My Dad has worked for The Wik company (formerly Tox-O-Wik Products) for 40 years. The company is marketing the new product. It is installed in the exit alley of the parlor so the entire herd passes through the applicator twice a day. It's easy to install and is available for either 3 or 6-ft. wide alleys. Treats cattle for under 2 cents per head per day. For more information, contact: The Wik, P.O. Box 190, Herrington, Kan. 67449 (ph 977-484-3945; Web Site: www.thewik.com). ***(Deb Hagen, Hagen Partners, P.O. Box 6061, Shawnee Mission, Kan. 66206; ph 913 652-6547)***

I recently built a low-waste, low-cost round bale self-feeder. It's 14 ft. long, 8 ft. wide, and 4 ft. high with 2-ft. high wooden skirts on two

sides. The sides slant in so the opening on top is 5 ft. wide. The slanted sides keep cows from dragging loose hay out of the feeder. I used 2 7/8-in. dia. drill stem to make the frame and 7/8-in. dia. sucker rod for the vertical slats. To make the wooden skirts I welded angle iron brackets onto some steel uprights and bolted the boards to them.

The feeder mounts on drill stem "runners" with their ends bent up. To move the feeder to a new site I place a bale in my loader bucket and then push the bale against the feeder. My total cost to build the feeder was about $300. Commercial two-bale feeders sell for about $800 so I saved a lot of money. ***(Jerry Zomerman, Rt. 2, Stony Plain, Alberta, Canada T72 1X2 (ph 403 963-6620)***

I operate a sawmill and recently built an 8-wheel drive, all-wheel steer tractor equipped with a crane that swings 180 degrees. The end of the crane is equipped with a removeable swivel-type grapple fork that I use

to load logs. It really works good on hillsides because I can swing logs from side to side without worrying about tipping over. I also use the grapple fork to move sheds, corrals, and equipment. When equipped with an extension the crane reaches up to 25 ft. high. The grapple fork can be replaced by a backhoe bucket that'll dig 6 ft. deep. I've also got a 12-in. dia., 10-ft. long post hole auger that mounts on it.

The tractor measures just 6 ft. wide and 12 ft. long so it can work its way through the woods with minimal damage. And because all 8 wheels drive it'll walk right through bogs. It's powered by a 4-cyl. AMC gas engine off a military truck and is equipped with two 4-speed military-style transmissions that gear it down. In first gear it can creep along at only 1/2 mph. Top speed is about 30 mph. I used military front wheel drive front ends off a Jeep to build it. I plan to build a cab for it. My total cost was about $9,000. ***(Abe Dyck, Box 168, Sydney, Manitoba, Canada R0J 0T0 ph 204 466-2815)***

To eliminate certain wear and maintenance concerns with pivot plates on Deere sidehill combines, I've come up with an add-on slip plate kit for the 6600, 6620 and 9500 series.

It consists of a 3/16-in. thick polyurethane slip plate that rivets between the pivot plate and the feederhouse. It eliminates pivot plate "gulling" because it slides easy on the polyurethane. It also keeps sidehill cables from breaking because of stress. And it eliminates

the need to grease the inside of the pivot plate which, in turn, greatly reduces the amount of dust and dirt collected on it.

The kit installs in about 2 1/2 hours and makes pivot plates nearly problem and maintenance-free. It sells for $65. ***(Brad A. Price, 1109 16th St., Belle Plaine, Iowa 52208; ph 319 444-3303).***

We've been making narrow tires and wheels for tractors for a number of years. Recently we've been making dual narrow tires and wheels for grain carts and even self-propelled sprayers. They work great on narrow 20 or 22-in. rows, which are becoming more popular, as well as conventional 30-in. rows. One advantage of using them on grain carts is that you can run the tires between rows to avoid damage from stubble. Duals also allow increased hauling capacity and result in greater

stability. Mounted on self-propelled sprayers, dual narrow tires result in increased flotation, especially on soft ground, and also fit between rows better. ***(Tall Tires By Keltgens Inc., 204 N. 9th St., Box 88, Olivia, Minn. 56277; ph 320 523-2411)***

I converted a 26-ft. bread delivery truck into a motorhome complete with an "apartment" in front and a shop area in back. I use it to run my mobile repair business. The truck is painted red, white, and blue and has a big white star on both sides to make it look like the state flag of Texas. The shop area includes air and electric-powered tools, toolboxes, an air compressor, and equipment for plumbing,

appliances, electrical work, etc.

