

**“Best
Ideas”**



Gogerty made feed wagon out of worn out Deere 34 manure spreader.

Feed Wagon Built Out Of Manure Spreader

You can make a great feed wagon out of a worn out old manure spreader, says Zearing, Iowa, farmer Tim Gogerty.

“I built it last winter because I had this old Deere 34 spreader with a pretty weak frame and worn out beaters, but it still had a good apron and tires,” explains Gogerty. “So I decided I could still get some use out of it.”

“The only disadvantage I’ve discovered is that I have to dump on the ground. If I was using a conventional feed wagon, I’d probably be dumping into tractor tire feeders. I wouldn’t have quite as much waste that way.”

Gogerty used two 1 by 12-in. boards to extend three sides of the spreader by 2 ft. He bolted the boards to angle iron braces

on the sides and corners.

“I use it for hauling silage and ground hay in alternating layers to my winter beef cows,” he says. “I’d say I’ve probably got half the weight but twice the volume as compared to hauling manure, so it can easily handle the job.”

He pulls the spreader with a Deere 3020 tractor. He runs the apron at maximum speed and the beaters at minimum speed to prevent hurting hungry cows and calves that may get too close to them.

Gogerty has about \$150 invested in the conversion, including angle iron, wood and bolts.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tim Gogerty, 102 E. Custer St., Zearing, Iowa 50278 (ph 515 487-7825).

Power Adjust Wheels For MFWD Tractors

“We have crops on both 36 and 30-in. rows in our operation so we have to continually change wheel spacing. On our front wheel drive tractors this is a real chore,” says Jeff Laskowski, Plover, Wis.

“First you have to remove the entire front tire, rim and center dish off the tractor, and then unbolt the dish, turn it around, rebolt it and move the complete unit to the other side of the tractor and remount it. If the tires have fluid in them, as ours do, it’s quite a job.”

“The rear wheels on our Deere tractors are easy to move because of the rack and pinion system they have. But the fronts were a real bear, and it took 1 1/2 hrs. to convert a single tractor.

“Our solution was to go to a tractor salvage yard and purchase some old Allis-Chalmers power adjust rear wheels that were the same size as our fronts - 14.9 by 28. We then put the centers in a lathe and cut out the Allis bolt pattern to accommodate a new plate with the Deere bolt pattern needed. The Deere adaptor was also custom-made on a lathe. We just welded it in place and we were set.”

“Now we can change tread width on the entire tractor - front and rear - in about 15 min. It’s simple and works slick.

“Total cost was just \$500.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jeff Laskowski, Laskowski Farms, 5924 Cty. J, Plover, Wis. 54467 (ph 715 344-8076).

Powered Wheel Gives Forage Harvester A Traction Boost On Wet Ground

Wet weather doesn’t slow down silage-making at Jim Mitchell’s farm. In fact, he’s usually asked by neighbors to help chop their corn when he’s finished with his own.

That’s because of a “traction and flotation booster” Mitchell built to attach to the right side of his Gehl 1200 pull-type forage harvester.

It consists of a 7:1 gear reduction box which originally ran the plunger on an old New Holland baler, a TRW hydraulic motor, and a 14 by 9.38-in. rear wheel off a Deere “A” tractor.

The gearbox is chain driven by the hydraulic motor. They mount on a plate attached to an adjustable stub axle extension Mitchell made for the chopper out of 4-in. sq. tubing. The gear box, which drives the

tractor wheel from inside the rim when it’s put on, has an over-running clutch to let it free-wheel when extra traction is not needed.

The tractor wheel mounts on the forage harvester with an old tractor hub Mitchell rebored to fit the driveshaft out of the gearbox.

The hydraulic motor is driven by the Deere 8440 Mitchell uses to pull the harvester.

“We only put it on when it’s muddy and it works great to improve the traction and flotation of the harvester,” he says.

Out-of-pocket expense was about \$500.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Mitchell, 7896 U.S. Hwy. 11, Potsdam, N.Y. 13676 (ph 315-265-7647).



The platform, built out of railroad ties and planks, holds 80 stacked bales.

Elevated Bale Platform Doubles As Shelter

An elevated wooden platform lets Bill Gergen, Geneva, Neb., stack small square bales where they’re easily available for feeding yet keeps them out of reach of his sheep. It also doubles as a shelter.

The 20 by 10-ft. platform was built with used railroad ties and 2 by 12 planks. The platform stands 5 ft. off the ground and holds 80 bales stacked 6 high. Gergen climbs up a ladder on one side and chucks

bales down into a feedbunk. Sections of canvas hang on the “sunny” sides of the platform to provide shade. “I had been parking a trailer by the sheep to hold bales but I didn’t like having to tie it up all the time.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Gergen, Rt. 2, Box 96, Geneva, Neb. 68361 (ph 402 759-4828).

He Custom Raises Dairy Heifers

Custom raising dairy heifers could be a good alternative for many farmers, according to Minnesota farmer Brad Kloss, who started custom raising replacement heifers last year.

“It’s ideal for farmers who can’t operate a large farm, Kloss told FARM SHOW. Likewise, it’s good for farmers who like to raise calves but don’t care to milk. It could also be an option for farmers who want to gradually get out of dairying but want to retain their buildings.

For Kloss’s farmer-clients, there are many advantages too, Kloss says.

When space is no longer needed to raise heifers, dairy herds can be expanded by up to 25% without increasing size of facilities. More attention can be paid to milking, and money otherwise needed for raising heifers can be channeled elsewhere. It’s also good for farmers who are not good at selecting genetics for their herds, he says.

But there are pitfalls for both parties to watch out for, Kloss adds.

For the grower, they include things like shortages of calves, high calf loss if the farmer client doesn’t produce good calves, and the close supervision that calves require.

For the dairy farmer, pitfalls include increased chance of introducing disease into the herd, a shortage of replacements if the grower doesn’t produce good calves, and failure to productively use money that would have been used to raise replacement heifers.

A written contract is important, Kloss says.

Typically, a contract covers approximate weight gain and death loss objectives for the heifers, payment terms, stipulations for transportation, performance guarantees, notice of contract change or cancellation and insurance coverage.

The goal of the Kloss’ operation, which now has 90 heifers, is to provide farmers with a 1,350 lb. heifer in 22 months. Desired average weight gain is just less than 2 lbs. per day, with a final body score between 3.5 and 3.75. They charge \$1.35 a day for each animal.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brad Kloss, 15375 Barley Road NW, Royalton, Minn. 56373 (ph 612 584-5282). (Agri News, Rochester, Minn.)