Gerald Krob converted his wood splitter to this self-propelled model that's also equipped with a 32-in. buzz saw.

Self-Propelled Log Splitter, Saw

Gerald Krob decided he needed a portable wood splitter to ease the chore of making the tons of firewood he burns every winter.

While trying to decide how to power his splitter, he came across an old Red Seal Continental industrial 4-cylinder engine that had an electric starter on it. "I was told it had powered a generator set back in the 1940's when it was new," he says.

Since the old engine had plenty of power, Krob decided to also equip the splitter with a buzz saw. "I figured I could make a complete wood processing tool," he says.

Krob mounted the engine on the rear of a triangular-shaped frame made of 3-in. channel iron and put three wheels under it. He put a wagon-type axle under the engine and a pivoting dolly wheel in front.

A saw arbor with a 32-in. buzz saw mounts on one side of the frame. On the other side, he installed a splitter that he built from scratch, making use of an I-beam and a used hydraulic cylinder. To make the wedge, he cut a piece of 1 in. thick plate steel, sharpened one edge and then added wings to the sides to get a good, quick split.

To power the saw and hydraulic pump for the wood splitter, he mounted a pulley on the front of the engine's crankshaft. He ran a belt from the pulley to a pulley in the center of a shaft he mounted in a pillow block bearing on the frame. Pulleys on either end of the shaft drive belts that turn the saw on one side and the hydraulic pump on the other. Belt tighteners serve as clutches to engage or disengage the saw and hydraulic pump.

Krob added a hitch at the front of the frame that allows him to pull it to the woods with his pickup. Maneuvering it into place in the woods, though, was difficult.

He solved the problem by adding a hydraulic motor and chain drive to the rear axle and differential which came off an American Motors Hornet. He uses sprockets and roller chain to drive the differential. He also added steering and used toothed gears and roller chain to make the steering system.

He switched the old engine over to a 12-volt electrical system and mounted lights on the frame. He also added a worklight by mounting a lightweight reflector on an old two-way radio antenna salvaged from a patrol car.

"It can keep four people busy with the saw and splitter. The engine has plenty of power," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerald Krob, 4649 Bald Eagle Ave., White Bear Lake, Minn. 55110 (ph 651 429-3439).

Plastic Pickup Liner Dumps 3,000 Lbs.

A new lightweight, plastic dump bed can be attached and removed easily by a single person, yet has a 3,000-lb. lifting capacity and rises up to a 60 degree angle.

The Dump-Pro bed fits in any standard pickup and holds 58 cu. ft. It uses a 1.9-hp Warn Works 12-volt winch that raises and lowers the entire bed in 30 seconds. The bed liner is made out of a single piece of polyethylene plastic that will never rust or dent. Because the liner is seamless, it is completely watertight and can be used to haul corrosive materials without worrying about damage to the pickup.

There are two different models of Dump-Pro liners: a bolt-on version and a quick-tach version. The bolt-on version is held in place with 6 to 8 bolts, while the quick-tach version can be removed by releasing two clamps and a bolt.

The bolt-on Dump-Pro costs $2,497, or $2,696 fully assembled. The quick-tach version is an extra $299. Currently the Dump-Pro is available only for full size pickup beds, but a short bed version will be available soon.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Standard Hamilton Company, Inc., 1648 Taylor Rd. #514, Port Orange, Fla. 32128 (ph 866 438-6777 or 386 763-3333; fax 386 756-4444; website: www.dump-pro.com).

Lightweight, plastic "Dump-Pro" dump bed can be attached and removed easily by a single person, yet has a 3,000-lb. lifting capacity. It rises up to a 60 degree angle.

Bottomless feed bunk can be easily lifted out of the way by any front-end loader, allowing bunk to empty itself out without the need to do any shoveling.

Bottomless Feed Bunk Boosts Capacity, Eliminates Cleanup

"Our new bottomless feed bunk can be easily lifted out of the way by any front-end loader, allowing the bunk to empty itself out without the need to do any shoveling. And, it has more than twice as much capacity as most standard bunks," says Kelly Melius, Common Sense Mfg., Faulkton, S. Dak.

The bottomless bunk is 4 by 20 ft. and 28 in. deep. It's made out of 2 by 2 sq. tubing and 14-ga. sheet metal. To move the bunk, you use a grapple fork to grab a bar that runs lengthwise about 1 ft. above the top of the bunk.

"It's wider and deeper than conventional bunks, which allows more animals to feed from it," says Melius. "A conventional bunk of the same length is 38 in. wide and 1 ft. deep. You can get 20 cows around the bunk but it has only enough feed for 12 to 15 animals. Our bunk also has room for 20 animals but it holds enough feed for 30. Such capacity makes it much more practical to use big bale processors that deliver high roughage rations. And, you don't need as many bunks in your feedlot.

"The reason we can use such a wide bunk is that the sides angle inward, which allows cattle to stand closer to the bunk and reach farther in as they eat. The sloped sides also keep the animals from putting their front feet in the bunk, and they deflect feed forward and down in front of the animal's nose so there's less waste."

Melius says the 4 by 20-ft. bunk works well for cows, bulls, and other large animals. He also offers 3 by 10-ft. and 3 by 20-ft. bottomless bunks for calves, sheep and other small animals.

The 4 by 20-ft. bunk sells for $495.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Common Sense Mfg., 16008 357th Ave., Faulkton, S. Dak. 57438 (ph 605 598-4157 or 605 216-0687; email: commonsense@westtelco.com; website: www.balefeeder.com).

Fold-Down Pole Lowers Bird House To Ground

"I don't have to climb a ladder to clean it out, and the bird house always stays upright so nothing gets disturbed," says Dwight Davis, Hope Hull, Alabama, about the fold-down wood pole he came up with for his wife's purple martins.

The bird house mounts on top of the 15-ft. pole which consists of several 2 by 4's that form a folding parallelogram. One of the 2 by 4's extends out about 4 ft. past the upper pivot point and serves as a handle during the raising and lowering process. When the pole is in the vertical position, a pair of bolts are used to lock it in place. To lower the bird house, Davis simply removes the bolts and then rotates the handle. To eliminate the need for wrenches, he welded a small metal bar onto each nut. He also welded an L-shaped handle onto each bolt head, allowing him to pull the bolt out without having to drive it out.

"I think the same folding parallelogram idea could be used for raising and lowering signs, flags, etc.," notes Davis.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dwight Davis, 6073 Felder Rd., Hope Hull, Alabama 36043 (ph 334 286-6175; email: dpdavis@starband.net).

Dwight Davis built a fold-down wooden pole to support his purple martin bird house. Pole consists of 2 by 4's that form a folding parallelogram. To lower the bird house, he removes two bolts and then rotates a 2 by 4 that extends past the upper pivot point.