



Auger attaches to end of a telescoping tube that mounts on Thompson's front-end loader. Telescoping tube is operated by the tilt function on tractor's loader control.

Loader-Mounted Offset Post Hole Auger

Making post holes is an easy job for James Thompson of Traverse City, Mich., who made a telescoping auger to mount on a front-end loader.

He uses it with his Kubota tractor. The auger attaches to the end of a 3 1/2-in. sq. tube that fits inside a 4-in. sq. tube. The auger is powered by a hydraulic motor, which is coupled directly to the input shaft on the auger. The telescoping tube is operated by the tilt function on the tractor's loader control.

"I designed it primarily to dig holes for replacement posts in our vineyard," says Thompson. "The real savings for me is time. I can dig holes at my convenience, then place the posts in the holes later. I replace about 300 posts per year. It also works great for making holes for replacement plants in the vineyard."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James Thompson, 10552 Center Rd., Traverse City, Mich. 49686 (ph 231 929-2497).



Leonard Shelley's cows use this 48-ft. long, 8-ft. wide semi flatbed trailer to cross a creek in his pasture. The bridge is strong enough that he can also drive across it.

Semi Flatbed Trailer Makes Handy Bridge

Leonard Shelley's pasture land was divided by a creek with a steep bank. It was dangerous for cows to cross because they could get mired down in the soft silt bottom. Also, the cattle churned up the soil, making it more likely to erode.

To solve the problem, Shelley bought an old 48-ft. long, 8-ft. wide semi flatbed trailer for \$500 and mounted it over the creek.

He loaded the flatbed on a machinery trailer and brought it home to the creek site, then used a cutting torch to cut off the axles. His brother helped him place the trailer across the creek. The two men were on tractors on

opposite sides of the creek. One tractor pulled on the trailer while the other one held it back to keep the front end from dropping down. Dirt was then filled in level at each end of the bridge.

"The cows use it to cross, and it's strong enough that I can also drive across it with my pickup and small tractor," says Shelley. "It also saves the banks and improves the water quality in the creek."

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Bach converts large rubber earthmover tires which were given to him by a tire dealer. He uses a chain saw to cut bead off one side of tire.

How To Turn A Tire Into A Water Trough

Old tires make great livestock water troughs, says Robert Bach, Owingsville, Ky., who replaced the 500-gal. concrete water tanks he had been using with large rubber earthmover tires.

"Tire water troughs cost less and will last longer than concrete or metal containers," says Bach.

The earthmover tires were given to him by a tire dealer. They weigh anywhere from 3,000 to 5,600 lbs. depending on size. (The tire shown in the photo is an 8-ft. poly cord tire that weighs about 3,500 lbs.). He uses a chain saw to cut the bead off one side of the tire. Then he buried the tire about 1 ft. deep in the ground.

Once the tire is buried in place, he installs the water line, fittings, and shut-off valve in the tire. He places a small piece of plastic sheeting in the center of the tire. The plastic sheeting is extended as far out as possible to prevent ground water from reaching the concrete and cracking it during freezing and thawing. The center of the tire is then filled with concrete until the concrete is level with the bottom bead on the tire. Af-



Center of tire is filled with concrete level with bottom bead on tire. After the concrete has hardened Bach installs the stand pipe, float system, and overflow.

ter the concrete has hardened he installs the stand pipe, float system, and overflow, if desired.

"We've installed three tanks so far and are making two more. They hold more water and are wider in diameter than the concrete tanks we had been using," notes Bach.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert M. Bach, 1787 Wyoming Road, Owingsville, Ky. 40360 (ph 606 674-2953).



"Bed X-Tender" adds 2 ft. of cargo space to bed of pickup by closing in the tailgate.

Handy New Way To "Lengthen" Pickup Bed

Hottest new accessory for pickups is the "Bed X-Tender" – a pivoting metal enclosure that adds 2 ft. to the bed of your truck by closing in the space over the tailgate.

When you don't need the X-Tender, you simply flip it up into the bed of the pickup and close the tailgate. In that position it gives you a 2-ft. wide enclosed area behind the tailgate for times when you don't need the whole bed of the pickup. Keeps small loads - like gas cans, chemical jugs, or even groceries - from sliding around.

A pair of brackets attaches permanently to the truck bed wall. The X-Tender quickly slips in or out of the brackets, as needed. Made out of aircraft-grade aluminum, the lightweight bracket weighs just 10 lbs.

Models are available to fit both full-size and compact trucks. Sells for \$159 and is



Unit flips forward when not needed, providing a 2-ft. wide enclosed area behind tailgate where you can contain small loads.

available through a variety of outlets, including J.C. Whitney.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, J.C. Whitney, Chicago, Ill. (Ph 800 529-4486; fax 800 537-2700; Website: www.jcwhitney.com)