



The 12-ft. long scissor arms for the lift are built from 2 by 6 rectangular 7-ga. tubing.



A 5-in. dia., 30-in. long cylinder raises and lowers the lift from a valve on the frame.

Home-Built High-Lift Platform Makes Construction Easier

When Michael Thompson and his father, Norman, set out to build a new shop they decided to build a high-lift platform to make construction easier. They ended up with a handy tractor-pulled trailer that, they say, will be useful for many jobs around the farm for years to come.

"We did not have any formal plans or blueprints. We looked at a commercial lift on a construction job site and got some ideas from it," says Thompson.

The main rails at the bottom and on the

lift platform are made from 2 by 6-in. channel iron. The scissor lift arms are made from 2 by 6 rectangular 7-ga. tubing. Each rail in the X-shaped arms is 12 ft. long.

One 5-in. dia. cylinder, 30 in. long provides the hydraulic lift. A control valve is mounted on the lower frame and is controlled with two ropes that run from the upper deck down.

The bottom of the scissor lift arms are fastened solid at the back. The front two arms move back and forth on 1 5/8-in. bearings.

The pivot pins in the lift arms are made from 1 5/8-in. dia. solid hot rolled shafts.

The lift mounts on a 6-ton wagon running gear which was purchased new for this project.

The lift deck measures 7 by 13 ft. A hand-rail runs all the way around the deck for safety. Height of the platform when fully extended is just over 17 ft. Manual outriggers were installed on the wagon gear to add stability on uneven ground. A tractor is used to supply hydraulic power although a small gas

or electric motor and hydraulic pump could be installed on the lift.

Total cost was under \$2,000 including new wagon, tubing, channel iron and other components.

"I suggest anyone who wants to build one should just go to a rental equipment store and look one over," says Thompson.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Michael Thompson, 3794 Deatsville Rd., Shepherdsville, Ky. 40165 (502 543-7114 or 6725).

3-Pt. Field Cultivator Converted To Front-Mount

"It eliminates a trip through the field and saves a lot of time in the spring," says Ted Thompson, Thompson, Iowa, about the 3-pt. Deere field cultivator that he mounted on front of his Deere 4555 MFWD tractor.

He bought a used Deere 1100 3-pt. 24-ft. field cultivator, reversed the sweeps, and mounted it on a LaForge 3-pt. hitch on front of the tractor. He pulls a Deere 7000 8-row 30-in. planter behind the tractor, allowing him to cultivate and plant at the same time.

The cultivator's sweeps were originally spaced 6 in. apart but he moved them 7 1/2 in. apart for better trash clearance. The 3-pt. hitch arm kept him from staggering the sweeps properly so he used angle iron brackets to bolt a 6-ft. long steel bar onto the front of the cultivator frame, then mounted three sweeps on it. He completely removed the sweeps across a 1 1/2-ft. span on each side of the cultivator so that it works the same 21-ft. wide swath his planter makes. He also moved the gauge wheels from the center of the cultivator to the front.

"It's a real time saver, especially if the calendar is working against me," says Thompson. "Most of the time I work by myself, and with my front-mount cultivator I don't have to work the ground and then go back and plant. It draws a lot of looks whenever I'm planting along a highway. I paid \$1,400 for the cultivator and \$6,000 for the LaForge hitch. There are a lot of field cultivators available for \$1,200 to \$1,500.

"The cultivator works well if the soil is relatively dry, but if the soil is wet some dirt sticks to the planter wheels. It works great in soybean stubble and also for planting soybeans on once tilled corn stalks. I make one pass with a disk or harrow, then cultivate and plant at the same time. I go about 5 mph. The cultivator doesn't take a lot of extra horsepower, and with my front wheel assist tractor it steers fine without turning hard at the end of the field, although I have to make a wider turn which slows down my acres per



Cultivator mounts on front of Deere 4555 with LaForge hitch (above). Sweeps are 7 1/2 in. apart for better trash clearance.

hour. I didn't use it last year because I got started planting early enough that I had time to cultivate and plant separately.

"One drawback is that I have to till a wide swath at the end of the field first and then plant or the cultivator will tear out the outside row or two. Another is that there are a lot of levers to operate - I have to raise the cultivator out of the ground, drive farther ahead, then raise the planter and flip a switch to turn off the spray bands on the planter. Three tractor remotes are needed so that I can fold the cultivator wings for transport without having to switch hoses.

"I bought the LaForge hitch through a Deere dealer. It's made for the Deere 4000, 7000, and 8000 series tractors. It bolts onto a mounting frame that attaches to the side of the tractor. It's well built and doesn't twist or sag."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ted Thompson, 43780 90th Ave., Thompson, Iowa 50478 (ph 515 584-2871).

Flooring Made From "Recycled" Concrete Lasts Twice As Long As Regular Concrete

It may cost a little more, but a new concrete-type product made from "recycled" concrete lasts at least twice as long as conventional concrete, according to the manufacturer.

Eco Crete is made from concrete salvaged from demolished buildings and roads. It's ground down into different sizes for different uses and mixed with a bonding agent. The result is a product that's stronger, more flexible and less porous than concrete, according to company representative Don Pehrson.

It withstands salt and acids and will stand up to any kind of weather. It's ideal for milk house floors and hog slats, he notes.

It can also be applied in layers as thin as 1/8-in. to repair worn floors, he says.

Cost is approximately three times that of conventional concrete - \$3.50 to \$4 per sq. ft. in a coating application - but it'll last at least twice as long even under the harshest conditions, Pehrson says.

He plans to use the material in a variety of other applications, including shingling, decking, ramps, etc. He's looking for distribu-



EcoCrete is produced from salvaged concrete and easily lasts twice as long as conventional concrete, the company says.

tors and/or dealers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Pehrson, Eco Crete, Rt. 1, Box 261, Truman, Minn. 56088 (ph 800 944-3264 or 507 776-2382).

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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