LIFTS UP TO 750 LBS.

Portable Minicrane For Pickups, Tractors

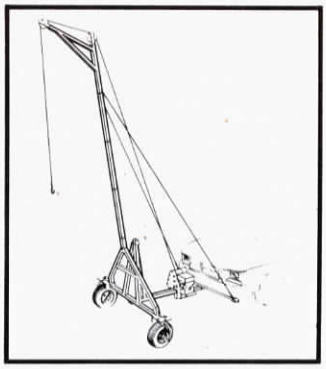
You'll like this portable Minicrane that attaches to pickups or tractors to handle tractor tires, engines and other heavy loads. The Minicrane, introduced by the A.M. Minicrane, Corp., Cassopolis, Mich., lifts up to 750 lbs. in its crane configuration and pulls with up to 1,250 lbs. of force when rigged as a winch.

It attaches to a 2-in. square trailer hitch mounted on the front or rear bumper of a pickup truck. "The hitch runs the length of the bumper and one guy wire attaches to each end of it from the crane. On tractors, the crane mounts on the 3 pt. hitch arms," explains Bill Monteith who holds a patent on the Minicrane.

The crane extends from 10 to 30 ft. tall using five, 5-ft. tubular steel sections that slide into place between the crane frame and the boom on top.

"The crane acts a counterweight so no weight is put on the truck or tractor. Guy wires and lifting cable are made from ¼ in. aircraft cable. Two swivel type wheels make the crane easy to move even with a load on the cable," says Monteith.

"To use as a winch, you remove all the extension sections so the boom sits directly on the crane frame," he notes.



Minicrane mounts on front or rear pickup bumpers or tractor 3-pts. Can also be used as a winch.

The crane is powered by the pickup or tractor's 12-v battery. Controls are on a cable that reaches the cab.

The Minicrane sells for $2,450, not including the hitch.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, A.M. Minicrane, Corp., 21669 Bulhand, Cassopolis, Mich. 49031 (ph 616 699-5466, or 663-8777).

Self-leveling shields adapt to any cultivator or toolbar.

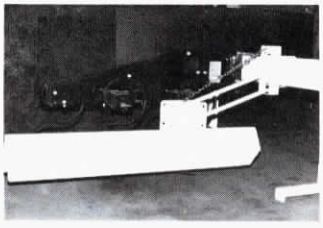
BEST CROP PROTECTION AVAILABLE

New Self-Leveling Cultivator Shields

You'll like these new self-leveling cultivator shields that'll fit any toolbar and provide total protection to growing crops while allowing you to travel faster while cultivating.

The shields, developed by Norm Mead, Wood River, Neb., are 4 to 5 ft. long, depending on the number of shanks on your cultivator. They curve over the top of the crop and are suspended by parallel linkage from the toolbar. They can be raised or lowered with a chain, allowing you to adjust to changing crop and field conditions. Shields can be adjusted up or down, back and forth in seconds.

Units fit any cultivator or toolbar. The 4-ft. long units sell for $70 and the 5-ft. for $77.50.



You can raise or lower the shield in seconds by simply adjusting a chain.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mead Cultivator Shield, Box 402, Wood River, Neb. 68883 (ph 308 583-2875).

Low-cost "custom cradle" handles eight bales at a time and unloads hydraulically.

LETS YOU HAUL EIGHT BIG BALES ON TRAILER YOU ALREADY OWN

Big Bale "Cradle" Fits Most Running Gears

You can haul up to eight big bales at a time on a running gear you already own by equipping it with a "big bale cradle," developed by Minnesota farmer Leon Reincke, of Lake City.

"I've used it for big bales the past three years and find it's also handy for hauling other things, such as lumber, posts or pipe. In addition to big bales, it'll also haul conventional bales. What's more, the cradle's sides can be positioned vertically to turn the unit into a big bale self-feeder," Leon points out.

It cost him $500 for material to make the cradle. "That's about one-fourth of what they were asking three years ago for a factory-made big bale transport I looked at — and it only carried six bales."

To haul big bales, Leon takes the box off a heavy-duty running gear with his tractor loader.

He then uses his loader to set the cradle on the trailer. The cradle's bottom is made up of two square pole barn poles which set lengthways inside the bolsters.

The cradle, fastened down with four bolts, has hinged sides, each of which are raised and lowered by a 3 by 10 in. hydraulic cylinder which runs off the towing tractor's hydraulics. Leon uses his tractor loader to load big bales onto the cradle. Individual bales are loaded alternately on each side to keep weight on the trailer balanced. When he gets to where he wants to unload, he activates the cylinder to drop all four bales on one side, and then the four bales on the other side.

"On level ground, I can drive indefinetly with only four bales on the one side without worrying about the load tipping to one side," he points out.

His cradle sets on a trailer with a 72 in. wheelbase and 11:00 by 15 tires. "Stability on uneven ground would be better if the cradle was mounted on a trailer with a wheelbase of 80 or more inches," says Leon. "I thought about turning the wheels around to increase the wheelbase but decided weight of the load might be too much for the wheel bearings."

Although he has only hauled eight big bales at a time (four on each side), Leon notes that, with an extra heavy duty running gear, a center tier of four bales could be loaded onto the cradle for a total of 12 big bales.

To unload, Leon manually hooks snap-coupler hoses from the cylinder on one side to the tractor, then activates that cylinder to lower the side and roll off the four bales. He then reconnects the hoses to unload the opposite side. Manually operated hooks hold the "loaded" side up while the opposite side is being unloaded via the cylinder. "You could put a tee into the line so the cylinder operating each side can be operated independently and without having to move the hoses," Leon points out.

The cradle itself is 24 ft. long. It's floor is made of 2 by 8's spaced 3 in. apart on channel iron (3 in. side) cross member supports. Double strength pipe (3 in. dia.) was used to build the hinged sides of the cradle.

When empty, the cradle sides can be tilted in so the tractor itself is the widest part going down the road.

Leon would like to compare notes with manufacturers interested in producing his "cradle" commercially. Meanwhile, he has "tooled up" to custom build the unit in his own farm shop for interested farmers and ranchers.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leon Reincke, Rt. 2, Lake City, Minn. 55041 (ph 612 345-4661).