

Made It Myself

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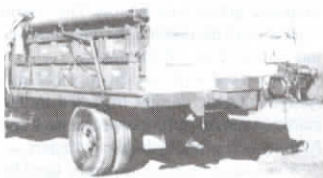
Truck-Mounted Economical Drill Fill

"I couldn't find a commercial drill fill auger that would do the job on my 1950 Chevy 1 1/2-ton truck. For one thing, new electric 12-volt models run batteries down unless you have a huge alternator and the latest 12-volt electronics, and it would have been too hard to plumb one of the new hydraulic units into my truck's little hydraulic pump," says Roger Kuntz, who custom-built a drill fill out of components he had on hand.

"One big advantage of my drill fill compared with many of the commercial units I looked at is that mine mounts on the outside of the 200-bu. truck box rather than the inside," notes the Grainfield, Kan., farmer. "That way you can still tarp your truck box."

Kuntz's unit consists of a 5-in. dia. 12-ft. long auger that's supported by a swinging boom made of steel pipe. A 110-volt, 1/3 hp electric motor that mounts at the top of the auger is powered by a 100-volt gas-powered generator mounted at the back of the truck. A length of flexible aluminum dryer vent tubing serves as an unloading spout.

In transport, the auger rides on brackets along the side of the truck box. To use for drill filling, a pin holding the auger in its transport position is removed and the



bottom end of the auger swings to a hopper in the center of the truck's tailgate. The hopper is an oil pan off an old 6-cyl. Chevy car bolted underneath the tailgate.

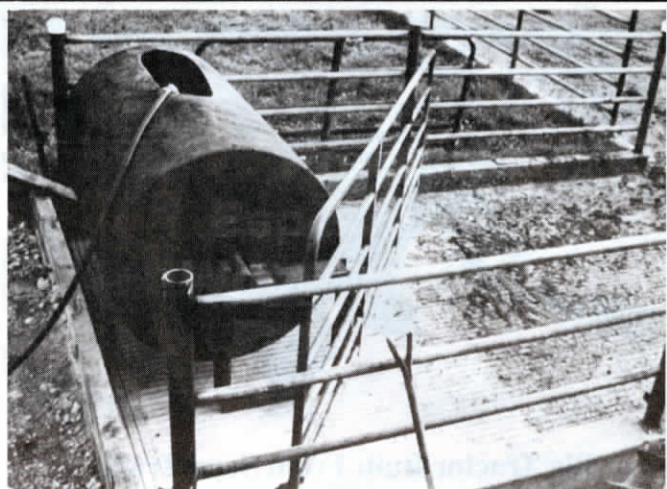
"I shielded the portion of the hopper where the grain enters the auger for safety," Kuntz says. "And sides of the hopper are high enough that the contents won't spill out, even when the auger is turned off."

The gas generator provides smooth, even-speed power that commercial units can't match, Kuntz adds.

Operation of the auger is controlled from the truck's cab.

A hand-cranked auger mounts inside the truck box to clean out corners.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Kuntz, Rt. 1, Box 69, Grainfield, Kan. 67737 (ph 913 673-5560).



Holding Pen Floor Flusher

Dairy farmer Paul Bickford uses old fuel tanks filled with water to flush out the floors of his holding pens and milking parlor.

"Charlie Opitz, the really innovative Belmont, Wis., dairy farmer who's been featured in FARM SHOW before, gave me the idea," Bickford says. "We've discovered 1,000 or 2,000-gal. tanks work better than smaller ones because there's more volume for flushing."

Bickford first cleans out the fuel tanks thoroughly, then cuts a 2 or 3-ft. hole in the top for filling - and dumping - water. A 6-in. dia. center shaft made out of well casing runs through the center of the tank and sticks out a couple of inches on each end. The ends of the shaft rest on a pair of heavy-

duty stands Bickford made out of square tubing and channel iron. The stands hold the barrel a couple of inches above the ground so it will rotate freely.

The barrel is filled from a nearby hydrant. Once it's full, a block is removed from the housing allowing the tank to turn forward, spilling the water and flushing the floor. Lock stops keep the barrel from turning too far.

"It works great for our operation," says Bickford. "Our holding pen is on top of a hill and all the excess water and waste runs off the hill onto a grass filter strip at the bottom."

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Cattle Trap Catches Wayward Steers

A few years ago, seven 550-lb. feeder steers got loose and wandered around Pigeon River Country State Forest near Wolverine, Mich., from April until Labor Day. The wayward steers were finally recaptured using a cattle trap invented by cow-calf operator Stan Sloan.

"We've used it on pens from 30 to 90 ft. long with great success since that original case," says Sloan.

Key to success of the trap is a "trigger" made out of wood. It mounts at the end of the pen that's opposite the gate. When set, a length of steel cable runs from jaws at the top of the trigger to the gate. A turnbuckle on the end of the cable is held between the jaws. There's a feed pan at the bottom of the trigger. When cattle eat from it, they trip the trigger, shutting the gate behind them.

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Rear view of converted Deere hydraswing pull-type mower.

Deere Hydraswing Mower Converted To Inexpensive Windrower

Wisconsin welder-repairman Robert Adelmeyer used an old "hydraswing" pull-type mower conditioner to make an inexpensive windrower by mounting a Gehl front-mount "merger" on it.

"Gehl's merger is designed to mount on front of a tractor and bring two windrows together to feed into a pull-type forage chopper," says Adelmeyer. "It sells new for about \$5,000. However, some farmers who have them don't like them because together with the chopper and wagon they're very heavy and clumsy to handle when turning at the end of the field. By mounting them on the mower frame you get a low-cost hydraswing windrower that covers a 12-ft. width. I've converted two hydraswing mowers to windrowers and both work very well."

Adelmeyer removed the mower's cutterbar and crusher rolls, keeping only

the tongue, frame, and wheels. He welded two 8-ft. lengths of 4-in. channel iron on front of the frame to support the merger. Two pins are used to secure the mounting brackets on the merger to mounting brackets on the mower frame.

The windrower is powered by the pto-driven hydraulic motor. Cylinders swing it from side to side and raise or lower it.

A lot of farmers have discovered that old Deere hydraswing frames can be used to make windrowers, says Adelmeyer. "Five years ago you could buy one for about \$100, but now you have to pay \$700 to \$800 because so many people want them. My next project is to mount two side rakes on one."

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