

Deere 5020 Equipped With Minneapolis Moline Cab

Larry Lee, Blackfolds, Alberta, replaced the cab on his 1966 Deere 5020 tractor with an old Minneapolis Moline cab, saving about \$3,000 over the cost of a new aftermarket cab.

Lee made the cab change when he installed new, taller rear tires on his tractor. "The original 24.5 by 32 tires were worn out and would have cost over \$2,000 to replace. I solved the problem by buying two used 20.8 by 38 radials at our local tire shop. However, the new tires had a higher profile and wouldn't fit under the tractor fenders on the old cab. I modified the fenders on the new cab so the tires would fit under them."

According to Lee, the 5020's cab was tinny, noisy and shook whenever he drove the tractor. "All that cab did was keep the rain off me. It was bolted to the tractor's fenders and transmission case and didn't have its own floor. I didn't replace the original cab with a Sound Gard cab because they're expensive and don't fit a 5020, which has a wider differential than most Deere tractors. We began measuring all makes of tractor cabs and chose one from an early 1970's Minneapolis Moline 1050. This cab has the same general shape and measurements as older Deere cabs, but is somewhat sturdier since it's all-welded and doesn't have

any bolt-on panels. It has its own floor which is rubber mounted on front and on the wheel axle housing to eliminate a lot of noise."

Lee's first step was to strip off the 5020's old cab, fenders, floor boards, tool box and battery box. He used the "U" bolts to clamp a plate on the rear axle for the rear mounts on the new cab. He removed the front mounts from the engine's side frame and had a tray formed for the batteries, using the old battery box brackets to mount it. The only other change he made to the tractor was to remount the brake accumulator and run a flexible line to it. "The accumulator was mounted in the side tool box and was connected by a steel line that broke about once a year."

Total cost to purchase the cab, do the metal work, and replace some windows was about \$1,000. "A new aftermarket cab would have cost about \$3,500," notes Lee. "If I could do it over again, the only thing I'd do differently would be to install a cab with built-in air conditioning rather than an add-on unit."

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Mower Vacuum Tube

"I've never seen anything like this on the market," says Wayne N. Best, Raymond, Ill., about the vacuum attachment he came up with for his lawn and garden tractor.

Best simply put a sheet of plywood over the bottom of the mower deck on his lawn and garden tractor, holding it on tightly with rubber straps. Once covered, the blades create suction through a 6-in. hole he cut in the plywood and ducted out to the side of the mower. He attached a length of 4-in. dia. flexible hose. A 2-ft. length of PVC tubing attaches to the end of the hose and is fitted with a handle.

Best came up with the idea as a way to vacuum up leaves, grass trimmings and other trash in and around ornamental landscaping around his house and other buildings. "By varying the speed of the mower blades, I can slow it down enough so it just picks up leaves and other lightweight debris without picking up the ornamental rock placed around my land-



scaping. The attachment is safe since the blade is completely enclosed," says Best, noting that he's used the idea for three years and would like to find a manufacturer for it.

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"Open Sidewall" Dairy Barn

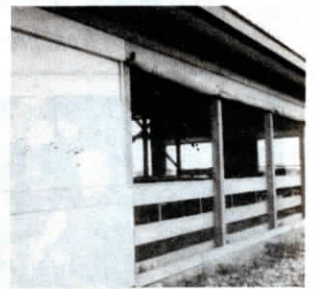
When fire destroyed their dairy barn, Matt and Linda Arends, Ionia, Mich., built a new "one-of-a-kind" free stall 170-cow barn with sidewalls covered by a fabric "curtain" in winter. In summer, the "curtain" is rolled up, leaving the sidewalls open for full wall natural ventilation.

The improved ventilation has reduced the losses that typically occur in hot weather. The unique ventilation method also reduced construction costs of the 86 by 232-ft. building which is attached to a 48 by 140-ft. milking center.

The sidewalls consist of posts spaced every 8 ft. Along the inside of the posts are two 2 by 10 in. boards to which the free stalls are mounted. Otherwise, during the summer that wall is completely open right up to the eave. A plastic mesh is installed permanently over the sidewall opening to reduce flapping of the curtain in the wind when the curtain is closed, and to keep out birds.

In summer, five or six people roll up the 10 ft., 9 in. wide fabric rolls and tie them to each post with a piece of rope or chain, just under the eave. The rolls are stored under the eave for the entire summer. To close the sidewalls for winter, the ties are released and the hanging curtain is then fastened in place using a vertical 1 by 2 in. nailing strip at each post and horizontal nailing strips all along the bottom.

The concept of barns with fully open



sidewalls isn't new, particularly in warmer climates, but it's a fairly new idea in colder climates, says Bill Bickert, Michigan State agricultural engineer.

According to Bickert, the Arends spent less than \$1,000 to cover their barn with "curtain walls".

"Covering sidewalls with steel siding - no openings for summer - costs about \$15 per cow. Constructing sidewall coverings with tilt-out windows and hinged, adjustable doors costs about \$50 per cow. But to cover sidewalls with a woven, polypropylene fabric and plastic mesh costs less than \$5 per cow," says Bickert.

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Wide-Row Air Planter Changed To Narrow

"We converted our 8-row wide IH 400 air planter to a narrow-spaced 13-row planter in order to boost yields in beans," says Sandy Poppenga, Lennox, S. Dak.

"When I decided to switch to narrow row equipment, I discovered that I couldn't justify the purchase of new or even used narrow-row equipment. I then started investigating the possibility of adding row units to my 400 IH planter. The local IH dealer, as well as other farmers, told me there was no way to add units between existing units.

"Not convinced it couldn't be done, I started looking for ground-driven units to add to my planter. I found a toolbar with eight 386 IH ground-driven planter units. I bought it for \$600.

"After I got it home, I removed all of the planting units and sold the toolbar for \$250. The next task was to attach five of

the row units to my planter, leaving a skip row for the tractor tracks. Parallel linkage from a salvaged Cyclo planter was used to pull the units. The two outside parallel linkages had to be built L-shaped to get the planting unit behind the planter tire. The vertical linkage from the salvaged Cyclo is used to lift the add-ons when the planter is raised. The markers had to be shortened slightly and a new shorter brace arm made. Rows are 10 in. apart with a 38-in. skip.

"I've used the planter for almost three years and it has worked almost flawlessly. The planter can be changed from corn to beans or from beans to corn in about 2 hrs. Total cost, including a narrow-row Danish tine cultivator, was \$1,300."

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