I own a pair of Melroe Spra-Coupe self-propelled sprayers and have farms spread out about 40 miles apart. To reduce time spent on the road, I built a “drive-in” with built-in loading ramps that tip up as you drive on. I pull the two-wheeled trailer behind my Ford 1/2-ton pickup. The trailer is built with a metal runway down the middle and a saddle and ramp - built together as one unit - on each side. The back 3-ft. section of the runway angles downward and ends about 6 in. above the ground. Each saddle and ramp is welded to a short length of steel pipe that rides over a smaller pipe. To load the trailer, I drop the ramps down to the ground. I drive the Spra-Coupe’s single front wheel up onto the runway and then slowly drive the rear wheels up the ramps and into the saddles. As the saddles drop down, the ramps automatically tip up ready for transport.

The process is reversed when the rig is backed up off the trailer. (Roy E. Phillips, Stoughton, Sask., Canada)

I had an old handheld rechargeable electric trimmer with a dead battery. I wanted to use the trimmer on the tractor, but couldn’t run it directly off the tractor’s 12-volt battery or I’d burn out the trimmer’s motor. To reduce the voltage, I salvaged an automotive resistor block out of a 1958 Chevrolet truck and mounted it on the tractor’s steering column. I attached the trimmer to a flexible extension cord, which allows me to use the trimmer up to 6 ft. away from the tractor. I can use the trimmer while seated on the tractor or in a standing position. When I’m done using the trimmer I hang it up on a bolt that I attached to the steering column. (Robert Roerig, 51351 St. Rt. 162 E., New London, Ohio 44851 ph 440 647-3278)

My barbed wire roller mounts on back of my pickup and will roll up a quarter mile of wire in only about eight minutes. It works so well that local fence contractors have asked to borrow it. It consists of a 5 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine that belt-drives a 14-in. wide spool. I made the spool by mounting an old grain drill disc at each end of a 1-in. dia. pipe. An idler pulley that’s controlled by a handle is used to engage the belt and start the spool rolling. Another lever is used to move the wire from side to side so that it wound up evenly on the spool. I’ve made 12 spools for the unit. By removing a 1/2-in. nut from the pipe, I can slide one spool out and replace it with another one.

It works great when tearing out fences. To use it I first remove the wires from the posts and lay them 1 to 2 ft. apart on the ground, and then start rolling them up at a time.

The 5 hp engine has a lot of pulling power and will pull a wire that’s sitting in brush right up onto the spool, as long as the brush isn’t too thick. Another advantage is that the wire is wound so neatly that it can easily be unrolled when building another fence. I made a separate machine equipped with prongs, on which I set the spools. I can use this machine to roll out up to four wires at a time. (Joe E. Miller, 35756 Huttensen Lane, Burns, Ore. 97720 ph 541 493-2478)

For years I’ve used a 1978 Bolens garden tractor, equipped with a 42-in. deck, to mow my 3 1/2-acre lawn. Later I would go back with a Weed Eater to trim around the mailbox, trees and posts. However, I often didn’t have time to do the trimming work.

I made a garden planter for tiny seeds out of plastic peanut butter jar and a wooden wheel. The jar is screwed to the center of the 1-in. wide, 12-in. dia. wheel, and the 1/2-in. dia. center is made from a 1 5/8-in. circular wooden wheel. The jar is screwed to the center of the 1-in. wide, 12-in. dia. wheel and a 1 5/8-in. dia. circular one. You put the circular piece on the back side of the tarp and then push the oblong piece against the tarp and down onto the circular piece to lock the two pieces together. Works great for covering hay bales, wood piles, boats, RV’s, swimming pools, etc. They sell for $2 each with a minimum order of five clamps; 12 clamps sell for $20 and 25 for $30. Add $5 for shipping, which both the manufacturer and seller agree is a reasonable charge. (Wayne A. Beggs, 3378 Augusta Hwy., Lithonia, Ga. 30038 ph 706 359-1240)

Another idea I had was to bolt an old 6-ft. wide dump rake to a 3-pt. mounted harrow frame. I use it to rake leaves onto my garden and for doing clean-up work. I use my small Ford 1710 tractor to pull it. (Wayne A. Beggs, 3378 Augusta Hwy., Lithonia, Ga. 30038 ph 706 359-1240)

Here’s a sandbox I made from a big satellite dish for my grandson, Gavin. I cut the dish in half and partially buried half in the ground and turned the other side upside down and mounted it above the driveway.

For years I used my 1968 Power King tractor to push snow. Then I had the opportunity to buy a used Deere tractor cab that fits my tractor. It makes pushing snow in our cold winters a much more enjoyable job. (Jack English, 61895 West Tacoma Rd., Barnesville, Ohio 43713)

The 5 hp engine has a lot of pulling power and will pull a wire that’s sitting in brush right up onto the spool, as long as the brush isn’t too thick. Another advantage is that the wire is wound so neatly that it can easily be unrolled when building another fence. I made a separate machine equipped with prongs, on which I set the spools. I can use this machine to roll out up to four wires at a time. (Joe E. Miller, 35756 Huttensen Lane, Burns, Ore. 97720 ph 541 493-2478)

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