

Drop Deck Trailer Makes Cheap Fertilizer Tank Hauler

Old drop deck trailers that were used a few years ago to move wide equipment can also be used to haul large chemical and water tanks, says Doug Martin, Mt. Pulaski, Ill., who uses an old Deere drop deck trailer to carry a pair of 1,200-gal. poly tanks.

Martin bought the trailer used from a local dealer for \$750 and then painted it. After setting the tanks on the trailer, he mounted a hydraulic motor and pump on the deck and plumbed into the tanks. At the field he locks the trailer's two axles together and then pulls the trailer off them and onto the ground.

"We use it every spring when we side dress 28 percent liquid nitrogen after planting. Jerry Tschantz, an employee, suggested the idea," says Martin. "At the field, we use a pump on

the trailer to pull 28 percent fertilizer from a semi tanker into the tanks. We had been using an upright 5,000-gal. tank mounted on a conventional trailer, and we needed more capacity. Instead of buying another similar trailer, we decided to buy the drop deck trailer. Using the semi tanker to fill the tanks eliminates the need to have someone hauling 28 percent back and forth from our local chemical supplier to the field all the time.

"Used drop deck trailers are getting easier to find because much of the equipment that's being used today is too big to fit on these trailers."

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Doug Martin carries a pair of 1,200-gal. poly tanks on an old Deere drop deck trailer which he bought for \$750. "We use it every spring when we side dress 28 percent liquid nitrogen after planting," he says.

Oliver 1800 Tractor Repowered With Deere Diesel Engine

When Duane Wright tore down the worn-out 6-cyl. diesel engine in his 1962 Oliver 1800 tractor, he found that both the head and the block were cracked. He tossed the engine and picked up a Deere 329 cu. in. diesel engine from a local salvage company.

"I paid \$600 for the engine, and did most of the machine work needed to mount it myself. A new head for the old engine would probably have cost as much as I paid for the entire engine," says Wright.

"The engine came out of a combine. It was widely used in the company's 4400 and 6600 series combines and also used in the company's 4030 tractors. I figured I could make it work in my Oliver. I didn't have to modify the engine itself at all."

He cut the combine engine's flywheel housing off, then machined the flywheel to fit the Oliver's clutch and pto drive plate. He welded the back part of the Oliver bell housing onto the Deere bell housing in order to maintain the original clutch linkages. The original engine mounts were in the way so

he ground them out of the tractor's cast iron frame. The new engine's oil pan hangs lower than the oil pan on the original engine, so he had to cut out the bottom part of the frame. He also bolted a steel plate on front of the tractor to support the wishbone leading to the tractor's wide front axle.

He welded new mounts to the front part of the engine and bolted the back end of the engine down at the sides. He used the tractor's pto shaft to align the rear end of the engine. He threaded a shaft into the front end of the Oliver crankshaft and used split collars and brackets to secure it to the frame.

The tractor still has its original radiator, but he replaced the fan with a bigger 6-bladed one that came out of an old Case combine.

He built a short adapter for the fan and centered it in the radiator's housing. He also installed a new Delco Remy alternator. The air cleaner mounts at the rear of the engine.

"The Deere engine is a little taller than the original one, so there wasn't room for the fuel tank in its original place. I solved the problem



When the 6-cyl. diesel engine in his Oliver tractor wore out, Duane Wright replaced it with a 329 cu. in. diesel engine out of an old Deere combine.

by mounting fender-mounted tanks off another Oliver tractor," says Wright.

"The conversion has worked out great. The tractor originally had about 65 horsepower, and that's about what it has now. Now my

son does the farming and uses the tractor mainly for loader work."

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Nurse Tank Trailer Built Out Of Truck Frame

"I use 28 percent nitrogen and starter fertilizer when I plant corn, and then sidedress additional 28 percent later. I made this low-cost nurse tank trailer out of an old truck frame to haul both liquids to the field at the same time," says Roger Hoftzyer, Hartley, Iowa.

The trailer is equipped with a 1,300-gal. stainless steel tank that holds 28 percent, and a 450-gal. tank that holds starter fertilizer. Both tanks are filled from the bottom using transfer pumps. A 5 hp Briggs & Stratton transfer pump mounts on back. There's also an induction tank for when he uses the trailer for spray work.

Hoftzyer started with a 1966 1 1/2-ton Ford grain truck that he already had and stripped it down to the frame and axles. He cut 4 ft. out of the frame and moved the front axle back. He also removed the front springs and installed lengths of steel I-beam that allow the truck frame to set directly on the front axle. He used 3-in. sq. tubing to make an extended tongue and also made a steering linkage for it.

He bought the 1,300-gal. stainless steel tank at a local consignment sale. It had been mounted on a truck and came equipped with mounting fenders which he bolted to the truck



Both tanks are filled from the bottom using transfer pumps.

frame. The 450-gal. tank came off an old Ag Chem sprayer. He built a saddle for it that also bolts to the truck frame. Then he mounted both tanks on the frame and also made a platform on front out of treated lumber for hauling seed bags and other supplies.

"It works great and is an efficient way to get more done when planting. I can plant about 75 acres at a time without having to go back to the farm," says Hoftzyer, who used the trailer for the first time last spring. "Another advantage of having my own tanks



"It lets me haul both 28 percent nitrogen and starter fertilizer to the field at the same time," says Roger Hoftzyer, about the low-cost nurse tank trailer he made out of an old truck frame.

is that I can purchase the products whenever I want, without having to wait for a supplier to bring tanks and fertilizer out to me. I buy my own 28 percent by the semi load. When I need to refill the tank, I just go home and fill

it. I apply about 20 gal. per acre of 28 percent and 7 gal. per acre of starter fertilizer."

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