



One-legged air stool raises as much as 9 in. to help milker stand.

“Air-Powered” Milking Stool

After milking cows for several years in tie stall barns or flat parlors, many dairymen develop “milker’s knee” or back problems caused by repeatedly sitting down and standing up.

Robert Bartels says his new air-powered milking stool solves the problem by using compressed air to lift the milker back to a standing position. Made from stainless steel and heavy duty plastic, the one-legged Cimmaron Air Stool has an 11 by 7-in. padded seat mounted atop a stainless steel cylinder with an enclosed 4-in. long steel spring. A harness is used to strap the seat to your waist. A valve and switch attach to the harness. A self-coiling hose simply plugs into a series of air valves mounted along the ceiling. The operator flips a switch to let the seat down slowly. When he’s done milking he flips the switch the other way to bring the

seat back up. As he moves down the barn, he takes the hose with him.

“The seat can be raised or lowered anywhere from 6 to 9 in. depending on the height of the operator. It helps because you don’t have to use your legs or back muscles nearly as much, which makes milking a much easier job,” says Bartels. “The Easter Seal Agribility project for disabled farmers has shown interest in the stool. It has a capacity of more than 300 lbs. The self-coiling hose is long enough that you can milk 20 to 24 cows at a time in a stanchion barn before you have to move it.

“The installed price depends on the size of the barn and how many rows of cows you have.”

Bartels says he’s looking for distributors.

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Back of bus was modified to slope downward and is fitted with three loading ramps.

School Bus Makes Great Tractor Hauler

Fred Hain competes in tractor-pulling competitions and needed a way to transport his 1934 Allis-Chalmers WCAC tractor. He didn’t want to spend the money on a commercial trailer so the Martinsville, Ill., farmer converted an International school bus into a self-propelled tractor hauler, complete with a dovetail loading ramp.

“I call it my big bad orange machine. People go crazy over it,” says Hain.

He cut off a 17-ft. section of the body of the bus, welding the back 8 in. of the body to the back of the remaining 12-ft. section on front. He left the bus floor in place and welded steel bracing onto the frame to strengthen it. The back 4 ft. of the bus was modified to slope downward and is fitted with

three folding ramps. To slope the floor he cut part way through the back section of the bus frame, heated it and bent it down, then welded the frame back together.

“The ramps fold in half and are secured during transport by a steel rod that goes all the way across the back of the bus. The rod has three hooks along its length that match up with slots in each of the three ramps. To secure the ramps I insert the hooks in the slots, then grab hold of a short handle at one end of the rod and pull it forward to lock all three ramps down.”

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A pair of forks are raised and lowered by a 12-volt hydraulic power unit that mounts in the pickup bed.

Pickup Bale Forks Also Unroll Bales, Split Wood

After you’re done hauling bales with these pickup-mounted bale forks, you can use them to unroll bales, operate a lift platform, or even split wood.

The basic bale mover consists of a pair of forks that mount on a steel frame and are raised or lowered by a hydraulic cylinder. The cylinder is operated by a 12-volt hydraulic power unit that mounts in the pickup bed and is controlled by a hand-held remote.

An optional platform slides over the forks and has a 2,500-lb. lift capacity. It can handle a big square bale or load an ATV or small tractor. The bed can be lowered at an angle all the way to the ground.

An optional log splitter also slides over the bale forks as does a bale unroller attachment.

“It’s the most versatile bale hauler on the market,” says Jeremy Miller, Oklahoma City, Okla. “The base unit comes with an adjustable length gooseneck that’s designed to fit over any ball. The gooseneck’s length can be adjusted to fit short or long bed pickups.”

The bale forks and hydraulic power unit sell for \$999 plus S&H; the utility bed for \$399 plus S&H; the log splitter for \$599 plus S&H. The bale unroller sells for \$950 separately or \$1,950 complete plus S&H.

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Optional bale unroller attachment slides on in place of forks.



Optional platform slides over forks for loading ATV’s or small tractors.



Log splitter platform also fits over forks.

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. Or you can submit an idea at our web site at www.farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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