

Made It Myself

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"Go Anywhere" Feed Wagon Mounted On Modified Tractor

South Dakota farmer Ralph Reimer, of Pukwana, wanted a sure-footed means of getting around snow and mud-covered feedlots with his feed wagons. Neither truck-mounted wagons, nor wagons pulled behind a tractor, had enough traction and both were hard on pto joints. So, Reimer "stretched" a 4166 4-wheel steer International tractor and mounted a Big Augie feed wagon right behind the tractor cab and on the extended frame.

"With the wagon on the 4-wheel drive tractor, we can go through most any conditions to feed cattle," says Reimer. "We feed a lot of silage and use the wagon year-round to mix the ration, which also includes grain and protein. We have cattle in open areas and this rig enables us to go through all kinds of mud and snow to feed them."

Reimer bought the tractor used. Meyerink Farm Services, Platte, S. Dak., made most of the modifications, including extending the back of the tractor 12 ft., moving the rear axle back and extending the driveline. The add-on frame is made of 16

ft. of 4 by 6 by 1/4-in. steel tubing, 4 ft. of which is overlapped and welded under the tractor's original frame.

Reimer put a 7 by 12 ft. Big Augie feed wagon on the extended tractor but notes that the frame is extended enough to handle even a 16-ft. wagon. The 12 ft. wagon, taken off a truck, is mounted on the tractor frame with straps welded to the tractor and wagon. A 2-ft. long pto shaft powers the wagon off the tractor, along with tractor hydraulics. Reimer put smaller tires (18.4 by 26) on the tractor to make it lower and easier to load.

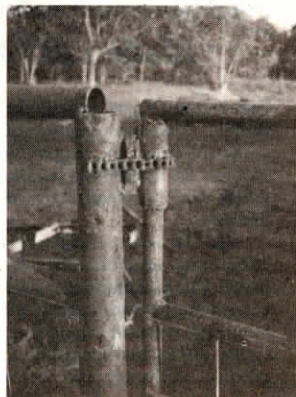
He figures the rig cost him about \$12,000 which includes the cost of the used tractor and wagon. He leaves the wagon on year-round but has contemplated putting a truck-mounted spreader on the extended tractor frame to haul manure.

For details on making a similar conversion, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Meyerink Farm Service, Rt. 1, Box 219, Platte, S. Dak. 57369 (ph 605 337-3134).

Roller Chain Gate Hinge

"It works good and looks good," says Paul Mendell, Talala, Okla., who uses roller chain to brace gate hinges.

"I got the idea because I didn't have any metal to brace a hinge and I had lots of old roller chain around. It's easy to do. I just hold it up to the post and weld it to the post and hinge. It eliminates the need for a cutting torch and a piece of metal, and saves time."



"Lazy Man's Hitch"

"Commercial units I've seen are all either too complicated to work reliably, or they interfere with pto operation," says Fred Hansen, Santa Rosa, Calif., who built his own quick hitch.

Hansen's "lazy man" hitch was originally designed to make cattle feeding easier. "We pull a feed wagon with a loader tractor to as many as three different feed storage areas. At each area, we drop the wagon, use the tractor to load it and then hook up and move onto the next location. Then, using the same tractor, we feed out the mixture. This new hitch totally eliminates the need to jump on and off the tractor," says Hansen.

The hitch uses the 3-pt. to raise and lower the specially-built drawbar sub-frame under the standard drawbar. The lower links on the 3-pt. have

been removed for convenience since the tractor is never used for the 3-pt. However, the lower drawbar can be easily removed to allow for normal drawbar work, as can the tow rings on the wagon tongue which simply pin into place.

"The pin on the lower drawbar, which simply lifts up through the tow pin on the wagon tongue, was made from an alloy pump driveshaft and welded into place with a 120,000-psi rod," says Hansen.

Two solid steel blocks on either side of the hitch sub-frame simply add additional weight to the hitch to overcome high internal rockshaft friction on the particular tractor used.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fred Hansen, 3420 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa, Calif. 95401.



"Calf Saver" Warming Cart

"We haven't lost a single newborn calf since we started using this cart 2 years ago," says Mary Ann Hecht about her and her husband Donald's calf-warming cart.

The sides and bottom are made from 1/2-in. plywood. The bottom is reinforced by an underlying piece of steel roofing. The plywood floor has 1-in. holes drilled into it to allow heat from an electric heater to rise up, warming and drying the calf from the bottom up in cold weather.

Two 12-in. wheels in front make the cart mobile when the back end is lifted with the handles. The back endgate slides up and out so the calf can be loaded and unloaded without any lifting. A piece of 3/4-in. pvc pipe is cut in half and fastened vertically at the back end to hold the sliding gate in place. A 1 by 1/4-in. steel bar is bolted to the top of the cart at the back to reinforce sides.

"We cover the cart with a piece of clear plastic to hold heat in. This has worked well for us when cows freshen in free stall barns before we can get



them switched to maternity pens. If the calf is real dirty, it's hosed off in the parlor with warm water and placed in the cart to warm and dry, then taken out to our solar calf shed," says Mary Ann.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mary Ann Hecht, Rt. 1, Box 171, Cumberland, Wis. 54829 (ph 715 822-8701).