



Bed-mounted canopy designed for the Gator 4 by 2 is made from lightweight, rigid fiberglass. No drilling of holes is required.

New Add-On Canopies For Deere Gators

An Arizona company says its new line of lightweight, easy-on and off canopies make the popular Deere Gator an even more useful farm workhorse.

Firebird Fiberglass Products of Glendale, Az, introduced the canopies at the recent California Farm Equipment Show near Tulare.

A bed-mounted model designed for the Gator 4 by 2 mounts directly to the bed with no need to drill any holes in it. It's made from lightweight, rigid, fiberglass. A second model mounts on two steel uprights which clamp to the frame. No drilling required. Fits both 4 by 2 and 6 by 4 Gators.

Also available is the Bimini Top, which is made from marine grade vinyl supported by a lightweight aluminum frame.

"We plan to soon offer a soft sided weather enclosure, windshield, dash with cupholders, and many other accessories," says company representative Matt Wiedmann.

All canopies are available in Deere green or in Army green and black colors that match Deere's Trail Gator.

The bed-mounted "FastBack" sells for \$495 plus S&H. The post-mounted "Two Post" model sells for \$550 plus S&H. The Bimini Top sells for \$175 plus S&H.

Also available is a canopy custom designed to look like a real alligator. It sells for \$750 plus S&H.

The company also sells a marine grade vinyl storage cover for the Gator. It sells for \$200 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,

Enclosed Cabs Fit Any Gator

Femco offers a new hard door cab designed for the Deere 6 by 4 and 4 by 4 Gator. The cab can be used with or without the company's Roll-Over Protective Structure (ROPS). The doors are made from ABS plastic/steel and can be easily removed. The company also makes a soft side cab that fits both the Gator 6 by 4 and 4 by 4 models.

"The cab provides year around protection and is very functional," says the company.

All models feature hand operated wiper, removable doors, large tempered glass windshield, and baked enamel finish. Seat belts are provided with the ROPS for both occupants. A back screen eliminates finger pinch points and protects the operator from load transfer. Options include an electric wiper motor, liquid heater, work lights, flashing beacon, and blade adaptor.

The hard door cab sells for \$1695 plus S&H. The soft side cab sells for \$767.75 plus



"Bimini Top" is made from marine grade vinyl supported by a lightweight aluminum frame.



This custom canopy is designed to look like an alligator.

Firebird Fiberglass Products, Inc., Box 1123, Glendale, Az 85311 (ph 800 726-8677 or 623 934-9340; fax 9904; Website: www.firebirdfiberglass.com).



Femco, Inc., offers this soft side cab that fits both the Gator 6 by 4 and 4 by 4 models. The company also makes a hard door cab for the Gator.

S&H, not including the rollbar and canopy. The rollbar sells for 666.58 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Femco, Inc., 500 North 81 By-Pass, McPherson, Kan. 67460 (ph 800 677-0898 or 316 241-3513; fax 3532).



Homemade steel wheels measure 5 ft. high on back and 3 ft. high on front. Wheels make V-shaped, 4 to 6-in. deep ditches that drain water out of fields.

Steel-Wheeled Tractor Makes Field Drainage Easy

"It's a simple, fast way to drain water out of fields. I just drive my tractor back and forth across the field and watch the water flow into the furrows made by the wheels," says Larry Easley, Garland City, Ark., who mounted homemade steel wheels on his Deere 870 MFW tractor.

His homemade wheels measure 5 ft. high on back and 3 ft. high on front. Each wheel is 12 in. wide at the center but tapers out to only a 2 1/2-in. width at the rim. The wheels make V-shaped, 4 to 6-in. deep ditches that disturb very little soil, allowing Easley to use the tractor right after seeding without doing significant damage to crops.

"The beauty of this system is that all I have to do is drive my tractor. There's no implement to pull and nothing to repair," says Easley. "It works better than pto-driven ditchers because the ground doesn't have to be dry. My soil is mostly heavy clay but I can drive across it no matter how wet it is with no problems."

He used 3/8-in. thick reinforced steel plate to make the wheels, which are hollow with spokes welded on between the rim and hub in order to keep the rim from bending. A 10-in. dia. steel pipe serves as the hub. A local machine shop roll 2-in. wide strips of 1/2-in. thick steel for the rims. He then welded short pieces of 1/2-in. steel rod to the wheel every 5 in. apart for traction.

"It works so well my neighbors want to borrow it all the time. It's amazing what the wheels can go through," says Easley. "I can go into a field right after a heavy rain and



A 10-in. dia. steel pipe serves as the hub for each wheel. Easley used 3/8-in. thick reinforced steel plate to make the wheels.

drive through ponded water with no problem. It's neat watching the water follow my wheel ruts out of the field. The big wheels give the tractor a lot of clearance so even if I bottom out the front wheels I can usually still keep on going. However, I have got stuck a couple of times. Because of the narrow footprint I can even make ditches after the crops are up without damaging a lot of crop. My total cost was less than \$500.

"I don't drive the tractor on roads but instead haul it on a trailer."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Easley, Box 87, Garland City, Ark. 71839 (ph 870 683-2247).

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

