

Foot Pedal Controls Zero-Turn Discharge

You can control the grass discharge easily from a zero-turn mower with the GrassFlap. David Luking's innovative foot pedal controls make it simple to open and close the grass discharge chute as needed. First introduced a year ago, the hands-free control has proven itself with initial customers.

"I've had people who've tried it tell me they won't cut grass without it now," says Luking. "Guys who've used it mowing cemeteries say it is great for keeping grass off memorial stones. Landscapers like how it helps them avoid hitting sidewalks, walls, flower beds and even parked cars with grass or stones."

Luking got the idea for the GrassFlap when he upgraded to a zero-turn mower. He had previously made a hand-operated one for his walk-behind. Initially he modified the hand-operated unit for the zero-turn. After a season, he decided he needed a way to open and close the flap on the chute with his feet while steering in close quarters. Over the summer he refined the concept. It worked so well that he decided to start offering it for use on other zero-turn mowers.

The 10-ga. steel flap mounts to the grass chute. The foot pedal mounts to the foot deck where it can be operated with the heel of the foot.

"We've tried to keep it simple. At first we tried to make a universal model that could fit any zero-turn or stand-on mower without drilling holes," says Luking. "However, there are too many different designs. While the foot pedal is standard, discharge openings and chutes can vary."

Luking now has different versions for different brands. Some fit existing holes in the mower deck, while others require holes to be drilled to mount the pedal and the flap. However, he only has one price.

"We keep it simple with a \$275 price plus \$20 shipping for all models," says Luking. "We do offer volume discounts."

Generic instructions make it easy to install the units, adds Luking. "The first time you install one, it can take an hour or more," he says. "Once you have some experience, it will take 45 min. or less."

To see the GrassFlap in action, go to FARMSHOW.COM.



Foot pedal lets you open and close the flap on mower's grass discharge chute with your feet while steering in close quarters.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ky. 40223 (ph 502 594-3546; www.GrassFlap.com).

A "Helping Hand" For Zero-Turn Mowers

Getting on and off zero-turn riding mowers can be tricky. A new support arm called the DONBAR makes it easier for operators of all ages.

"My dad was a retired dairy farmer who loved cutting his grass, but he had trouble getting on and off," recalls Ken Lundgren. "I built my first DONBAR for him. He was able to mow for 4 more years."

It isn't just the elderly who like a little help. Lundgren recalls the first time he spent part of a day on a new zero-turn mower. "As I climbed out of the seat, I understood what my dad was talking about," he says.

One of Lundgren's customers is a professional landscaper with 200 mowers. At the time he first saw the DONBAR, he had 4 worker's compensation claims related to getting on and off zero-turns.

"He ordered one for every mower he has," explains Lundgren. "The DONBAR works just like a handrail. It gives an extra point of contact for better balance and stability."

The DONBAR mounts directly to the footplate of a zero-turn mower. It uses existing deck holes and attaches with lock nuts that resist loosening under vibration and torque.



DONBAR support arm works like a handrail, making it easier to get on and off zero-turn mowers.

It's priced at \$94.95 plus shipping. NE., Blaine, Minn. 55449 (ph 763 785-1382; www.dbmower.com).
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, DB Mower Innovations, 10044 Goodhue St.

"Push 'N Pull" Mowing System For Steep Hills

If you've got a steep hill to mow, you'll like this "push 'n pull" mower developed by James Lake, Rio, Ill. He uses his Deere riding mower fitted with a 16-ft. long tongue to push and pull a 22-in. mower on a steep hill in his front yard.

All together, the riding mower, tongue and push mower are about 27 ft. long. It's sized so that when the mower reaches the bottom of the hill, the riding mower is still on flat ground. The driver then backs up at a slight angle to cut a new swath going up the hill.

"It's easy to operate and safe to use," says Lake. "I use my Deere X758 4-WD diesel riding mower equipped with a hitch on front. I cut a full strip on the way down, and cut as much unmowed grass as I can on the way back. It's a lot easier than mowing the hill by hand, and I don't have to worry about tipping over."

He made the tongue by sawing the rungs out of a 16-ft. aluminum ladder and then bolting the 2 sides together, using a couple of 2 by 4 braces.

The tongue swivels back and forth on a 2-in. ball mounted on front of the riding mower at about 3 ft. off the ground. The ball mounts on a heavy duty steel bracket attached to a receiver hitch that was already on the riding mower.

"I had to keep the end of the tongue high so the tongue doesn't catch on the ground as the push mower goes over the edge of the hill. I even bolted some boards on between the coupler and tongue to increase the height," says Lake. "The receiver hitch is only 1 1/4

in. square and wasn't strong enough or high enough to take all the pressure the tongue would put on it, so I added some steel braces and bolted them to the tractor's frame."

The push mower end of the tongue bolts onto a piece of plywood that's free to swivel up or down via a pair of big barn hinges. Lake folded the push mower's handle and bolted it down to the deck to form a triangle. Then he made a metal bracket to support the plywood and bolted the hinges onto each side of it. He also bolted a piece of laminated metal onto the plywood and then drilled holes all the way through it and the plywood, allowing him to bolt on a short block of wood at the end of the tongue.

"I can't believe how nice the hill looks when I'm done. I get a lot of compliments on it," says Lake. "Passing drivers are often surprised when they see the push mower coming down over the hill, but can't see the riding mower because it's hidden behind the hill. Once they see the driver they often honk their horn or wave."

"I mounted big 10-in. wheels on back of the mower so it rolls easier. I also mounted a rubber flap on back of the mower and installed a plastic chute on the discharge side to keep stuff from flying back up at me. A short chain keeps the mower from doing a wheelie as it comes back uphill."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James Lake, 2948 U.S. Hwy. 150 W., Rio, Ill. 61472 (ph 309 972-5581; jameslake@hotmail.com).



James Lake uses his Deere riding mower, fitted with a push mower at the end of a 16-ft. long tongue, to mow a steep hill in his front yard.



Tongue swivels on a 2-in. ball mounted on front of mower. Push mower end of tongue bolts onto a piece of plywood that's free to swivel up or down via a pair of barn hinges.