Three-piece toolbar uses one crossbar just ahead of the 3-pt. to support two other bars, which extend forward to clamp onto cultivator toolbar.

Add-On Tractor Bracket Lets You Front-Mount Any Row Crop Cultivator

You get a better view of a row crop cultivator when it's mounted up front. The problem is, there's no easy way to mount a conventional cultivator on a front 3-pt. hitch.

Laforge Systems says it has come up with a simple solution: a toolbar system that clamps onto any existing cultivator.

"It's a very simple but flexible solution that fits almost any cultivator equipped with a 7 by 7 or 5 by 7 toolbar. The row spacing doesn't matter," says Lars Paulsson of LaForge. "We came up with the idea because we see a lot of growers struggling to find a good way to front-mount their cultivators. Turning the row units around and pushing them ahead of the toolbar doesn't work because the row unit parallel linkage isn't designed to work 'backward'. As far as we know no one else offers a commercial bracket that lets you front-mount an existing cultivator.

"The only limitation is the weight of the cultivator, which is more important than the number of rows. We recommend using a 4-WD or front wheel assist tractor."

Bracket fits almost any cultivator equipped with a 7 by 7 or 5 by 7 toolbar.

The system consists of a 3-piece toolbar with one crossbar just ahead of the 3-pt. that supports two bars that extend forward to clamp to the cultivator toolbar.

Sells for $1,725 plus S&H. Laforge also sells add-on 3-pt. hitches.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Laforge System, Inc., 4425 C Treat Blvd., Suite 230, Concord, Cal. 94521 (ph 800 422-5636 or 925 827-2010; fax 925 689-7198; Website: www.fronthitch.com).

Super Leaf Blower Built From Silage Blower

"My super leaf blower was made from a Kools pto-driven silage blower," says Pete Lamp, Waterloo, Ind.

"I removed the infeed mechanism and took the rest to a local welding shop. They removed the tongue and installed a 3-pt. hitch hookup. They also modified the frame so the air outlet would blow along the ground.

"This leaf blower works even better than I expected. We live in the woods and have tons of leaves in the fall. This machine has really cut down the time it takes to clean them out of the yard.

"I pull it behind my 45 hp tractor, but I think any tractor with 20 or more horsepower would work fine.

"Total cost was $525 - $80 for the blower and the rest to the welding shop for fabrication work. New commercial leaf blowers with similar capacity sell for about $800 but are not built as heavy as mine."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pete Lamp, 3438 CR 24, Waterloo, Ind. 46793 (ph 219 837-4775; E-mail: lampballoon @netscape.net).

Silage blower's frame was modified so that the air outlet would blow along the ground.

"Grain Station 2000" measures 12 ft. wide and 36 1/2 ft. long. Fully loaded, it holds 61 tons and has 50 percent more capacity than a conventional semi truck.

PROVIDES IN-FIELD STORAGE FOR LOADING SEMI TRUCKS

2,000-Bu. "Grain Station"

Bob West has spent the past three years chasing a dream. Now it's reality – a grain handler with a whopping 2,000-bu. capacity.

The "Grain Station 2000" looks somewhat like a giant liquid manure tank but has a 16-in. dia., hydraulic-powered unloading auger on front. It measures 12 ft. wide and 36 1/2 ft. long and rides on four axles, each equipped with dual wheels. Grain is loaded into an 8-ft. long opening on top and is delivered forward to the front unloading auger via a 22-in. wide drag conveyor. The unit also has three slide gates at the bottom.

Fully loaded, the unit holds 61 tons and has 50 percent more capacity than a conventional semi truck. With that kind of capacity you might think it's the world's biggest grain cart. After all, the next largest grain cart on the market has a capacity of "only" 1,100 bu.

However, it's not a grain cart at all, says West, of Vulcan, Alberta. "It's designed to provide in-field storage. The idea is to pull the empty Grain Station to the end of the field, park it, and unload grain from the combine or a grain cart into it. Then you use the Grain Station to quickly load the semi trucks that haul grain directly to an inland terminal or other location."

West has built one prototype unit. He's willing to custom build units for about $50,000 (Canadian). The rig can pay for itself, he says, by making it possible to hire truckers to haul grain to market direct from the field.

Grain is loaded into an 8-ft. long opening on top and is delivered forward to front unloading auger via a 22-in. wide drag conveyor.

The rig can also be used after harvest to speed up loading out of bins. "You can unload grain from bins into the Grain Station and then load it from there into semi trucks. With an unloading capacity of 150 bu. per minute, the Grain Station can load trucks faster than they can be loaded out of bins. Truckers don't want to spend time waiting at the farm to get loaded. This way they can just pull in, load and go."

West says the Grain Station could also be powder coated to be used with fertilizer during the spring. "The fertilizer supplier would fill the Grain Station at the end of the field, and the farmer would then load up from there."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, R.A. West International, Inc., 285 Service Road, Vulcan, Alberta, Canada T0L 2B0 (ph 403 485-1998 or 888 972-9378; Website: www.rawest.com).

"It has really cut down the time it takes to clean leaves out of our yard," says Pete Lamp about the leaf blower he made out of a pto-driven silage blower.