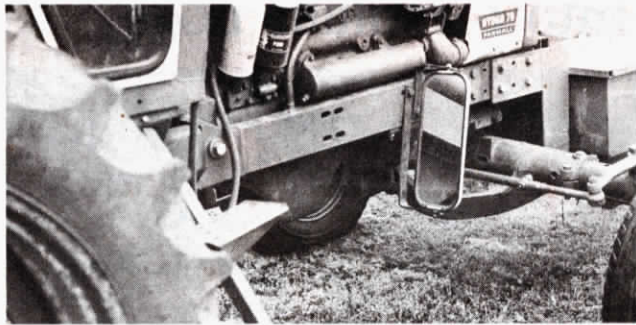


### Rear View Tractor Mirror



Paul Sletten, Beresford, S. Dak., cut crop losses and made it easier for younger, less experienced workers to cultivate by adding a side-mount truck mirror to each side of his tractor frame. He says the slotted holes in the tractor frame allow the mirror to be tilted to see what is happening under and right be-

hind the tractor. Besides his rear-mounted cultivator, Sletten says the idea should work great on other precision field equipment, such as sugar beet cutaways, and notes that inexpensive truck mirrors are readily available at most auto salvage yards.

### Mill Your Own Lumber



"If a farmer plans to build several buildings and has a stand of straight trees, he can save plenty building himself a sawmill," says Jacob Dykstra of Cottonwood, Calif., whose home-built, one-man mill will cut about 2,500 ft. per day of up to 30-in. logs.

Jacob says he incorporated several of the best features of other mills into his design. It's powered by a Ford industrial 223 cu. in. engine that turns at 2,300 rpm, powering a 40-in. blade that's water-cooled by a stream of water at 1,000 rpm. No piece of wood, he says, can stop his engine and blade combination.

"Tracking must be accurate. I laid the saw table out with a transit and 48-in. caliper. With the variable hydraulic feed, the saw is accurate to within 1/16 of an inch," Jacob told FARM SHOW. The saw handles logs up to 14-ft. long and, except for finished lumber, he says planing is not necessary.

The complete sawmill costs about \$2,000 to build and Jacob says it burns about 1 gal. of gasoline to cut 350 to 450 ft., depending on the wood. Jacob has nothing to sell but will answer inquiries accompanied by stamped, return envelopes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jacob Dykstra, P.O. Box 29, Cottonwood, Calif. 96022.

### Uses For Old Railroad Cars

Carl Weissman & Sons, Great Falls, Mont., buy and sell used railroad box cars, flatbed cars and tanker cars as part of their salvage operation. With undercarriages stripped off, usable cars are sold for a wide variety of uses.

Some farmers and ranchers use old box cars to store sacked feed or seed, or to shelter livestock. Most cars require sealing to keep out rodents, and may require repair for storage of loose granular material or grain.

Used flat cars can also be used as bridges across small streams or gullies.

Discarded tanker cars have been turned into on-farm storage for fuel, liquid fertilizer, liquid feed supplements and other liquids.

Depending on type and condition, Weissman's used rail cars range in price from \$1,500 to \$6,000. They're shipped to buyers by semi-trailer with the undercarriage stripped off. They have sold cars throughout Montana and into Wyoming, but will sell anywhere to buyers willing to pay for transportation. Howard suggests, however, that interested buyers contact railroad salvage dealers and railroad company offices in their area.

### Insecticide Boxes Used To Seed Clover Into Standing Corn

To help control erosion and to add organic matter and nitrogen to his soil, Jay Nebben, of Dell Rapids, S. Dak., seeds sweet clover into his standing corn. He seeds at the last "lay by" cultivation, using insecticide boxes mounted on his 4-row cultivator as seeders.

"The boxes work very well for the purpose," he told FARM SHOW. They are Demco applicators, made by Dethmers Mfg. of Boyden, Ia.

Nebben makes the last cultivation in late July when the corn is two to three feet tall. The insecticide boxes, powered electrically, are mounted so that sweet clover seed is broadcast on top the ground behind the cultivator shovels.

"Last year was a dry year but, since the corn had a good head start, there was very little competition for moisture from the clover," says Nebben. "Some small clover seedlings on the hills did die but, on bottomland,



the clover got 6 in. or so tall by corn harvest time." On ground not plowed until late last spring, the clover added another foot or so of growth.

"The clover adds some organic matter to the soil, and a little nitrogen," says Nebben. "Also, it provides a winter cover and helps control erosion. We did it on 55 acres last year, seeding 3 to 5 lbs. of clover per acre."

### Fast Way To Feed Hay To Livestock



Sometimes it takes a farmer to assemble someone else's pieces into a different machine that's better than the original parts. That happened near John Day, Ore., when farmer, John Ray bought a Vermeer F100 big bale feeder to feed his 100 cows.

The feeder seemed awkward to Ray, after the purchase, so he went to work on it. He bought a wrecked 3/4 ton pickup for \$400, removed the bed and added air shocks and dual rear tires. Then, he mounted the Vermeer bale feeder close to the cab, and mounted a Dew-Eze bale fork on the rear to flip bales onto the feeder table.

Now he places one bale in the feeder, a second bale on the forks and drives to the pasture, where he feeds his 100 cows in about five minutes. He's unrolled about 3000 bales already and says, "It's the slickest thing I ever saw. The parts turn very slowly, and I think you could

wear out three trucks before the feeder and forks would wear out."

Hay is discharged at a fixed height, but Ray says it's high enough so that he could feed into a fenceline bunk if he needed to. He has invested about \$6000 in the rig, including the truck, bale feeder, bale fork, plus a hydraulic pump, hoses and valve to operate the feeder and bale fork. But he figures the price now would be closer to \$8000, and possibly more depending on the truck used.

Ray says that prior to building his truck-mounted bale feeder, he spent more than an hour in the field every day feeding with a 4-wheel drive tractor, and used 120 gallons of diesel fuel every week. Now, the truck burns about 20 gallons of gasoline weekly and labor is cut to a fraction of what it was before.