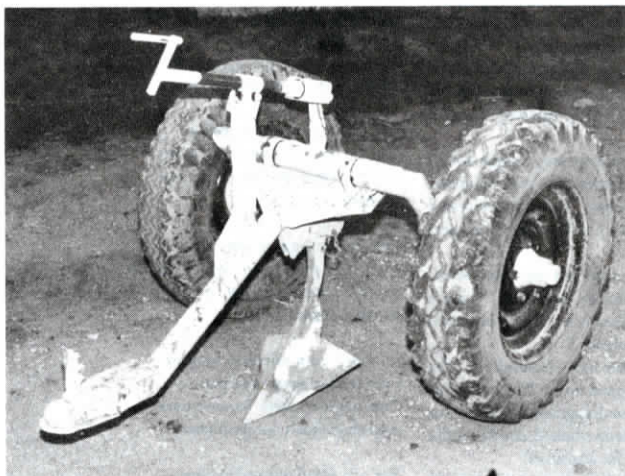


**“Made
It
Myself”**



Mini “Ditcher” For ATV’s

“Works great for digging or cleaning out small furrow irrigation ditches and can also be used to drain small wet spots in fields,” says Ron Heward, Shirley Basin, Wyo., who made a mini “ditcher” that he pulls behind his ATV.

Heward used 2-in. dia. steel pipe and scrap iron to build the frame which mounts on a pair of 7.50 by 16 wheels off an old dump rake. A 2-in. dia. ball hitch mounts in front. He used pieces of 4 by 3-in. angle iron to make a V-shaped digger that’s 10 in. wide and 8 in. high. It’s welded to a shank that’s raised and lowered by a hand-cranked threaded shaft.

“I use it mostly to clean out lateral ditches in our hay meadows, but I can also use it to make new ditches,” says

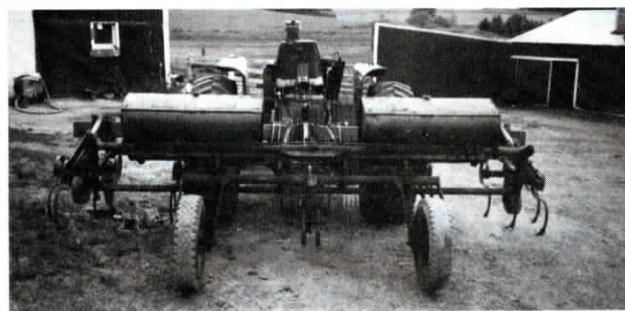
Heward, who’s used the ditcher for two years with no problems. “I had been cleaning out ditches with a shovel. However, I can clean more in 30 min. with my ATV ditcher than I could in two days with a shovel. Next time I would mount ATV tires on the ditcher to minimize wheel tracks. The size of the ditch it makes depends on ground conditions. In soft ground it’ll make a ditch that’s 10 in. wide and 8 in. deep.

“I didn’t want to use tractor-pulled ditchers because often our meadows are so wet and soft that a tractor would make deep wheel tracks. My only out-of-pocket expense was \$9 for the ball hitch.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ron Heward, 7E Ranch, Shirley Basin, Wyoming 82615 (ph 307 356-4612).

Some of the best new products we hear about are “made it myself” innovations born in farmers’ workshops. If you’ve got a new invention or favorite gadget you’re proud of, we’d like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? (Send to: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044)

Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director



**He Mounted An Old Deere Planter
On Cultivator To Apply Fertilizer**

We’ve seen all kinds of ideas for ways to sidedress dry fertilizer onto growing crops but this is one of the most unusual. Wisconsin farmer Leonard Goetti removed the planter boxes from a Deere 494 planter and then mounted it right on top of his row crop cultivator.

“I have put liquid nitrogen onto my corn for years but the cost of applying it kept going up and when it got applied varied with the weather or how far I was down the list. Also, it seemed to me the results with liquid varied from year to year according to the weather, especially since my liquid was applied on top of the ground.

“So I got the idea of mounting fertilizer boxes on top of my cultivator and I bought a Deere 494 planter at an auction for \$35. When I started tearing it apart, I decided to just remove the planter units

and leave the frame intact with the fertilizer boxes and ground drive wheels in place. I mounted the entire frame on my 3-pt. mounted cultivator using just one bolt and two pieces of angle iron. It shuts off automatically when I raise the cultivator because the drive wheels on back lift off the ground.

“This was the first year I used it and it worked great. I did over 100 acres. The dry fertilizer falls down between the rows and is worked in as I go. I like it because it becomes available in a few days and continues through the summer months without evaporating or leaching out like liquid does. Another advantage is that it saves one trip through the field as well as application cost for the liquid.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leonard Goetti, Rt. 2, Box 299, Chipewala Falls, Wis. 54729.



Picker Wheels Modified To Handle Mud

“Our New Idea 311 2-row corn picker pulled hard in wet conditions. To solve the problem we used lengths of channel iron and steel I-beam to extend the left wheel out 36 in. It now follows directly in the tractor wheel track. Running both picker wheels and wagon wheels in the same tracks made by the tractor significantly reduces rolling resistance and makes the picker much easier to pull,” says John Sachar, Cranesville, Penn.

Sachar made other modifications to the picker. The twisting action caused by pulling the picker sideways in mud (before the left wheel was extended) caused the axle on the right side of the picker to break, so he reinforced it. He used a wheel assembly equipped with a 2 1/2 in. dia. axle stub and welded a bracket for it onto the original mounting hole on the right wheel. He also replaced the right tire with a bigger 13.6 by 26 rear

tractor tire for added flotation, removing a shield so that it would fit. He replaced the original 9.50 by 15 tires on the wagon with 9.50 by 20 tires for more clearance. He hooks the wagon on behind the extreme left side of the picker.

“With these modifications we find that we get stuck a lot less than we did before,” says Sachar. “We do some custom corn picking and our customers are amazed by our ability to go in sloppy, wet conditions.

“The left wheel extension makes the corn picker almost 16 ft. wide so it’s more difficult to go down the road. When we have to travel a long distance, we remove the extension by removing two bolts and two pins and put the original wheel mounting assembly back on.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Sachar, 9937 Ivareh Rd., Cranesville, Penn. 16410 (ph 814 756-3975).