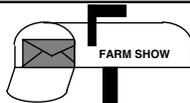


# Reader Letters



(Continued from previous page)

off the assembly line at Waynesboro, Pa. I started by removing all the belt pulleys from the mill. I used a pto shaft off a junked 56 New Holland baler to drive the mill's 50-in. dia. blade. We used everything ahead of the baler's gear drive, including its flywheel,



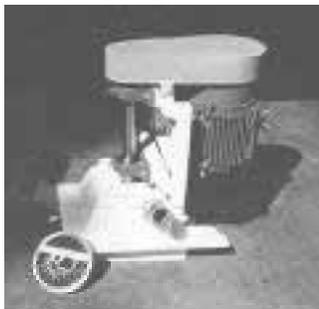
which was heavier than the sawmill's original.

I converted the carriage to run off tractor hydraulics by installing a hydraulic motor and forward/reverse valve where the belt drive had been. I also installed a hydraulic-driven grain auger underneath the mill to keep sawdust from building up.

I built a control console for the hydraulic switches. It mounts on a pedestal that makes it easy to adjust height up to 10 in. and swivels 180° to accommodate different size operators. I built a 6-ft. wide, 12-ft. long, 7 1/2-ft. high operators platform with expanded metal flooring and aluminum roof.

Wood-milling is a pastime for me. I can saw spruce, white and red oak, and white ash logs up to 3-ft. in dia. and 16-ft. long into 20-in. boards for myself and a few others. The mill really works slick because your controls are all within arm's reach rather than 30 or 40 ft. away as they might have been when a tractor's belt pulley powered it. (Robert McCracken, 1210 County Road 8, R.R. 1, Staples, Ontario NOP 2J0; ph 519 687-6281).

Here's my mini hydro turbine/generator that's small in size but is ideal for powering a home, shop, or for remote applications such as



electric fences.

It operates on falling water through a 4-in. dia. line. It requires between 70 and 200 ft. of vertical drop to operate with a volume of water between 60 and 300 gpm's. Output power depends on certain variables but should be 3 to 7 Kw per hour. By my calculations, payback on the unit is less than two years, including cost of the waterline, intake and powerhouse.

Energy is produced by an induction generator via belt drive, and the governor is a computerized load controller.

Basic price of the turbine, generator and governor is \$4,300 (U.S.), excluding water pipe and installation. (Ron Williams, Morehead Valley Hydro Inc., Box 2553, Williams Lake, B.C., Canada V2G 4P2; ph 250 790-2489, fax 392-6639; Email rwilliam@mail.netshop.net).

I made this bale hand cart so I can move high moisture, 4-ft. sq. wrapped silage bales down my barn alley during the winter. The cart consists of a steel frame equipped with a pair of forks that swing up or down and



two arms outside them equipped with hydraulic cylinders that are manually operated by a pump. The pump and cylinders were salvaged. By using four bolts I can mount the hub, axle and bearings all as a unit. Then I jack up the pump to retract the cylinders so that the bale tilts backward onto the main frame. To set the bale down, I extend the cylinders to tilt the bale forward onto the floor and then release the swing forks. The large diameter space saver tires roll very easily on surfaces that are a little rough or uneven. Even my first grade son can pull the loaded cart even though a 4 by 4 1/2-ft. silage bale weighs about 1,350 lbs.

I set seven bales down at the end of the barn once a week and use a hydraulic knife to split the bales. That way, I only have to start my tractor twice a week. I paid \$500 for the cylinders and hydraulic pump. (Lee Waldhart, N877CTHC, Stetsonville, Wis. 54480; ph 715 678-2873).

Our Medi-Dart projectile syringe remains as popular today as the first time it was featured in FARM SHOW. It makes medicating pasture cattle easy and less stressful to the animal.

We wanted to let your readers know the toll-free number in your Best of FARM SHOW issue was wrong. The correct number is 888 778-7757, or 403 783-8720. (Medi-Dart, Inc., Box 4181, Ponoka, Alberta, Canada T4J 1R6).

