



"With 24-in. wide tires, and the ability to tum all four wheels, my spray truck handles especially well on steep embankments," says Harry Engeland.



Engeland mounts a plow on front during winter. He says he likes the rig's maneuverability and traction.

By Janis Schole, Contributing Editor

"Go Anywhere" Crab Steer Spray Truck

Sometimes roadside spray trucks have to do some pretty tricky off-road work, and Harry Engeland knew from experience that some jobs can be dangerous for an ordinary truck.

That's why he built what he calls his "4 x 4 x 4 truck," - a special "crab steer" rig that can get the job done almost anywhere.

"I call it a 4 x 4 x 4 because it has four wheels, 4-WD, and 4-wheel steering," Engeland explains. "I use it for spraying highway cloverleafs and along fenced right-of-ways. It works especially well on steep em-

bankments."

To build it, the Stratford, Ontario man bought two 1967-army surplus trucks and cut them apart. He mounted the front axle from one to the back of the other.

He equipped the truck to spray with a boomless nozzle because of the rough off-road conditions.

"In places where the embankment goes up to a point where you can't get through normally, this truck allows you to turn shorter and run at an angle with the back end higher

than the front," he says. "It provides more safety in tight situations."

The steering of the back wheels is controlled by a toggle switch on the dash that operates an electric cylinder that turns those wheels. For highway use, there's a separate switch on the dash that automatically straightens the wheels when you push it.

Engeland also turned the rig into a multi-purpose, multi-seasonal unit by putting a snowplow blade on the front so he could clear his yard in the winter.

He happened to have a pair of 24-in. wide tires, and put them on the front of the truck (the original tires were 14 in. wide) for snow plowing. He says these wider tires make it easier to back out of freshly piled snowbanks.

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ATV-Mounted Calf Scale

Terry Toma's 300 cc 4-wheeler is outfitted to make her life a lot easier during calving season, thanks to a digital scale for tagging, weighing and processing calves.

As calving boss on a large ranch, Toma spring calves 300 cows near Cochrane, Alberta. She came up with the concept for the scale and Manfred Fuerbringer designed and built it.

The scale consists of a load cell on the base of a calf tub that sends information to a digital readout. The sheet metal tub and digital scale head are supported by a custom made L-shaped frame, made from 1-in. square tubing, and fastened to the ATV's front frame rack, where a winch would otherwise be attached.

"The cradle does not move up and down on the frame. It sits on the frame and it's removable if you need to get to the load cell," says Toma. "If it's a wet spring and I'm pushing a lot of snow, sometimes the load cell will get wet and that affects the readout. We've just replaced the old cell with a newer model that is much more waterproof."

Two square tube sleeves that are welded to the tub keep it in place, but allow it movement so that you can get an accurate weight. The tub is about 36 in. long and roughly 24 in. high at the back. The flat backstop has a 3/8-in. pipe welded along the top edge for reinforcement. There is a drop-down panel on the front of the tub that helps keep a struggling calf in position to work on.

Toma says the scale's frame must be strong enough to withstand the bumps it endures on rough pasture terrain.

Toma drives her quad right up to a newborn, opens the tub door, lifts the calf into the tub on its back, with its feet pointing up, and then shuts the tub door.

The calf almost always lays still, she says. Then she records the weight, tags them, drops the door and lifts them out, and she's done.

When the need arises, Toma can use the unit as a calf carrier, transporting an animal to the calving barn for additional attention. She says, because the cows are familiar with her quad, they follow along behind easily.

According to the cattlemaster, using an ATV for processing calves is also a safety

feature because the vehicle serves as a protective shield, should any cow become aggressive.

The digital scale and 12-volt digital scale and load cell were purchased from Reliable Scale in Calgary, Alberta, for about \$1,400, which accounted for the majority of the unit's building cost, according to Toma.

CL Ranches builds and sells the units one at a time for a negotiated price. They build two other versions of the calf scale. One mounts on the side of a flatdeck truck and folds back up onto the deck when not in use. The other mounts on a truck's bumper.

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Photo courtesy Canadian Cattlemen

Drop-down panel helps hold struggling calf still. Built-in load cell displays weight.

"Green Limousine" Turns Parade Goers' Heads

Buzz Stauch of Dublin, Ohio has a good sense of humor. That explains why he put together his "Green Limousine," a head-turning, self-propelled manure spreader made from a tractor-drawn 1950 John Deere spreader.

Stauch rebuilt the unit to look like a horse-drawn rig by fitting it with the front wheel assembly from a horse drawn spreader. Then he added a new two-cylinder, 18 hp engine, and a lawnmower hydrostatic transmission.

"It's the same spreader that I used on the farm back in the 50's," Stauch says. "When I quit using it in the 60's, I just parked the thing and it started deteriorating. In 1999, it had rusted out so bad that I tore it completely down and put new sheet metal in it."

He installed two shortened park benches (to fit the bed width), so four passengers could ride facing each other, and added indoor/outdoor carpeting it for a "classier ride" (the carpet also makes it quieter).

"The steering column and brake pedal are off a combine. I fabricated a console panel containing the throttle, choke and ignition switch, and placed it on the left side of the steering wheel."



Self-propelled manure spreader is a sure-fire hit at local parades.

Stauch says the beaters are stationary and purely for looks.

"It took me about a year and a half to finish the project. Materials cost between \$2,000 and \$2,500," he explains. "I go to a number of parades and antique tractor shows with it

and it gets a lot of attention."

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