Baird's 6-ft. long front-mount blade is attached to two 12-ft. lengths of steel tubing that run back to tractor 3-pt. Note counterweight on back made from 14-in. dia. pipe.

Front-Mount Blades For Smaller Tractors

If you have a utility tractor, you'll like this new front blade and mounting system that takes the place of a conventional 3-pt. mounted blade, providing improved vision, tractor stability and depth control, according to inventor James E. Baird.

"I came up with the idea a year or so ago and was so pleased with the way it worked out, I'm now using front-mount blades on all of my tractors," says Baird, Judson, Texas.

He uses a standard 6-ft. long dirt blade attached to two 12-ft. lengths of 2 by 4-in. steel tubing that runs back to the tractor 3-pt. The beams each have a pivot plate halfway back under the belly of the tractor or on the side rails. The beam ends attach to the two hydraulic arms on the 3-pt.

A 14-in. dia. steel pipe filled with sand and capped on the ends mounts horizontally between the hydraulic arms to serve as a counter weight for raising the blade. It weighs 50 lbs. more than the blade. Beams ahead of the pivot point exert downpressure to raise the blade.

The blade can be lowered as much as 4 in. below ground level and raised, simply by lowering the 3-pt. arms, up to 18 in. above the ground.

"The entire assembly weighs about 370 lbs., which adds a great deal of stability to the tractor, compared with a 3-pt. mounted blade," Baird notes. "It's ideal for snow removal, grading and preparing road beds, making fire breaks, cleaning fence lines, clearing land, cutting terraces and scraping manure."

When in full production, he expects his patented blade and mounting system to sell for $650 to $800, compared with up to $450 for heavy-duty Cat. I 3-pt. mounted blades.

He's looking for a manufacturer and will make plans available for $30 if there's interest.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James E. Baird, P.O. Box 541, Judson, Texas 75660 (ph/fax 903 663-0975; E-mail: ebairdo@aol.com).

On-Farm Slaughter System Makes Butchering Easier

"It saves a lot of time and makes the job a lot easier," says Joel Waldner, Lethbridge, Alberta, who lives on a Hutterite colony farm that butchers its own animals. Colony members designed their own slaughter system that includes an electric-powered hoist, gas-powered scalder, and electric-powered hair remover.

The 15-ft. high hoist has a 10-ft. long arm on top that's free to rotate 360 degrees. The arm is made from 4-in. channel iron. The hoist rolls back and forth on the arm.

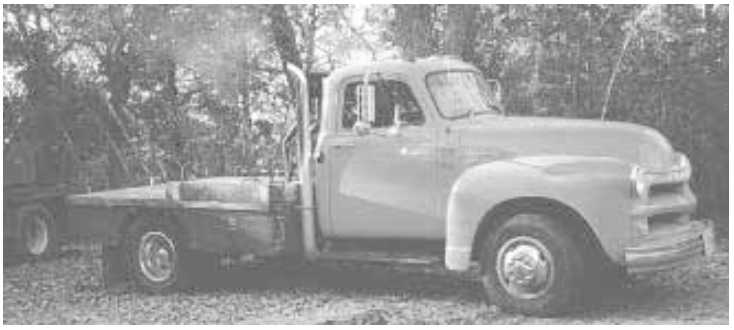
The scalder consists of a stainless steel tub equipped with a gas burner at the bottom made by drilling 4 rows of holes into a 3-in. dia. stainless steel pipe. Smoke from the burner exits through a 16-in. wide, hollow steel plate at one end of the tub.

The hoist lifts the carcass out of the scalder and into the hair remover which consists of a 10-ft. long steel tub. There's a powered shaft at the bottom of the tub that's fitted with rubber flaps. The carcass is lowered to the bottom of the tub by a steel cradle with rods spaced 3 in. apart. A 10 hp electric motor turns the shaft. The rubber flaps come up through the bars on the cradle to remove the hair. Once all the hair has been removed the cage is lifted back out of the tub and the carcass is unloaded onto a wheeled table. The table is then rolled up to an opening in a building that's equipped with a steel track along the ceiling. The carcass is hung on a pair of hooks suspended from a wheel that rides along the track. The carcass is then gutted.

