

Made It Myself

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Portable Catcher Corrals Cows Quickly

If rounding up cows and calves on pasture is a problem for you, take a look at Jim Todd's portable corral that attaches quickly to his tractor.

Todd, who farms near Athens, Ill., began with three gate panels he had around the farm. He used another taller, narrower gate for the front end of the pen.

On its rear panel, Todd welded a cross member at the bottom and two uprights on the side. Besides reinforcing the pen, the uprights are used to latch onto the

corral with Todd's tractor loader. Just two pins hold the pen in place.

Cables from the uprights to the front of the pen help reinforce the frame of the pen as well as distribute the extra weight in front of the tractor.

For transportation, the gates fold against the main frame of the tractor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Todd, R.R., Athens, Ill. 62613 (ph 217 636 7736).

"Greatest Labor Saver I've Ever Built"

"It's the greatest labor saving idea I've ever come up with," says Ken Anderson, Trenton, Mo., of the automatic firewood elevator he built to lift wood from the basement in his big farm house up to the woodstove on the main floor.

Anderson made the wood elevator using the shaft and motor off a slightly damaged heavy-duty garage door opener. He bought it as damaged freight for \$60. The opener consisted of an electric motor with a right angle gear box with speed reduction that slows it down to 10 rpm's. It's also equipped with automatic shut-off.

"I got a weld-on sprocket - you can buy them at any farm supply store for \$10 or \$15 - and welded it to the motor's hub and slid it onto the output shaft of the opener," Anderson explains. "Then I made a little drum for cable to wrap around and ran a roller chain from it to

the sprocket on the opener."

He then built a 2-ft. deep by 3-ft. wide by 5-ft. tall cage that holds about 1/10 of a cord of wood. Steel cable pulls the cage up to a storage closet with the floor removed that's near Anderson's woodstove. Eight lawnmower wheels attached to the corners of the cage guide it up and down on the track Anderson made out of 2 by 4's between the basement and main floor.

The garage door opener is anchored in the top of the closet's ceiling with 2 by 4's.

Anderson's total investment in the wood elevator was about \$150.

"It's awful handy and you don't have any of the mess of hauling wood through the house," he says.

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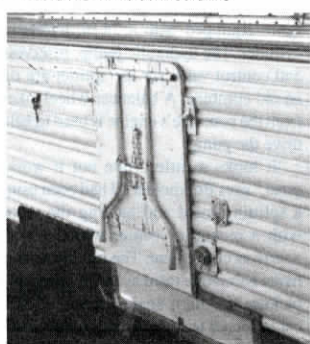
He Always Has A Table Available

Roy Hunzeker, a Nevada RV enthusiast, never has to wait for a table when camping thanks to this drop-down model he built.

The 18 by 28-in. plywood table is hinged to the side of his motorhome. Pipe legs swing down to support it when two screw locks are released near the top edge.

The table is available whenever Hunzeker stops along a stream or lake to wet a line, or when campsites are primitive or the regular camp table is in use.

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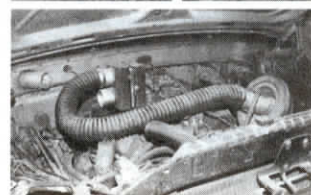
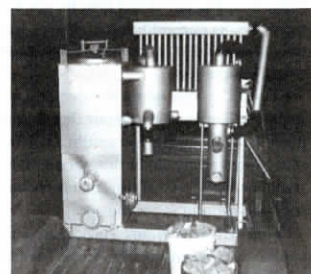


Pickup Modified To Run On Wood Gas

This 1969 Ford pickup was modified to run on wood chips 14 years ago by Albert Smith and Elden Fetterly, both of Wykoff, Minn., after they heard about wood gasifying technology to run vehicles during World War II.

The conversion cost about \$1,500. The heart of the system is a 350-lb. stainless steel burner that sits in the pickup box. Smoke is funneled from the burner to an adapter that replaces the engine air filter. Once converted, the pickup could cruise at speeds of up to 60 mph. It would burn a 10-gal. pail of wood chips on a 30-mile trip. Smith said he drove the pickup 1,500 miles before retiring it to his farm yard after a year or two.

Last year, the truck was extracted from trees that had grown up around it and donated to the Fillmore County Historical Center at Fountain, Minn.



Iowa Student Invents Dead Hog Cart

The big difference between the newest cart for moving dead hogs out of confinement and commercial "cadaver carts" is that the new one is designed for narrower alleys.

Clint Whetstine, 18, who graduated from high school last spring, came up with the idea two years ago. He built the cart from scratch in a couple of days last winter and would now like to find a manufacturer to produce it.

"It's a two-wheel cart that you hoist dead hogs onto so you don't have to move them manually," Whetstine says. "It works best with under 230-lb. hogs."

Made out of 1-in. steel tubing, the cart is 40 in. high by 18 in. wide at the axle, so it fits between the Whetstines' narrow, 18 1/2 in. wide confinement alleys. The cart rolls on two standard 6-in. dia. lawn mower wheels.

A handle extends up from the axle. A winch mounts near the top of the handle and a pulley is positioned about halfway down.

The winch's cable, with a loop of dog chain attached to the end, is used to pull dead pigs onto the cart's platform, which extends 1 1/2 ft. out horizontally from the cart's axle. A Y-shaped holder of square tubing is attached to the platform. This serves as a prop underneath the critter's head or shoulders and helps secure them on the cart. A metal stop on the front of the cart keeps it from tipping forward



when dead hogs are being winched onto it.

Including winch and steel tubing, Whetstine invested about \$30 in the cart.

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