We can install concrete slats in our hog barns faster than the company can deliver them thanks to this motorized cart I had built two years ago. That's when we decided to re-



place 32,000 sq. ft. of metal flooring with concrete. We only work on the project during winter, installing up to 40 slats a day. The 3-wheeled machine is powered by a rear-mounted 5 hp Kawasaki engine. It has hydrostatic drive and a rear platform for an operator to stand on. It has two stabilizer arms on the side that extend when picking up concrete slats with the boom. We usually use 4 by 8-ft. slats weighing 1,200 lbs. apiece but it'll handle slats up to 10 ft. long. Height is just under the 86 in. of our doorways. It steers with a rod attached to the front tire. Rear tires are foam-filled 10-in. tires. Custom-building the cart cost \$4,000 from a nearby manufacturer of TMR mixers. (Amos L. Hoover, RR 1, Box 80, Blain, Pa. 17006; ph 717 536-3458).



Converting his forage wagons to rear-unloading should give them another 20 years of life for use with his bunk silos, Gran says.

## Converted Forage Wagons Dump Into Bunks

When Duane Gran, St. Peter, Minn., switched from upright silos to bunker silos, he modified a pair of front-unloading forage wagons by converting them from pto-operated, front-unloading models to hydraulic-driven, rear-unloading models.

"They unload a lot faster now and I saved the cost of new rear-unloading wagons. My wagons were already about 20 years old and the front-unloading conveyors were worn out. By converting them to rear-unload I expect they'll last at least another 10 years. I spent only about \$800 to modify each wagon," says Gran.

He cut off the front end of each wagon and removed the conveyor and beaters, then used a skidsteer loader to lift the box up and turn it around. He made a plywood door on back (where the front-unloading conveyor had been) that's hinged on top and supported by an angle iron frame. The entire door is

reinforced by lengths of strap iron.

An orbit motor is used to rear-unload the wagon off the tractor hydraulics. Gran mounted a large sprocket onto a shaft that drives the floor apron chain and chain-drives it with the orbit motor.

"It takes only about two minutes to dump a full load," says Gran. "We mounted automatic hitches on the chopper and both wagons so that the tractor drivers never have to get out of their cabs. It speeds things up."

"I think this idea would work with any wagon brand. I paid \$300 for the orbit motor. It's probably bigger than I needed, but I didn't know how much power it would take to unload the wagon and I wanted to make sure the motor wasn't underpowered."

"My son Dave did most of the work." Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Duane Gran, Rt. 3, Box 63, St. Peter, Minn. 56082 (ph 507 246-5357).

## "The Best Crop Mulcher On The Market"

Here's the best crop mulcher on the market, according to its inventor, Davenport, Wash., farmer Ron Mielke, who introduced the new-style mulching tool, sometimes called a "skewtreader", at the recent Spokane Ag Expo in Spokane, Wash.

He tested it for three years, mulching winter wheat stubble once following a light crop and twice following a heavy one. He says it'll work much like a rotary hoe in soybeans and corn too.

"It's the only tool of its kind on the market that's transportable, hydraulically folding to only 14 1/2 ft. wide and 15 ft. tall to ensure it'll travel comfortably down roads and fit safely underneath power lines," Mielke notes. "It's also the only one with independently adjustable front and back gangs, meaning you can vary skew on each from 0 to 16 degrees, depending on soil conditions and how aggressive you want it to be. You can also vary working depth from 1/2 to 5 in."

"Besides aerating soil and chopping stubble into uniform 5 to 8-in. lengths, it's also ideal for dry and liquid chemical incorporation because the front gangs throw soil in one direction and the back gangs throw it the opposite direction."

The "Mielke Mulcher" features eight pairs of gangs fitted with "spiders" on 5 in. spacings and spaced 17 1/4 in. apart, tooth-to-tooth. They turn in greaseable triple seal bearings designed specifically to thrust soil out away from ends.

The mulcher's main frame is built of 4 by 4 by 1/4-in. tubing with gang support



Mulcher comes in 47 and 33-ft. models.



It folds to 14 1/2-ft. wide for transport.

built of 3 by 3 by 1/4-in. tubing. With frame and spiders, the mulcher weighs 14,000 lbs., at least 30 percent heavier than old-style skewtreaders, ensuring it penetrates hard, dry soil.

It's fitted with four 9.50L by 15-in. 12-ply center tires four or six 9.50L by 15-in. 8-ply tires on each wing, depending on model. Like its self-leveling hydraulic hitch, tires help provide enough flotation to maintain even depth of mulch, Mielke says.

Comes in two sizes: Model 2033 (33-ft. wide) and Model 2047 (47-ft. wide). Sells for \$25,750 and \$33,250 (maleable spiders); \$28,380 and \$36,900 (chromium spiders).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stoess Manufacturing, P.O. Box 656, Washtucna, Wash. 99371 (ph 509 646-3292; fax 3294).