railway companies. One line is 21 miles long and the other line 25 miles long. The two lines are part of more than 3,500 miles of low density branch lines in Saskatchewan considered uneconomical for conventional rail service. The cooperative has the authority to operate each line and uses the "Road-Railer" to pull hopper cars

to storage facilities at the end of each line. Once the cars are dropped, the "Road-Railer" is converted into a truck and driven on the highway 90 miles away to the other rail line where another group of railroad cars wait. A system combining hydraulics and air pressure engages and disengages separate wheel systems as necessary.

"We've had a lot of interest in the project in Canada and have even hosted delegations from as far away as Russia," says Melvin Ellis, general manager, Southern Rails Cooperative. "People driving on the highway can't believe it when they see a truck pulling railroad cars. Most drivers come to a complete stop, and many take pictures."

Converted semi-truck can pull up to 14 loaded rail cars. When it's on the rails, three additional axles lower into contact with the rails and the regular road axles retract upward.



Extra wide hinge plate moves the folding planter wings far enough forward to provide the needed clearance for more than one set of add-on attachments.

FOLDS PLANTER EVEN WHEN FITTED WITH FERTILIZER OPENERS AND COULTERS

"Extended" Hinge For Deere Planters

New "extended" hinge folding kit for Deere planters is the only fold-forward kit that'll let you outfit your planter with more than one set of add-on attachments such as fertilizer openers, no-till coulters and ridge-till equipment, according to designer Dave Grollmund, of Folding & Special Products, Inc., who's been making folding toolbar kits for 12 years.

The problem is that once you've got more than one set of accessories mounted on the front of the planter, most hinge kits won't let you fold wings around in front. The new extended hinge is essentially an extra wide hinge plate that moves the folding planter wings far enough forward to provide the needed clearance.

Grollmund's heavy-duty hinges feature

solid 1-in. steel plate and automatic hydraulic wing locks that prevent wings from "creeping forward" in the field. When folded, a 12-row narrow planter is reduced to just 14-ft., 8 in. transport width with a height under 10 1/2 ft. The folded wings tilt up at an angle over the tongue. When folded you can plant with the rear 6 rows to finish a field. Folding time is just one minute, controlled from the tractor seat.

The extended hinge kit for a 7200 planter sells for \$3,750 (installed). Grollmund also has full instructions for do-it-yourself installation.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Grollmund, Folding & Special Products, Inc., 335 W. 650 S., Pendleton, Ind. 46064 (ph 317 778-2784).

By Bill Gergen, Associate Editor

Eaton Ceemat hydraulic-automatic transmission. A Spicer model 784 gearbox is used to split the power into two separate drivelines, each of which can be operated independently for either highway or rail operation. The rig is fitted with railway couplers on both ends to facilitate switching operations in yards and sidings. It can mount rails at any level crossing.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Melvin Ellis, Southern Rails Cooperative Ltd., P.O. Box 188, Rockglen, Saskatchewan, Canada S0H 3R0 (ph 306 476-2615).

The rig is equipped with its original 444 hp Cummins diesel engine coupled to an