

Made It Myself

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Easy Way To Measure Out Feed Additives

"I built this unit to make it more convenient to handle and record use of feed additives," says Scott Swanson, Pecatonica, Ill., about his "Medi-Meter".

"It's a simple machine with a hopper that holds the feed additives and an auger at the bottom of the hopper that we turn by hand. The auger empties into a bucket, which hangs from a scale. When the correct weight is reached, you just lift the bucket off and empty it into the feed mixer.

"There's a feed label holder just above the scale so you can read the feeding instructions each time the feed additive is in use. There's also a fold-out panel on the side with a place to record feed additives and ration information, making it easy to keep good records. The Medi-Meter also provides safe storage from rodents and moisture, thanks to the cover on top. Capacity is 75 lbs.

"We use it for feed additives, vitamins, minerals, milk replacers and other feed ingredients - anything we have to measure from a 50-lb. bag.

"I've built a few for neighbors but would like to find a manufacturer or distributor."



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"Wheel-Driven" Bandsaw-Type Sawmill

"A windstorm damaged and downed many trees on our property. After checking out what it would cost to have the logs sawed into lumber and also checking out the prices of small portable sawmills, I decided to build my own bandsaw-type sawmill. It can cut logs up to 30 in. in diameter and 16 ft. long. I built it mostly from scrap materials for less than \$100," says William C. Reeks, Cromwell, Ky.

A 1 1/4-in. wide bandsaw blade is stretched around a pair of 14-in. car tires. The wheels and spindles bolt to a platform that moves up and down on a 4-legged vertical steel frame with a hand crank. Power is supplied by an 8 hp vertical shaft Briggs & Stratton gas engine equipped with a centrifugal clutch. It belt-

drives a jackshaft which in turn belt-drives a brake drum off an old Pontiac car that's welded to the back of one of the car wheels. The saw blade frame mounts on rubber wheels that ride on steel tracks.

"It's made out of odds and ends and isn't as fancy as some commercial sawmills, but it works," says Reeks. "The blade faces away from me as I push the sawmill which makes it safer to use. "Each turn of the hand crank raises the cutting blade 1/8 in. so to cut a 1-in. thick board I turn the crank 8 times. The cables attach to the sawblade platform with threaded I-bolts so it's easy to keep the blade exactly level."

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Deere 4020 Repowered With Combine Engine

"When I bought my 1969 Deere 4020 a few years ago, it had only 2,300 hours on it and looked as good as the day it came off the assembly line," says Robert Stewart who liked the 4020 but not its gas engine. "You have to reset the carburetor for working under load and for idling-type work."

So the Chatham, Ontario, ridge tiller converted the 4020 to diesel, using the engine out of a junked Deere 7700 combine that had only 2,000 hours on it. He got the engine for \$2,500.

"Since I repowered it three years ago, I've put on 780 hours. I'd rather drive the 4020 than any of my other tractors," Stewart says. "You can hardly tell it's the same tractor."

But finding the combine engine to repower it with was the easiest part of the project, he adds. There were plenty of glitches he and mechanic Jake Knelsen, who did the work, had to overcome, he says. "We made it up as we went," agrees Knelsen.

For example, the front pulley on the crankshaft of the combine engine had to be machined down so it could be used to drive the tractor's hydraulic pump.

Also, 1/4 in. had to be cut off the bottom of the tractor's radiator shroud so the combine engine's larger fan blades could turn in it. And the breather unit on the combine's

intake manifold had to be matched to the tractor's with a piece of pipe.

"Then we ran into difficulties fitting the oil pan onto the tractor because it was too big," says Stewart. "We finally called Deere and gave them the specs. They told me an oil pan off a 4430 would fit and it did."

Once the oil pan was installed, the dip stick had to be cut shorter to fit in the shallower pan.

The diesel engine's fuel shut-off had to be rerouted through the tractor's cab. Finally, heater hoses to the tractor's Year 'Round cab had to be rerouted and replumbed.

While the tractor was torn apart, Stewart had the clutch replaced. Total investment in the repower, including Knelsen's \$500 bill, was about \$5,500, says Stewart who uses the tractor for all his planting and tillage work and some grain-hauling.

"It runs like a dream. It's a real treat to operate," he says.

Next Stewart plans to replace the tractor's current cab with a Sound Gard cab like he saw featured in a recent issue of FARM SHOW.

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Chemical Storage In An Old Fuel Tank

Steve Barrie turned an old fuel tank he got for nothing into a chemical storage facility and won an environmental award for doing so.

"These aren't law yet but they will be one day, I believe," says Barrie, a Bowmanville, Ontario, dairy and grain farmer. He and his wife, Tina, recently won first-place in an Ontario environmental award program.

The Barries built the pesticide storage facility out of a salvaged 5,000-gal. underground fiberglass fuel tank. After thoroughly cleaning out the tank, Barrie cut one end of the 7-ft. dia. tank off and upended the tank like a silo. It sits on a 10-in. thick seamless concrete pad with a 6-in. sill around it to contain any chemical spills. A hinged door cut in the side of the tank permits loading and unloading 13-gal. totes and mini bulk pesticide containers used on the Barries' 800-acre farm. The door can be secured with latches and a lock. A turbine on top provides ventilation and warning signs are clearly visible on the outside.



The Barries built the facility about a year and a half ago for \$185 in materials.

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