Home-built slaughter system starts with this 15-ft. high electric-powered hoist equipped with a 10-ft. long arm on top that's free to rotate 360 degrees. Hoist rolls back and forth on arm.

"The electric motor on the hair remover is geared down to about one fourth its original speed so the batts don't rotate too fast," notes Waldner.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joel Waldner, 67 Tudor Crescent, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada T1K 5C7.



Draehn installed a 256 cu. in., 4-cyl. turbocharged diesel engine - out of a 1976 Ford 77 tractor - in this 1954 Chevy S4 1 1/2-ton pickup. "It really has pulling power," he says.

Chevy 1 1/2-Ton Pickup Repowered With Ford Tractor Diesel

"It runs better than it did when it was new and has so much power I can out-pull some tractors at area tractor pulls. What's more, it gets 29 mpg on the road," says Patrick Draehn about a 1954 Chevrolet S4 1 1/2-ton pickup that he repowered with a Ford tractor diesel engine and modified in other ways as well.

The pickup was given to the 34-year-old Draehn by his uncle when he was 12 years old with about 50,000 miles on it. It was originally powered by a 261 cu. in., 6-cyl. gas engine, which Draehn and his father overhauled once, and a 4-speed transmission.

When the engine finally seized up, Draehn decided to install a 256 cu. in., 4-cyl. turbocharged diesel engine out of a 1976 Ford 7700 tractor.

"Making the bell housing was the toughest part of the project," Draehn says. "I made it out of 1/2 and 1/8-in. thick plate. I cut out templates, drilled and tapped the holes and 'pie-pieced' together the outside part of the bell housing.

"The tractor flywheel is capable of housing a 13-in. dia. clutch, but I predrilled holes for an 11 7/8-in. clutch and pressure plate out of a 1979 Chevrolet 1-ton pickup that I installed."

Draehn also installed a Brown Light transmission behind the original transmission to give him a total of 12 forward gears and three reverse gears.

He installed the suspension, frame and running gear out of the 1979 Chevrolet pickup to smooth out the ride. "Those old pickups were fitted with 20-in. tires and they rode like tanks," he notes. "You couldn't keep tail lights from popping out on gravel roads."

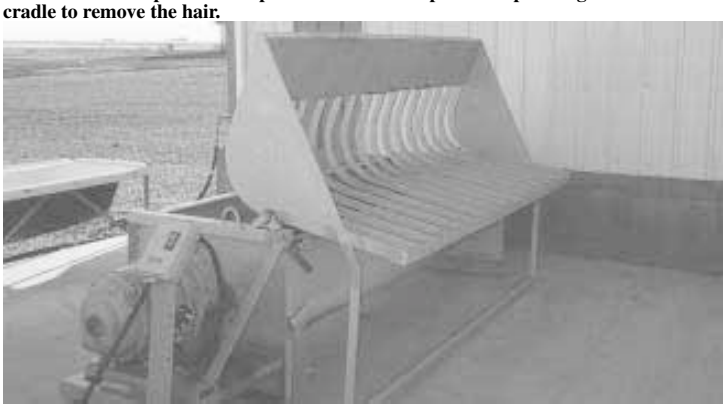
He also installed power steering and brakes out of the 1979 Chevrolet.

A 10,000-lb. Tulsa winch installed in the back of the pickup completed the project.

Out-of-pocket expense was about $2,500, including $150 for the Brown Light transmission.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Patrick Draehn, 4653 Springfield Lane, Brenham, Texas 77833 (ph 409 836-8634).

Electric-powered hair remover consists of a 10-ft. long steel tub with a powered shaft at bottom that's fitted with rubber flaps. Animal is lowered to bottom of tub by a steel cradle with rods spaced 3 in. apart. The rubber flaps come up through the bars on the cradle to remove the hair.



Once all the hair has been removed the cage is lifted back out of the tub and the animal is unloaded onto a wheeled table.