Rolling Snow Shovel

Using recycled bicycle parts, an Alberta man found a way to make snow scraping much easier on the back.

Rod McFarlane of Westlock, Alberta says his "wheeled snow pusher" requires no lifting.

"You just push it using your legs and not your back," he says. "It's designed to be used on paved surfaces."

To make the unit, McFarlane cut an old bicycle all apart.

He made the horizontal section of the "rolling shovel" frame by using the bicycle piece that went from the pedals to the back wheel. The vertical part of the snow pusher's frame is made from the bike support that ran from the back of the wheel, up to the seat.

With a pivot pin, he sets the blade straight across, and then drills a hole two inches back from the pivot pin hole, through the blade anchor's upper and lower plate and the blade mount.

McFarlane sets the blade at the angle he prefers for use, and uses the 1/4-in. hole in the upper plate as a guide to drill another hole through the blade mount. He follows the same procedure for the opposite angle.

To attach a shovel blade, McFarlane first removes the handle, and then welds a 2 by 1/8-in. piece of flat iron to the bottom of the blade. Next, he cuts the handle mount at an angle, near the top of the blade, before welding a piece of 1/4 by 1 1/2 by 6-in. flat iron to the blade's handle mount. Then McFarlane cuts a piece of 1 by 2-in. flat iron diagonally, and welds it to each side of the blade mount, to form a triangle.

Ron McFarlane says his "wheeled snow pusher" requires no lifting.

"Also, I weld a piece of 1/8 by 2 by 4-in. flat iron to the front of the horizontal frame and use a small piece of 1/4 by 1 by 2-in. flat iron as a spacer at the wheel-end of the of the horizontal frame," he explains. "Next, I take a piece of flat iron that's 1/8-in thick by 2-in. wide, and this becomes the upper anchor for the blade angle."

McFarlane then drills 1/4-in holes in the end of the horizontal frame and the blade mount, (all the way through where the pedals were originally mounted). This is for the snow blade's pivot pin.

"I've made a few for friends for $50 each, but I don't want to go into business," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rod McFarlane, 10404 – 103 St., Westlock, Alberta, Canada T7P 1L1 (ph 780 349-5178; revmcfarlane@shaw.ca).

Massive aerator has a drum 5 ft. long and 5 ft. in diameter that's made of 1-in. thick steel.

Aerator Helps Pasture Soak Up Rain

They do it to golf courses, lawns and ball fields. So why not aerate pastures? Charles Golden does, and he swears by it. His homemade aerator drives its blades 8 in. deep.

"It just stirs the ground a little," says Golden. "The hole isn't big enough to cause problems for cattle, but when you're done in the fall, the rain really softens the ground. It soaks right in."

His aerator is massive, with a drum 5 ft. long and 5 ft. in diameter and made of 1-in. thick steel. Originally a self-propelled road packer, it was being junked when Golden ran across it. The motorized portion of the frame had been cut away though most of the 12-in. steel beam frame remained. He rebuilt the frame, reinforcing it and bringing it to a point in front.

Golden knew he would have to be able to raise the aerator on turns or it would chew up the sod. To do so, he fashioned 3-pt. hitch adapters that hook to the frame hitch to lift the roller off the ground.

"The 3-pt. hitch lets me pick it up just enough with my John Deere 4240 to clear the ground on turns," says Golden.

The axle is an old truck front axle that lets the aerator trail the 3-pt. in the raised position. Golden attached it to the frame of the aerator drum with a piece of 4 by 7-in. box beam. One end of the beam is welded to either side of the axle housing. The other end slides through a channel welded to the center rear of the aerator frame. Holes drilled in the channel and the box beam let Golden adjust the wheels down for travel or out of the way for aeration.

"I pick it up with the 3-pt. hitch, loosen the pins and set the wheels," explains Golden. "I could have used hydraulics, but this was simpler."

The teeth are 8 in. long, and 4 in. wide at the base and taper to a point. They were cut form 3/4-in. steel plate and welded in place at an angle on 8-in. centers. Initially Golden had rows of teeth every 4 in., but discovered they cut the ground up too much. The 8-in. spacing provides optimum aeration.

He stacks old railroad rails on the front of the frame.

"The extra weight pushes the tongue down and keeps the aerator in the ground," says Golden. "It's a mean machine, and it rolls pretty fast on flat ground. I've covered every acre twice since I built it. With the drought we've had, I need to keep using it so rains will soak in when they do come."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Charles Golden, 287 Firetower Rd., Okolowa, Ark. 71962 (ph 870 274-3260).

Pronged "Wean Halter" Helps Keep Mare And Foal Together

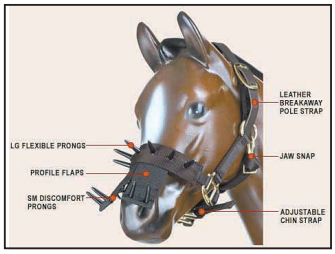
If you own horses, you'll be interested in this "wean halter" that allows mother and foal to stay together during the weaning process, without having to separate the animals.

The Ezee Wean Halter is designed to be worn by the foal. It makes nursing uncomfortable for both animals.

The black flat halter has a nose strap with soft, flexible urethane prongs that protrude outward. There are also smaller prongs located on the underside of the strap that protrude inward. If the foal tries to nurse, the prongs touch the mare in the flanks and also bump the foal in the nose. The mother is irritated enough to signal to the foal that nursing will no longer be tolerated. When the nursing attempts stop, the foal's discomfort also stops.

The wean halter lets you avoid separation anxiety, which can lead to self-inflicted injuries or even serious illness.

The halter has an adjustable chin strap, jaw snap, and breakaway leather pole strap. The strap can also be purchased separately and used with an existing halter. The number of prongs and profile straps varies based on the halter size ordered.



"Wean halter" is designed to be worn by the foal and allows mother and foal to stay together during the weaning process.

Typically, the halter and strap will be worn for four to six weeks.

Sells for $36 to $60 plus S&H depending on foal size. Specify the age and breed of your foal.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Horsing Around, LLC, 2221 Heinstead Road, Eau Claire, Wis. 54729 (ph 866 438-3933 or 715 552-3933; info@horsingaroundllc.com; www.horsingaroundllc.com).

Four-section plastic rescue tube is big enough to go around the person trapped in grain.

Grain Bin "Rescue Tube"

By C. F. Marley, Contributing Editor

Workers trapped in grain bins are likely to be rescued successfully if first responders are equipped with the new Liberty Grain Rescue Tube, according to Dirk Maier, of Liberty Rescue Systems LLC near Brookston, Ind.

The system consists of a four-section plastic tube big enough to go around the person trapped in grain. Rescue workers fit the tube together inside the bin, then drive the panels down into the grain. In most cases the panels slide down easily, but panels also can be equipped with slide hammers for driving them down.

The grain then is removed from around the trapped person. Grain can be scooped out or sucked out by a shop vac, if available. The tube is equipped with support handles for victims to grab onto.

According to the company's website, over the past 40 years more than 600 workers have been engulfed and suffocated in flowing grain. Until now, the method most often used in rescues has been cutting holes in bins to allow grain to spill out.

The Rescue Tube was used recently in grain rescue training workshops in Maryland, Michigan, and Indiana. According to the company, advanced training by emergency and rescue personnel certainly is a "must" with this entirely new system so they will be able to use it rapidly and with confidence in a real emergency.

Rescue workers fit the tube together inside the bin, then drive the panels down into the grain.

List price is $3,700.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Liberty Rescue Systems, LLC (ph 888 213-8823 or 765 567-8823; libertyrescue@gmail.com; www.libertyrescuesystems.com).