You can learn about the latest in alfalfa management at the fifth annual Mid-America Alfalfa Expo which will be held February 2 and 3 at the Adams County Fairgrounds in Hastings, Neb. We expect to have 75 to 80 exhibitors there with the latest in bale handling equipment. There's also an inventions contest that's open to anyone who has built a new bale handling machine or has modified an existing one. If you can't bring the machine you can bring a slide or photo of it and tell about it during our speaker's program. The program will cover topics important to the haying industry. ***(Craig Buescher, Rt. 1, Box 54, Deweese, Neb. 68934 ph 402 262-2311; E-mail: alfalfaexpo@navix.net)***

Thanks for the story on how we turn used golf cars into work-ready utility vehicles (Vol. 22, No. 6). We've had numerous inquiries from all across North America on them. The best candidate for conversion to a utility vehicle is

a good used 1986 to 1996 Yamaha G-2 or G-9. These models are equipped with a powerful 287 cc 8 hp overhead valve 4-cycle engine that requires no oil mixing and can be easily tuned for more speed, if required. By installing a 4-in. lift kit and mounting 10 by 20 by 8-in. lugged tires the car's ground clearance can be increased by 5 inches. You can also add an aluminum tilt cargo/personnel box or rear seat, a top, an all-weather buggy cover enclosure, propane heater, Halogen lights, and towing hitch. Total cost for all these features is less than $3,000 F.O.B. We can modify the car for you or you can do it yourself using a kit.

Our electric lift, spring-loaded 48 or 56-in. wide snow and grading blade is designed for

Yamaha, Club Car, and EZ-Go golf cars. It sells for $890. Also available is a beautiful vintage 1933 Ford front cowl with chrome headlights, greyhound hood ornament, and complete decal set specifically made for Yamaha models. It sells for $990 F.O.B. ***(Clark Carr, Oakford, Ind. 46965 ph 765 453-9230; fax 5244)***

I've developed a labor-saving device for crossing over sprinkler, aluminum pipe, and tee-taped irrigated fields. It's a pair of curved aluminum ramps designed to support a trac-

tor or other equipment. I came up with the idea so I could cultivate or spray without having to turn at the main irrigation line. As a result I had to make a choice - either destroy the crop or take the mainline apart and lose valuable time and labor.

One grower who uses the ramps says they keep him on his planting schedule and that the labor he saves paid for them half way through their first season of use. The only requirement is that the irrigation line be laid

in a small ditch about 12 to 14 in. deep. This provides a place for the water to go in case of a leak and protects the valves when the tractor and cultivator passes over.

The ramps sell for $1,150 plus S&H. ***(Richard Giusti, BW & F Mfg. & Repair, Hwy. 113, Box 277, Robbins, Calif. 95676 ph 530 738-4301; fax 4448)***

Here's an idea I came up with years ago to fit on my Deere 55 2-row combine. It's something that I think could be re-engineered to fit today's machines.

I called it a "shuck saver" and it collected chaff and shucks from the back of the com-

bine and then automatically dumped the material in small piles in the field. Livestock would feed on the piles during the winter.

It consisted of a pan equipped with mounting arms that bolted onto the sides of the combine. The front half of the pan was solid and the back half consisted of a series of 1/4-in. dia. steel rods. The pan mounted 4 to 8 in. below the top chaffer and 3 to 4 in. behind it. A "gate" consisting of a series of vertical steel rods was placed behind the combine hood and was free to swing back during the dumping process. The pan was free to pivot on a pair of bearings which acted as a balance point. At some point the weight of the material on back of the pan caused it to tip over and dump the material out. Once the pan was empty it automatically returned to the reload position. A pair of chains held the pan level when filling and stopped it from going too far back when dumping." ***(Harold Klasna, Box 264, Spencer, Neb. 68777 ph 402 589-1228)***

You can repair or replace damaged or broken baler belts in a jiffy with my new jack-powered belt lacer designed and built for use on Deere 435 round balers.

