Miniature spreader measures just 3 by 6 ft. and 24 in. deep. Scott pulls the spreader with either a garden tractor or ATV.

Mini Spreader Fitted With Flails To Handle Bedding

Clifford Scott, Didsbury, Alberta, needed a little spreader he could get inside a barn door to make it easier to clean out stalls and chicken houses. He put some ideas on paper and took them to Calvin Hamm, the innovative owner of Wild Rose Machining Ltd.

The two put their heads together and came up with a miniature spreader that measures just 3 by 6 ft. and 24 in. deep. The top opening is 3 ft. by 4 ft. They put a single axle under it and built an aggressive chopper/beater bar with 1 1/2-in. long by 3/8-in. thick steel flails, set at angles in a rotating drum. The drum is powered by a 5 hp single cylinder gas engine.

He pulls the spreader with either a garden tractor or ATV.

Scott says the main use he had in mind for the miniature spreader was applying composted manure to his garden. "It works great for that. It puts out a layer of material just the width of the beater. You can adjust the thickness of the layer by speeding up or slowing down," he says.

Because the spreader is powered by an engine instead of ground driven like most other mini spreaders, Scott and his wife Marion can also use it to chop straw for bedding in stalls and sheds. And he says it works great for mulching strawberries in the fall.

"It will hold and chop four small square bales and spreads wood shavings like a dream. I've even used it to spread wet square bales. We can fill it up with garden waste at the end of the year, chop it up, and spread it," he says.

Hamm and Scott refined the design a little after building the first spreader. Hamm now offers the little spreaders for sale.

One big change was adding a second axle. "It's more stable with a tandem axle under it," says Hamm.

Another big change was moving the engine to the tongue from its original position in back. "It worked fine before, but we figured some people might have a pto on their garden tractor, so they wouldn't need the engine. We set the drive shaft so it can be driven by the engine or by a pto shaft," Hamm says. Moving the engine allows them to make the top opening larger, too, making it easier to load.

Of course, the pto-driven version will be priced minus the engine. Single unit price, ordered from Wild Rose Machining, is under $4,000 (Canadian). Hamm says he's prepared to offer a better price to dealers interested in buying six or more units.

Scott and Hamm have collaborated on other machines, too, including a two-wheel big round bale mover to go behind an ATV or compact tractor, which uses either a hand or electric-powered winch to raise the bale.

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Aggressive chopper/beater bar has steel flails set at angles in a rotating drum.

Hurlimann's 24-ft. wide drag is made of two 29-in. wide used loader tires, each about 6 ft. high. He sliced the tires in half with a chain saw.

Big Tire Drag Spreads And Levels Gopher Mounds, Manure

"It works better than a conventional harrow and cost almost nothing to put together," says Mark Hurlimann about the drag he made to knock down gopher and squirrel mounds and spread cow pies in pastures and hayfields on his ranch near Etna, California.

Hurlimann's 24-ft. wide drag is made of two 29-in. wide used loader tires - each about 6 ft. high - that he got free just for hauling them away from a local tire dealership. (That's easier said than done, as these tires weigh about a ton each.)

He sliced the old tires in half with a chain saw, giving him four 6-ft. diameter circles. Then he drilled a single hole through the sidewall of each tire half, just back from the tread a few inches. He fastened an eyebolt into each hole. A short clevis attaches to the eye of the bolt and then fastens to a 20-ft. length of 4-in. dia., schedule 40 pipe.

To pull the drag, he attaches a length of 1/2-in. cable to both ends of the pipe. In the middle of the cable, he made a loop. He uses a clevis through the loop to hook the drag to his tractor's drawbar.

"The half tire sections are spaced out along the pipe. Fastening them on in just one place with eye bolts and clevises lets them flex independently of the pipe and of each other so they follow the contour of the field. Since they weigh about 1,000 lbs. each, the split tire halves do a good job of leveling and spreading," Hurlimann says.

Since the drag is about 24 ft. wide, it won't go through most of Hurlimann's gates. "That's not a problem, though," he continues. "I just unhook the cable from one end of the pipe and then I can pull it through sideways."

An eyebolt and clevis are used to attach tire to a 20-ft. length of steel pipe.

Hurlimann made his drag several years ago and it's been used each spring on all of his pastures and most of his hayfields, too. "We use it before the grass gets high in the pastures," he says. "Because of the weight of the tires, you can't pull it with a little chore tractor. I use an 85 hp tractor with four-wheel-drive. That's probably more power than I need, but the four-wheel-drive is sometimes necessary in soft fields."

In addition to the drag he made for himself, Hurlimann helped a neighbor make a similar one, using slightly smaller tires.

"The drag cost very little," he continues. "My only out of pocket costs were for new pipe, eye bolts, and clevises."

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To pull the drag, he attaches a length of 1/2-in. cable to both ends of pipe.