

He Built Giant 67-Ft. Blade Plow

"I needed a plow that could cover a lot of ground under difficult soil conditions and that could handle the power of a 650 hp. tractor," says John Hall, Hereford, Tex.

"In early 1980 I built a 44-ft., 3-section frame blade plow for my 310 hp. Versatile 4-WD. I built the plow out of 6 by 8 by 3/8-in. wall steel tubing which has the strength and weight needed to penetrate the rock hard soil conditions we sometimes have here on the Texas high plains.

"When I traded my Versatile in for a 650 hp. Big Bud tractor, I built two outer wings for the 44-ft. plow, making a total of 67 ft. I had to redesign the 6 gauge wheel assemblies to handle the extra weight.

"The plow cuts a 67-ft. wide swath and has 20 shanks and blades on 40-in. centers and weighs approximately 35,000 lbs. It has 18 wheels and tires with 12 hydraulic cylinders that raise and lower the unit. Eight hydraulic cylinders fold the 5-section frame to a transport height of 21 ft.

"I built and designed every piece on this plow including shanks, clamps, walking beam gauge wheel assemblies to the big V-blades which can be removed and replaced with subsoil points that fit the 1 1/2 by 10 by 32-in. shanks. I can rip as

deep as 12 in. when running the subsoil points.

"Each gauge wheel assembly on the center section has four wheels mounted on a walking beam so that the front two wheels and rear two wheels float independently. That means all 4 wheels carry an equal load even on uneven terrain.

"The plow frame is constructed of three main beams of 6 by 8-in. tubing and crossed-braced with 4 by 7-in. wall tubing. The tongue is 6 by 8-in. tubing. It runs all the way under the frame to the rear and is overlaid and cross-braced with 4 by 4-in. tubing on top of the plow frame.

"I use the plow primarily for the first trip over hard ground and then followup with my 80-ft. Friggstad chisel plow with 16-in. sweeps on it. When seeding, I add an 80-ft. Econo-Rod behind the Friggstad chisel for leveling and final seedbed preparation and also pull two 40-ft. Crust-Buster wheat drills behind the 80-ft. Friggstad plow. This method of plowing and planting all in one trip saves me a lot of time and conserves valuable moisture."

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He Chops, Unloads Silage Without Unhooking Forage Wagon

"We run a smaller-sized dairy farm and I operate machinery by myself so I don't need more than one forage box for chopping silage. This setup lets me hook up to both the chopper and wagon and never unhook them until the job is done," says Clarence Zeman, Cato, Wis., about the drive and transport add-ons he came up with for his Deere chopper.

Zeman installed a jackshaft that runs from the pto shaft at the front of his Deere one-row chopper back to the input shaft on his International forage wagon. He also mounted a hydraulic cylinder on the tongue of the chopper so he can swing chopper and wagon over behind the tractor for transport and to make it easier to line up with his silo blower to unload.

"The manufacturer makes a similar pole swing but the way their cylinder is mounted makes it easy to bend the shaft. With my setup, if I hit a fencepost and break it off, there'll be no damage to the cylinder. When pulling up to the blower, if alignment is off I just back up about 10 ft. and swing the hydraulic cylinder for correction.

"To unload at the silo, slip in the forage



box drive shaft, shift the chopper feed rolls into neutral, and start up the pto. When the box is empty, disconnect the forage box shaft and head back to the field. It saves lots of time spent hooking and unhooking wagons and one tractor does it all. I use the same setup for fenceline feeding."

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Chain Link Steering Wheel

Here's an inexpensive steering wheel you can make in your own workshop. We spotted this one on a tractor competing in the tractor pull at the recent National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky. The attractive, chrome-plated wheel's individual chain links are welded to each other, and the wheel spokes, to form a perfect circle steering wheel with great hand-grip power for precision steering.



Two-Level Farm Shop

By Naomi Simmons-Bradshaw

When Stan and Marty Lips drew up plans to build a machine shop they used the slope of the land to their advantage.

The 74-ft. by 40-ft. building on their farm southwest of Bartlett, Kan., is built on two levels. The front part of the building is a full 2 ft. higher than the back portion.

"It was kind of a lucky accident. The ground sloped off and it was easier to build it that way," Stan says. "It didn't take long for the Lips brothers to discover the convenience and advantage of having two floor levels.

"We can back in the front door of the lower level and unload pipe or other materials close to the edge of the upper level. It's so easy then to just pull a piece out of the pile and saw it," Stan says, noting that a table saw is mounted on a stand to make it the same height as the upper floor section. By pulling the building material or pipe out on the same level much of the lifting and carrying is eliminated.

The men also take advantage of the two levels to make servicing smaller farm vehicles easier. "At first we would drive the cars and pickups over to the edge to change oil and do other service jobs. Then we got the idea to put up pedestals and drive the vehicles out on ramps over the lower part so we could work underneath."

The pedestals are 2 1/2 ft. tall, 14-in. dia. pipe segments mounted on metal plates which are bolted to the floor. The top of the pedestals are 18-in. wide metal plates with the outside edge turned up to keep the vehicle from rolling off.

The 14-in. wide, 3/8-in. reinforced sheet

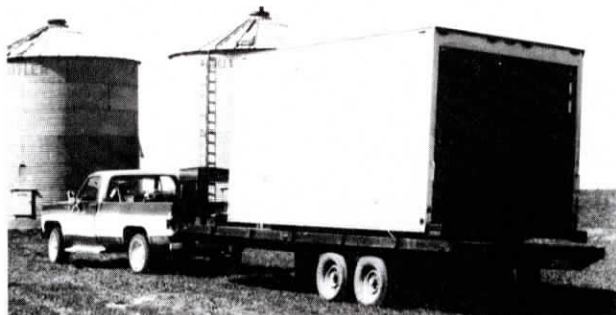


metal ramps which bridge between the wall and the pedestals are adjustable to the different widths between wheels of each individual vehicle. They are also removable for ease in working under vehicles.

"I can sit up straight on the creeper or the stool to work on things," Stan says. "I can take out the ramp and I don't have to duck. It makes it real handy."

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(Reprinted courtesy Farm Talk, Parsons, Kan.)



Truck Box Makes Planting Time Easier

This trailer and truck box combination makes planting time a lot easier for Duane and Willard Gerlach who farm near Nevada, Iowa.

The brothers mounted a panel truck box on the bed of a flatbed gooseneck trailer.

The trailer-truck transports seed and chemicals to the field, protecting from wind and rain. They say they especially like the fact that it keeps empty sacks from blowing around.