It consists of a 4-ton bottle jack mounted in

a heavy-duty steel frame. The jack, which fits on the jack stand on the baler hitch, moves a center bar holding a commercial belt lacer up and down. When the jack is pumped up, it pushes the teeth of the lacer into the broken or damaged belt, repairing it on the spot.

The whole operation takes as little as 15 minutes, compared with an hour or more if you have to take the belt back to the shop to work on it in your vise, Lesy notes.

The tool has become so popular with farmers in my area, I'm now making units to sell.

Fits all belts up to 7 in. wide with both newer and older-style lace; can be special-built to handle wider belts.

Sells for $175 (Canadian). ***(Maurice Lesy, Box 74, Deloraine, Manitoba, Canada R0M 0M0 ph 204 747-2063)***

Our new Australian-built RFM 2000 Air Drill is a non pressurized air seeder with the only 3-bin venturi system on the market. It requires up to 30 less hp to pull than other comparable width towed units and it places two thirds of the weight on the tractor drawbar, resulting in increased traction. The non-pressurized hoppers on the air seeder use an accurate roller type system - suitable for a wide range of small and large seeded crops - that works together with a simple venturi blower. It's the simplest and most accurate venturi metering system on the market.

The unit is available in a range of styles including tow behind, tow between, straddle, and mounted. Twin hopper capacities range from 4 cubic meters up to 10 cubic meters, with an optional third hopper available for planting another grain or adding nitrogen in a double or triple banding situation. As a result you can sow seed and apply fertilizer and urea, at different rates and depths, in one pass.

The air seeder was designed to work with our 2000 cultivator model but can also be used with most other cultivator brands and models.

We're looking for distributors in North America. ***(Paul Ryan, Ryan Farm Machinery Pty. Ltd., Cnr. Golf Course Rd. & King Dr., Horsham, 3400, Victoria, Australia ACN 072 553 854 ph 03 5381-1262; fax 03 5381-1802)***

When we decided to grow organic crops, we had to find ways to get along without herbicides while avoiding excessive tillage costs.

We liked the ability of the Phoenix "rolling" harrow to root out weeds and incorporate chemicals, but we couldn't justify the expense of a new machine. So we bought an old 36-ft. Morris rod weeder equipped with a 15-ft. center section and two wings that folded up for transport. We stripped the machine down to the frame. Then we bought a Phoenix rotary harrow cultivator kit - originally designed to be strapped on back of a tillage tool - and mounted it on the frame. We modified the ends of the frame so that we could mount the rotary harrow "end stocks" and be able to adjust them forward or backward in order to change the working angle of the harrows.

We cut off both ends of the frame to make the machine 30 ft. wide, then removed the end wheels and moved the wheel mounts in about 4 ft. We turned the end piece on each frame 90 degrees so that it ran parallel to the direction of travel and provided a 4-in. sq.

We use the machine when seeding canola. "The harrow packs, smooths, and incorporates in one pass and uses only half as much power as a comparable size cultivator."

When a wet spring kept us from using seed drills on barley fields, we used a fertilizer spreader to broadcast seed and cultivate it in shallow, then used our home-built rotary harrow twice to pack and further incorporate the seed. We've also used it on experimental strips to rejuvenate pasture and hay land. It doesn't tear up the field like a disk or cultivator. The harrows penetrate to a depth of only about 1/2 in., but that's enough to stimulate grass growth. It also knocks down gopher mounds and does a good job of spreading cow manure on pastures. ***(Kirk and Gary Harrold, Lamont, Alberta, Canada T0B 2R0 ph 403 895-2564)***

Several months ago we saw a photo in your magazine of a "buried" tractor. I decided to set the same thing up in our yard. It has caused quite a bit of conversation, especially among the Amish kids who go by our house. Even some of our grown-up friends wonder why anyone would go to all the work of burying a whole tractor. Thanks for the idea. ***(K. Roger Swineford, 1380 St. Rt. 603, Ashland, Ohio 44805)***