The "apartment" includes a handmade dining table with storage benches on each side that convert into 4 by 6-ft. beds; a 6-ft. 6-in. storage couch that converts into a 3-ft. wide, 6 1/2-ft. long bed; and overhead storage racks on both sides. The vehicle is equipped with a 12,500 btu air conditioner, electric heater, refrigerator, microwave/broiler oven, stereo, TV, satellite system, computer, Halogen interior and head lights, cellular phone, and CB radio. Power is provided by a 3,500-watt power plant that can deliver 220, 110, and 12 volts.

I bought the truck for $1,500 from someone who used to work for Holsum. It's powered by a 306 cu. in., 6-cyl. gas engine and has a 3-speed transmission. The truck is mounted on a 1970 Ford 1-ton chassis and has an all aluminum body that's lightweight but strong. I installed radial tires which greatly improved the truck's fuel efficiency and drivability. The painting was done by a friend.

This truck has brought me great joy both for work and play and is always popular whenever I show it at parades. ***(Terry Penkert, Penkert's Overall Repair, Box 303, Miles, Texas 76861; ph 915 468-5351)***

A few years ago, I began using the one-man silage system from New Zealand that was described in FARM SHOW (Vol. 21, No. 3). This vacuum system delivers the lowest cost, highest quality forage I've ever seen. I liked it so much I began selling the system.

The idea is to pile silage on the ground, cover it with plastic and then suck out air and moisture with a vacuum pump. I first place a piece of perforated 4-in. dia. PVC pipe on the ground, then pile up stacks of silage, haylage, sorghum, rye, etc., on top. Next, I cover the pile with a big sheet of plastic (preferably 6 ml. thick). I secure the edges with sand for weight. We run the vacuum pump until the plastic pulls tight around the stack, typically in 10 to 15 minutes, then another 30 minutes to get all the air out.

We've built stacks up to 80 by 20-ft. and have used various sizes of pipes and pumps to vacuum. I generally use 4-in. dia. tile pipe and a small milking vacuum pump.

One of the real keys to success of this system lies in the "Lacerator" we use to harvest forage crops. It's available as a 3-pt. or pull-type harvester that acts something like a conventional flail chopper. It has spoon-shaped 6-in. knives attached with chains to a rotating drum. Knife tip speed is significantly faster than a flail chopper, and it cuts forages into relatively long pieces (over 2 in.) with length varying according to setting and conditions. It lacerates the crop as it cuts, taking the stiffness out of the stems so air is easily removed using the vacuum and without requiring packing. This dramatically improves stored forage quality because it retains more nutrients than any other harvest method. Plus, no nutrients are lost through effluent seepage, a major environmental benefit.

Lacerators come in 5, 6 and 7-ft. models and require 60, 72 and 84 hp, respectively. Prices range from $5,000 to $8,000.

Two other important pieces of equipment are the Buckton Multipurpose Wagon that allows you to feed directly into a bunk or along a fenceline and the Irish-built Tanco silage grab that you use to cut a chunk right off the stack and carry it anywhere to feed a group of animals.

All three pieces of equipment are available from Alpha Ag, P.O. Box 559, Ben Franklin, Texas 75415 (ph 800 681-9473 or 903 325-4210; E-mail: embarnes@neto.com).

I'll be happy to answer any questions your readers might have about this innovative forage harvesting/storage system. ***(Dave McCartney, Great Lakes Pasture Management, 3728 County Line Rd., Coleman, Mich. 48618; ph 517 465-6231)***

Instead of spending thousands of dollars on a new baler equipped with an automatic bale thrower, I saved money by mounting an old belt-driven, New Holland 53 bale thrower on my Deere 14T baler.

The New Holland thrower was manufactured in the 1950s or 1960s. I bought it at a farm sale for $75. The thrower was originally powered by a gas engine. The Deere baler had been equipped with an aluminum pan thrower which was a pain to use, especially after I started using a disc mower - the thrower couldn't keep up with the volume of hay going into the bale chamber. The New Holland thrower is belt-driven off the baler's big flywheel through a series of pulleys. I can adjust thrower speed right from the tractor by pulling on a lever which opens and closes an adjustable pulley.

I made the conversion three years ago and have used it to make about 2,000 bales a year. I spent less than $300. A new baler equipped with an automatic thrower would've cost at least $18,000 so I saved a lot of money. I think the same idea could be used on any baler equipped with a pulley on the side of the machine, including Deere's 24T and 224T models and maybe even the company's 336 model. ***(Ray Starr, Jr., 881 Bridge St., Ravena, N.Y. 12143; ph 518 767-2957)***

Thanks for the story on our "antique tractor" magazine rack (Vol. 23, No. 1) We also make an antique tractor paper plate holder that's bent into a semi circle on back with the out-

(Continued on next page)