

ATV-Mounted Saw Makes Land Clearing Fun

Ron Cole wanted to get rid of small cedar trees growing wild in his pastures without spending a lot of money. So the Vici, Okla., farmer hit on the idea of mounting a saw on front of his 4-wheeler ATV.

"It works fast and is small enough that I can use it in areas where larger machines can't go," says Cole, who mounts the saw on a Polaris 4-WD 500.

The one-of-a-kind rig consists of a 14-in. dia., carbide-tipped circular blade that's belt-driven by an 8 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine. Both the blade and engine mount on an aluminum deck, which bolts to a steel frame attached permanently to the underside of the 4-wheeler. An electric winch raises and lowers the saw blade. A foot-controlled clutch engages or disengages the blade.

"It really works slick. I can cut small trees on-the-go without even coming to a complete stop," says Cole. "I've saved thousands of dollars by being able to clear trees myself instead of having to buy an expensive machine or pay someone else to do the job. "The blade extends about 5 ft. ahead of the

4-wheeler which gives me a great view of the tree as it's being cut. I use it on trees that are 6 ft. high or less and have a base diameter of 3 in. or less. On flat ground, I can remove a tree with a 1 1/2-in. base diameter while traveling at 5 to 7 mph. I cut the tree about 3/4 of an inch off the ground. Small caster wheels under the deck keep the blade out of the dirt.

"As I approach the tree I slow down, which causes the front end of the ATV to drop down. The deck also drops down until the caster wheels contact the ground. By the time the ATV's front end comes back up the blade has cut all the way through the tree, which falls off to the side. Then I move on to the next tree."

Cole says the saw's clutch and drive assembly are enclosed inside the frame where they're protected from dirt and debris. To remove the saw, he pulls one pin, unplugs a wire, and backs the ATV away.

Cole says the saw is also safe to use. "As soon as I let up on the foot-operated switch the blade stops running."



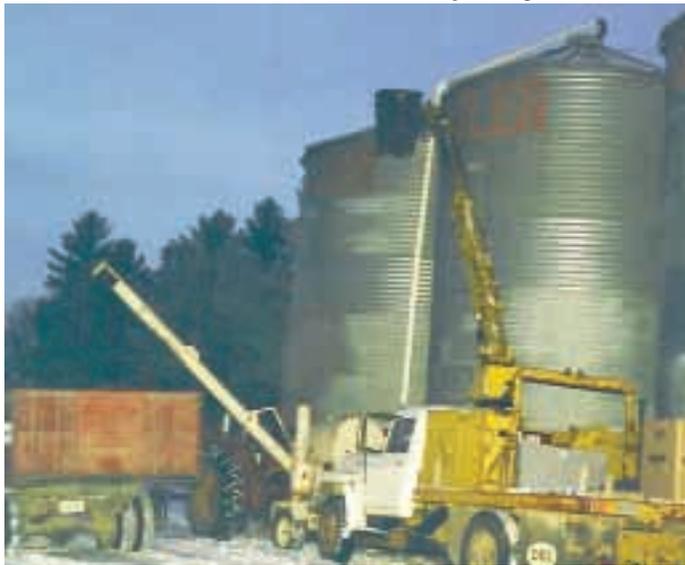
"It works fast and is small enough that I can use it in areas where larger machines can't go," says Ron Cole, who mounted a 14-in. dia. saw on front of his 4-wheeler ATV.

The saw works so well Cole has decided to manufacture it. "I can make the frame fit any ATV brand, although I prefer Polaris and Honda models because they have the strongest frames. All parts for my saw can be purchased at any lawn mower store, farm

supply store or local lumber and hardware stores," he notes.

Sells for \$1,600 installed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ron Cole, Rt. 2, Box 153, Vici, Okla. 73859 (ph 580 922-3201).



To vacuum moldy grain, Roy Phillips connects 10-ft. lengths of 4-in. dia. PVC pipe together. A 10-ft. long flexible hose goes into fill hole on bin roof.

How To Vacuum Moldy Grain Off Top Of Bin

If moldy grain develops at the top of a bin you have two choices - climb up and shovel the bad grain out, or empty the entire bin and mix up the moldy grain with the good. In that case, all your grain may get docked at the elevator.

For the past couple years Roy Phillips, Stoughton, Sask., has used a different approach. He connects 10-ft. lengths of 4-in. dia. PVC pipe together much like a silo blower pipe, with a 10-ft. long flexible hose at the top that goes into the fill hole on top of the bin. The bottom end of the pipe hooks up to his pto-operated Rem grain vacuum, which augers the moldy grain into a truck.

He uses a truck-mounted cherry picker to set up the big vacuum pipe and the bucket helps hold the pipe in place.

"It saves a lot of work and doesn't cost much to set up," says Phillips. "We bought the PVC pipe for less than \$100. The first

time we sucked moldy grain out of a bin, we threw away 75 bu. As long as grain is dry, the vac will suck it up. The PVC pipe is very lightweight so you can easily handle it with one hand. It takes only about an hour to set up and pull the moldy grain out of a bin.

"The vacuum coming off the grain vac holds the pipes tight together. To use this system you need a vac equipped with an exhaust pipe. You can't use a grain vac equipped with a cyclone because all the filth comes out of the cyclone and drops on top of the truck.

"The bottom end of the PVC pipe has an elbow that hooks up to a 6-in. dia. hose on the grain vac. I made an adapter to hook the grain vac's hose up to the PVC pipe."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roy E. Phillips, Box 277, Stoughton, Sask., Canada S0G 4T0 (ph 306 457-2916; E-mail: parryph@hotmail.com).

Bin Unplucker Could Be A Life-Saver

Ken Quam has worked around augers and bins most of his life, selling and servicing grain bins for AgriSales, Northwood, Iowa. He's also spent 35 years as a volunteer fireman so he's seen his share of bin-related tragedies. Those experiences prompted him to come up with a grain bin unplucker that breaks up plug-ups from outside the bin without risk of life or limb and without emptying out the bin.

"I tried everything before coming up with this idea," he says, recalling earlier efforts with pushing rods down from above and even using concrete vibrators. "In a tall bin, you can't get a long enough pipe, and how do you guide it?"

Then he got the idea of inserting a half-inch pipe with a chain welded to the end. Quam would attach a drill to the end of the pipe and hope that the chain would break up any caked grain. However, he found that the unit was too difficult to control and length was limited.

He kept experimenting and finally came up with a method that works. He cuts a hole in the side of the bin and inserts a pipe sprayed with a slippery lubricant. As he slides in the pipe, the end fills with corn, which he periodically vacuums out with a shop vac. Once he reaches the center of the bin where the plug is located, he inserts his unplucker mechanism and goes to work.

The unplucker consists of a solid rod with a short length of hinged rod attached to the end with a big bolt threaded into it. A cable is attached midway along the end rod. Once the device has reached the plug, Quam moves the hinged rod back and forth by pulling on



Ken Quam says his grain bin unplucker breaks up plug-ups from outside the bin without risk of life or limb and without emptying out the bin.

the cable. The bolt striking the plug breaks it up.

"It takes imagination and a feel for what's going on in the grain," says Quam. "I can tell when I am in hard stuff or in loose. And I know when I am right down in the auger."

So far, his device has only failed to do the job once, and that was in a grain elevator silo. His largest success was a 90-ft. tall, 75-ft. dia. bin that he unplugged in two hours.

When he's done, all that remains is the pipe and a hole in the side of the bin. Quam leaves the pipe in place once the auger is working again in case another problem develops.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Quam, AgriSales, 608 8th St. N. Northwood, Iowa 50459 (ph 641 324-1507).

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