



“Super Deck” platform rotates back at a 45 degree angle until wheels on back of platform contact the ground.

Remote-Controlled Lift Platform For Pickups

“It lets you load up at ground level and then lift the load into the pickup bed safely and easily,” says Ron DePue, Homestead Tractor, about his company’s new remote-controlled lift platform for pickups.

The “Super Deck” is designed for half-ton pickups or larger that have an 8-ft. bed. It consists of a 56-in. wide diamond tread steel platform and a steel frame that bolts to the pickup bed. The back end of the platform is fitted with a pair of small wheels. A single hydraulic cylinder is used to lift the platform off the pickup bed floor. The platform rotates back at a 45 degree angle until the wheels contact the ground and then rolls out flat on the ground for easy loading. Straps are used to secure the load in place as it’s being raised or lowered.

The unit is powered by a hydraulic power pack that operates off the pickup’s battery. To operate it, you use a remote control that’s

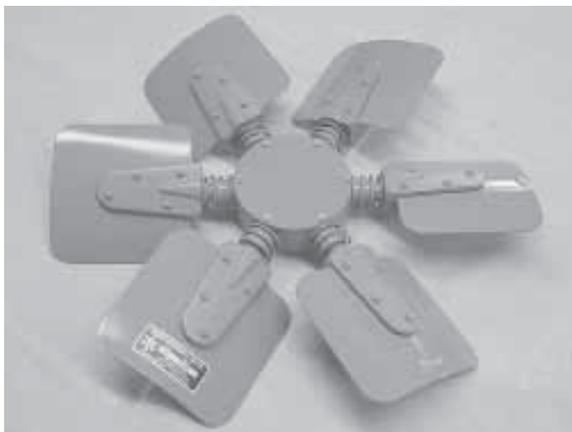
equipped with a single push button.

“It eliminates manual lifting of loads up to 2,000 lbs.,” says DePue. “Works great for hauling snowmobiles, ATV’s, motorcycles, small tractors, tires, big barrels, seed bags, etc. The entire unit weighs 700 lbs.”

DePue says it takes about one hour to install the subframe, which requires drilling two holes in the pickup bed. When you need to remove the unit, you just lower the platform to the ground and unbolt the subframe. “The wheels on back of the platform can be removed by pulling a pin. They can be stored under the deck where they’re out of the way,” notes DePue.

Sells for \$3,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Homestead Tractor, 22311 Bear Valley Rd., Apple Valley, Calif. 92308 (ph 760 240-1610; fax 760 240-1126; Website: www.hstsales.com).



Reversible fan is used to blow out radiators when operating in dusty and trashy conditions.

Reversible Fans Keep Engines Cooler

Blowing out radiators when operating in dusty and trashy conditions is easy with reversible fans from Huber Reversible Fan, Inc., Erie, Pennsylvania.

The fans were designed by Herman Huber in the mid-1950s, for use in strip coal mines. The fans can also be used on combines, tractors, forage harvesters, or just about any farm machine with an engine of 80 hp or larger and sufficient clearance in the fan housing.

“Our smallest fan is about 16 in. in diameter, so if your machine has a 16 to 17-in. fan, you should be able to use it,” says Tim Waterhouse, president of the company.

To reverse the fan, you simply push each blade in by hand, rotate it approximately 180°, and allow it to “spring” back out into the new position. That’s all it takes to change the direction of airflow.

While the fans are practically maintenance-free, the company suggests lubricating the blades periodically with a spray lubricant like WD-40.

“Most heavy equipment dealers have access to our fans,” Waterhouse says, noting that the company has always worked primarily with industrial equipment. You can call for the name and location of a dealer or buy direct from the company.

Prices depend on the size and number of blades on the fan ordered.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tim Waterhouse, General Manager, Huber Reversible Fan, Inc., 2103 Hershey Road, Erie, Pa. 16509 (ph 814 864-1763 or toll-free 800 582-2740 (U.S.) or 800 626-4127 (Canada); E-mail: info@huberfan.com; Website: www.huberfan.com).

