



John Mason's chain-type safety ladder reaches down to within about 18 in. of bin floor.



A pair of steel hooks at the upper end of ladder hang from bin's top porthole.

"Safety Ladder" For Grain Bins

"I'm hopeful that one day this idea will catch on with farmers and save lives," says John Mason of Ormstown, Quebec, about his chain-type safety ladder for grain bins.

The ladder, which can be easily moved from bin to bin, has rungs made from steel rebar. A pair of steel hooks at one end hang from the bin's top porthole. The ladder is sized to hang straight down to within about 18 in. of the floor, which is enough clearance for it to clear the sweep auger.

Mason also made three different ladders for his gravity wagon. All of the ladders are made from rerod. One hangs outside the wagon, one hangs inside at the front, and one hangs over the unloading door so the operator has something to stand on as he shovels material out. Both the top and bottom end of each ladder is bent at a 90 degree angle and welded to a length of flat metal plate that bolts onto the side of the wagon.

"The ladders really come in handy if we have trouble with the crop inside," says Mason. "We use the wagon to haul both high moisture shelled corn and cob corn."



This ladder, made from rerod, hangs over unloading door on a gravity wagon, making it safer to shovel grain out.

Sometimes it's hard to get the material out of the wagon so we have to go inside and shovel or use our feet to push the crop out."

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Skid Loader-Mounted Manure Pump, Agitator

"You can do almost anything with a skid steer loader so why not use it to pump manure?", asks the manufacturer of a new quick-tach boom that pumps or agitates.

The 10-ft. long boom is made from 4-in. sq. tubing. The pump and agitator mount on a separate 2-ft. long section that slides over the boom and can be positioned anywhere along the boom.

"It's much easier to operate than a 3-pt. mounted pump or agitator because you can see the pump right in front of you," says Ray Nesseth, NTH, Inc., Barron, Wis. "Another advantage is that you can lift the pump much higher than you can with a 3-pt. unit. As a result, you can position the boom vertically and drop the pump or agitator straight down through a hole and into a pit or tank."



Skid loader-mounted quick-tach boom can be equipped with either a pump or an agitator. Boom is 10 ft. long.

long to provide a 12-ft. reach." The mounting plate and boom sell for \$650. The agitator sells for \$1,500. The 10-in. pump sells for \$1,520, the 12-in. pump for \$1,920, and the 14-in. pump for \$2,420.

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Simple Trenching Tool Has No Moving Parts

Loran Rose's trenching tool cuts a trench 12 in. wide with no moving parts. It mounts on the bucket of a skid steer or front-end loader and guides the soil up into the bucket where it can be piled or dumped, rather than throwing it or leaving it in mounds along the trench.

A retired Missouri auto worker, Rose had been thinking about building a simple trencher for some time when his neighbor asked for help installing a drain to get rid of standing water in his drive-in basement.

"I mentioned what I had in mind for a trenching tool and he said he had some heavy steel angle brackets that might be of use," says Rose.

He made his first prototype using four of those old brackets and some scrap steel he had in his barn.

"It left much to be desired, but worked well enough that it inspired me to keep working on it," he says.

Once he was satisfied he had the dimensions and angles right, he ordered some steel cut and welded his second prototype together. "After trenching a few times, we discovered a few more flaws, which we corrected. Now we have a trencher that works very well," he says.

Rose's trenching tool attaches solidly to the loader bucket. It has skids on the side that allow him to precisely control the depth of the trench. He says in some cases, it's necessary to cut out the sod and then make another pass to cut the trench to the right depth. It will dig as deep as 2 ft. with several passes.

It weighs only about 110 lbs. and can be handled and mounted by just one person. It can easily be hauled in a pickup bed and requires no separate power unit - just a loader. Rose has started producing the trenchers for sale for a price of \$750 plus shipping.

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Trenching tool mounts on bucket of skid steer or front-end loader and has skids on the side that allow Rose to precisely control trench depth.



Unit guides soil up into the bucket where it can be piled or dumped.



Tool cuts a trench 12 in. wide with no moving parts. It weighs only about 110 lbs. and requires no separate power unit - just a loader.

"Lift And Rotate" Cart For Planters, Drills

With some states getting tougher on road safety rules for farm equipment, and others sure to follow, AGCO has responded by building a "lift and rotate" cart for planters and grain drills that greatly reduces road transport width. It was on display - equipped with two on-board 200-gal. liquid fertilizer tanks - at the recent Ohio Farm Science Review near Columbus.

The cart allows you to switch from planting to transport position right from the tractor. It's equipped with a 3-pt. quick hitch and is designed to accommodate a 20 or 30-ft. 3-pt. hitch planter or grain drill. You just back the cart up to the planter or drill and pick it up.

"It provides a narrow 9-ft. 10-in. transport width," says sales engineer Gary Hamilton. "The cart can accept either rigid or flex frame implements. It offers a way to reduce planter width without modifying planter components. Our lift and rotate cart equipped with a planter is priced about the same as our model 8180 forward fold planter, but it has a



AGCO's "lift and rotate" cart greatly reduces road transport width.

5-ft. narrower transport width."

Hamilton says AGCO plans to build a pilot run of models this winter for use next spring.