



Bayer Auto, Inc., custom builds "stretch trucks" by adding more doors and seats to cabs.

"Stretch Trucks" Accommodate Big Families, Work Crews

Even with club cabs, pickups aren't designed to haul a big work crew or a large family. That's what has created a market for the "stretch trucks" built by Mark Bayer and his 8-person auto body crew in Elrosa, Minnesota.

Bayer Auto, Inc., adds more doors and seats to cabs. They've made everything from regular Dodge two-seat crew cabs to stretched Ford F-350's with six doors on a side.

"When Dodge quit making a full size crew cab pickup, we got a lot of calls to make them for construction and farm people," says Bayer, explaining how he got started.

They made so many, in fact, that they used up the available supply of extra crew cab doors so they had to start making the doors themselves.

In addition to stretch pickups, Bayer customizes anything from small pickups to big over-the-road trucks. "I recently modified a Peterbilt truck for a custom harvester. We stretched the cab and added a 21-ft. service body with compartments for tools, welder, air compressor, and even a crane so they could do just about every type of repair that might be needed on a combine in the field," Bayer says.

Having built a reputation as a custom vehicle fabricator, Bayer gets a lot of interesting calls.

"We built an RV tow vehicle on a Freightliner semi truck for a man who wanted to use it to haul two full dress Honda Gold Wings," he tells. "We put a van body on it, and then split and hinged the body so it would open up hydraulically and he could load or unload the motorcycles with the 35-ft. travel trailer still hitched on the back."

Occasionally he considers the requests a little too far out and doesn't take on the project. "Not long ago, someone wanted us to put a flatbed on top of an SUV," he says. "I asked more questions about that one and it turned out he wanted it so he could mount a machine gun on the SUV. We didn't do that one."

If you're looking to add seating in a regular pickup, Bayer says the base price is \$10,500



This stretched pickup has three doors on each side.



Custom-built RV tow vehicle has a storage compartment between cab and hitch (above). Hinged body swings out to unload motorcycle without unhitching RV (below).



per bench seat. "Then we can add a lot of options, like TVs, running boards, upgrades in engines or performance packages, dualies and auxiliary transmissions," he says. "We can even add 4-WD if it's not already on the truck. We also custom build vans and can add four-wheel-drive on those, too."

You can see examples of Bayer's work at his Website: www.bayerautoinc.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Bayer, Bayer Auto, Inc., Box 7, Elrosa, Minn. 56325 (ph 320 697-5671; E-mail: bayerautoinc@willmar.com).

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Verleun converted a pair of 40-ft. long, 8-ft. wide semi flatbed trailers into this bridge.

Flatbed Trailers Make Handy Bridge

Gabriel Verleun's fields were divided by a creek with steep banks. To get from one field to another he had to drive on the highway which was out of his way.

To solve the problem, the Prince Edward Island farmer converted a pair of 40-ft. long, 8-ft. wide semi flatbed trailers into a bridge.

He paid a few hundred dollars for the trailers and stripped them down to just the decks, which he set on top of field rocks that he piled onto both sides of the creek. He cut the second flatbed trailer lengthwise into 2-ft. wide sections and set them on either side of the other flatbed, then welded everything together to make the bridge about 13 ft. wide. He also laid wire mesh over the middle part of the bridge.

"It lets me scoot from field to field with my ATV, tractors and field implements and provides a much more direct route than by



Bridge measures 13 ft. wide.

highway," says Gabriel. "The entire bridge, including some new steel that I bought, cost about \$2,000 to build. I set an electric welder up on site at the bridge in order to weld it together, using a tractor-powered generator for power."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gabriel Verleun, Upper Montague, RR 3, P.E.I., Canada COA 1R0 (ph 902 838-4658).

Tool Pulls "Weed Trees" By The Root

If you've got a lot of small weed trees and brush that keep popping up around your yard and buildings, you'll like this new tool that's designed to pull them out by the roots.

The "Root Talon" consists of a 4 by 11-in. heavy steel head mounted on a 3-ft. long fiberglass handle. The head looks somewhat like a large claw hammer but has a steel hook that wraps around the tree trunk. You place the notch against the base of a young tree and then hook onto it and pull back.

"It's easy to use and eliminates the need for cutting, which can actually encourage unwanted plant growth," says inventor John Lampe. "It works on trees anywhere up to one inch in diameter. It works great for removing non-native, invasive species like buckthorn and also for removing difficult-to-reach plants and saplings alongside building



"Root Talon" has a steel hook that wraps around tree trunk. You use it like a large claw hammer.

foundations and fence lines."

Sells for \$47 plus \$7.95 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lampe Design, 262 South Griggs St., St. Paul, Minn. 55105 (ph 866 334-9964; E-mail: jl@usinternet.com; Website: www.lampdesign.com).

Brush Cutter Cuts Like A Knife

Heavy weeds, grass, brush or small trees can be easily removed with the handheld "forester hoe" from Fanno Saw Works, Chico, Calif.

The new hoe-type tool has a sharpened steel blade that measures 8 in. long by 7 1/2 in. wide and is mounted on a 51-in. handle. It was originally developed for the transportation industry to remove heavy weeds and brush from roadsides.

"You can use it like a hoe, with a chopping motion, or cut down with it like you would with an axe or heavy machete," says Robert Fanno. "It's not designed to cut into the ground but to attack the base of the plant at the dirt line. By dragging the tool across hard surfaces, you can also use it to remove grass and weeds stuck between seams in concrete and cracks in asphalt."

Sells for \$60 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fanno Saw Works, Box 628, Chico, Calif. 95927 (ph 530 895-1762; fax 530 895-0302; Website: www.fannosaw.com).

Hand-held "forester hoe" can be used like a hoe, with a chopping motion. Or, you can cut small trees and brush with it like you would with an axe or heavy machete.