Culvert Cleaner Works Like A Bottle Brush

An idea for a new way to clean silt out of road culverts was born the day Les Van Ornum, Hortonville, Wisconsin, grabbed a baby bottle brush to clean a coffee mug.

“It was one of those travel mugs, made with a big base on it so it won’t tip over,” Van Ornum says. “The opening at the top was so small I couldn’t get my hand inside to wash it out, so I grabbed the bottle brush. As I cleaned the cup, I got the idea of using the same process on a bigger scale to clean silt out of road culverts.”

Van Ornum set out to design a big hydraulic-powered brush to fit on a skid steer loader. He made a 4-ft. long brush using a steel rod and the same heavy gauge plastic bristles used to make street sweepers. He built a frame that goes in the ditch next to the culvert while the skid steer stays on the road. An orbit motor rotates the brush and slides it into the culvert. Six 6-ft. extensions are added to the brush as needed for a total reach of 40 ft. Additional extensions are available.

“We’ve found it’s best to use it from the uphill side of the culvert, and cleaning is faster if you have a water supply available to wash the silt out and down the ditch,” he says.

The rotary brush worked so well that Van Ornum applied for a patent on parts of it. His company, Van-Boh Manufacturing, Inc., sells the Culvert Clean-Err for \$3,995. It’s available with 12, 15, 18-in. brushes, and brush extensions. It will work with any skidsteer loader with an extra hydraulic outlet.



Hydraulic-powered brush fits on skid steer loader. It uses the same heavy gauge plastic bristles used on street sweepers.



An orbit motor rotates the brush as it slides into culvert. Six 6-ft. extensions can be added to brush for a total reach of 40 ft.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Les Van Ornum, Van-Boh Manufacturing, Hortonville, Wis. 54994 (ph 920 779-9999; E-mail: vanboh@vbe.com; Website: www.vanboh.com).

Heavy-Built Steel Rail Fence

You probably won’t find a more sturdy fence than you can buy from Louis Arges, West Sacramento, California.

Arges, who calls himself “The Pipe King,” offers materials for the “ultimate” corral or fence.

The rails are made from 9-ft. lengths of 2 by 5-in. rectangular tubing. “They were originally used for shelving in manufacturing plants, and come with 2-in. angle iron on the ends that can be used to attach them to posts,” he says. He has posts made of the same tubing.

“Each rails weighs about 45 lbs., but the fencing is easy to put up,” he says.

“It makes excellent fencing for cattle, horses, buffalo, deer or elk,” he says. “It’s sturdier and will last longer than some of those no-paint plastic fences you see around pastures. And it costs about the same.”

Arges says all his stock is primer coated. A 9 ft. section with a post and three rails sells



Each heavy-duty fence rail weighs 45 lbs.

for \$36, or \$4 per foot. A section with four rails is \$45, or \$5 per foot. Heavy duty self tapping screws needed for assembly are provided.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Louis Arges, The Pipe King, 3290 Jefferson Blvd., West Sacramento, Calif. 95691 (ph 916 372-2195).

Biodegradable Pots Made From Sawdust, Wheat Straw

Kansas farmer and engineer Kelly Coover has developed a process to turn wheat straw or sawdust into biodegradable parts for a variety of uses.

The first market he looked at was feed additives. You could fill the pots with feed additives, like molasses, and then toss them into a feed mixer, pot and all.

Another use is to make pots for the nursery business. His sawdust pots are waterproof and are as durable as plastic pots, but you can get rid of them in a compost pile.

With help from his brother and business partner Don, Coover is working on patenting several aspects of his process. He’ll be ready soon to take orders for the pots.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kelly Coover, 6300 Kingman Road, Galesburg, Kansas 66740 (E-mail: kellycoover@hotmail.com).



You can fill pots with feed additives, like molasses, and then toss them into a feed mixer, pot and all.



Waterproof pots are as durable as plastic pots, yet can be composted, says inventor.