



Gary Stelpflug converted a 1972 Ford F-600 2 1/2-ton truck into this pull-type flatbed. It holds up to 12 big square bales and dumps hydraulically for unloading.

Low-Cost Bale Flatbed Made From Old Truck

"Converting an old truck into a flatbed trailer is a cheap way to get a heavy-duty bale hauler," says Gary Stelpflug, Lancaster, Wis., who converted a 1972 Ford F-600 2 1/2-ton truck into a pull-type rig that holds up to 12 big square bales and dumps hydraulically for unloading.

Stelpflug cut the cab off and cut through the front part of the frame, then pulled the two sides of the frame together and welded on a pair of steel plates to make a hitch. He removed the hydraulic pump and reservoir and installed a T in the hydraulic hoses already on the truck, allowing him to operate the truck's hydraulic hoist cylinders off one remote outlet on his tractor.

"I use it on my own farm and also to do custom baling for neighbors. A lot of people want to borrow it," says Stelpflug. "I built it

five years ago and have used it to haul at least 25,000 bales. I already had the truck which had about 325,000 miles on it and was all worn out.

"The only problem is that the tongue is about 4 ft. wide so I can't turn sharp with it. I solved that problem on another project where I converted a pair of old International tandem axle trucks into grain trailers. One trailer holds 500 bu. and the other 450 bu. Instead of bringing the front part of the frame together into a 'V', I cut off the front side of the frame and welded a 4-in. wide, 6-in. high steel plate onto it to box it off, then built a long hitch and welded it on."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Stelpflug, 7694 Pigeon River Road, Lancaster, Wis. 53813 (ph 608 723-4993).



Seltzer replaced the rusted-out bed on his Chevy 3/4-ton pickup with a flatbed off a one and a half ton model that had been used as a portable welding rig.

Rebuilt Flatbed "Should Last Forever"

When the bed on his 1978 Chevy 3/4-ton pickup rusted out, Leonard Seltzer, Manhattan, Ill., replaced it with a flatbed off an old Chevy 1/2-ton pickup that had been used as a portable welding rig.

Seltzer bought the 1/2-ton pickup and bed for about \$150. The flatbed on it had a wooden floor that was rotten. He removed it and put in a new wooden floor made from 2 by 8 and 2 by 10 planks. He sandblasted the metal frame and welded on new 8-in. high, 1/4-in. thick steel side plates. He installed a gooseneck hitch in the center of the bed's floor and a Luverne cushion-type shock hitch on back, with a pintle hook just above it. He

also installed new "cluster pack" lights on back as well as side lights to make the pickup road legal.

"I'll keep this pickup forever. Why should I spend \$15,000 to \$20,000 on a new one when this one runs just fine?," says Seltzer. "I replaced the pickup's rear 1-ton spring pack in order to improve the rig's hauling capacity. My total cost to recondition the flatbed was about \$500."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leonard Seltzer, 16040 W. Elwood Manhattan Rd., Manhattan, Ill. 60442 (ph 815 478-3578).

Remote-Controlled Hog Gate Operated By "Wireless Controller"

A new radio-controlled gate allows one person to sort pigs by opening or closing a gate from inside the pen.

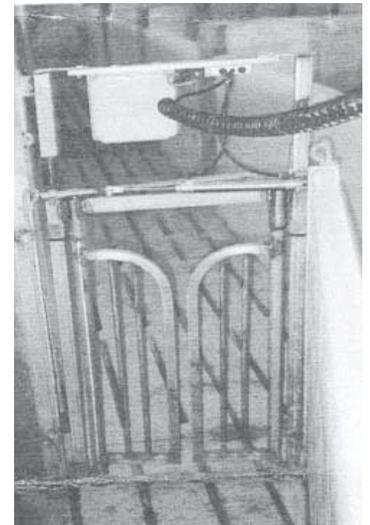
"Porky's Pal" is a 2-ft. wide, portable sorting gate that can be adapted to any doorway used to sort hogs. The bi-fold, stainless steel gate attaches to one end of the existing gate on front of the pen as well as to the post that the gate fastens to. It's opened or closed by a wireless controller. An operator stands inside the pen and uses a guiding board with a wireless transmitter attached to it. As the pig approaches the gate the operator presses a button to open it.

The gate is equipped with an air cylinder that's operated by an electrically-controlled valve that's hooked up to a 12-volt rechargeable battery. Air can be supplied by a portable air tank or by an air line running the length of the building.

"It allows you to sort pigs whenever you want because there's no need for a second person to open and close the gate," says Larry Bearer, Reliable Equipment, Petersburg, Ontario. "You can also use the gate and guiding board in front of a weigh scale in order to let pigs onto it one at a time."

Sells for \$1,500 (Canadian).

For more information, contact: FARM



Radio-controlled sorting gate can be adapted to any doorway that's used to sort hogs.

SHOW Followup, Reliable Equipment, Rt. 2, Petersburg, Ontario, Canada N0B 2H0 (ph 519 634-5480).

"Professional" Knee Pads Eliminate Pain

If you have any jobs where you're on your knees a lot, you'll like these new professional quality knee pads from Proknee Corp., Whitefield, Maine.

The "ProKnee" has a shin-to-knee contact area that was molded from a human model in a kneeling position. This natural shaping eliminates pressure points, says the company.

The unit consists of a plastic frame with a knee pocket shape and a flat bottom that keeps the knee joint from spreading out, helping to eliminate joint wear-out and kneeburn pain. Material used for the cushion is a high-density cellular urethane. The entire kneepad is held on with a pair of straps that go around the leg. The straps are located well below the knee joint area and are elasticized at the ends, which eliminates pinching and binding that could cause circulation problems of the lower legs.

The company says the Proknee is washable and comfortable to wear with shorts. A



"ProKnee" pads are designed to reduce joint wear-out and kneeburn pain.

total of 18 custom fit sizes are available.

Proknee is sold in pairs for \$149 plus \$14 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ProKnee Corp., 134 Devine Road, Whitefield, Maine 04353 (ph 800 549-5018; fax 207 549-4715; E-mail: info@proknee.com; Website: www.proknee.com).

Plastic Fence Post Caps Protect People, Livestock From Injury

"Our new fence post caps are made from a soft, flexible plastic material that helps protect people and livestock from getting injured on the top edge of fence posts. They're also manufactured in bright yellow which makes the fence post more visible," says Garbis Andonian, CPC, Lexington, Mass.

The caps are available in four models, three for U-Posts and one for T-posts. To install them you simply press them on by hand. Custom sizes and colors are available.

The caps sell for 60 to 99 cents apiece depending on the model and volume ordered.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, CPC, 138 Grant St., Box 442, Lexington, Mass. 02420 (ph 781 862-1343).



Bright yellow caps are made from soft, flexible plastic material.