

He Makes His Own ATV Attachments

Alberta farmer Brian Dickinson made a number of inventions for his Honda 300 4-wheeler that make it more useful around his farm.

Dozer Blade: Blade was formed from a 20-in. dia., 1/4-in. thick pipe. It measures 16 in. high and 54 in. long and mounts on a subframe that goes under the full length of



the ATV. It installs with two pins - one on front and the other on the drawbar. The blade is raised or lowered by a manually-operated winch. The front part of the blade is supported by a caster wheel, which is attached to a bracket ahead of the blade. The bracket fits onto a pipe that's welded to the back side of the blade. Dickinson can adjust blade depth by simply changing the position of a bolt that goes through the pipe.

Boomless Sprayer: His two-wheeler, boomless sprayer is equipped with a 100-liter tank and five nozzles that can spray at



three different widths - 3 1/2 ft. for lawns, 8 ft. for pastures or crops, and 20 ft. for fence lines and brush. Two of the nozzles point straight down. There's a nozzle at each end and the fifth nozzle mounts on top of a vertical pipe and sprays in a 20-ft. pattern. To change the spray pattern, Dickinson simply puts plugs in the end nozzles and uses shut-off valves on the other ones.

The sprayer's electric-operated pump operates off the ATV battery. He uses a switch on the ATV handlebars to start and stop.

"It works great on fence lines and will spray about 8 ft. on the other side of the fence.

I also use a hand wand for spot spraying," says Dickinson.

Dump-Style Rock Wagon: His end-dump rock wagon rides on a pair of 16-in. wheels and carries up to about 1/4 yard of gravel. It dumps via a spring-loaded lever on front.

"The big tires keep the wagon up high enough for dumping and also ride over rough



spots with ease," says Dickinson. "The wagon is made from 20-in. dia., 1/4-in. thick steel pipe so it won't get dented when I drop big rocks into it. I can move a lot of rocks in a day. The wagon is well balanced so it tips backward easily. The wheels and axle are off an old grain drill. I welded lengths of angle iron together to make the hitch. My total cost was about \$50."

Mower & Sweeper: To mow his yard,



Dickinson pulls a 42-in. Hobart mower deck behind his ATV and a ground-driven Case sweeper behind it to vacuum up the lawn clippings. The deck, originally designed to be pulled by a garden tractor, is powered by an 8 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine.

"It has a lot of power and doesn't clog up, even on wet grass," says Dickinson. "I added gauge wheels on back to keep the deck from gouging into the ground. The sweeper does a good job of cleaning up the lawn clippings. Both the deck and sweeper attach with ball hitches, so I can pull either implement separately."

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Soil Leveler Made From Cultivator

If you have a shop project you've been putting off, take a lesson from Peter Klassen, Altona, British Columbia.

"I recently converted an old cultivator that I bought from an auction sale years ago into a float for leveling and smoothing fields before I seed them to grass," Klassen says.

He purchased the field cultivator for less than \$100 just for this purpose, but then, he says, "My plan was never quite complete and I just never found the time to get it done."

One of the hold-ups was that he wanted to be able to control the depth hydraulically, and he couldn't come up with a design he liked. Then last year, he ran across one that was similar to what he had in mind.

"I was still short of time, so I took it to my brother-in-law for help," he says.

Together, they added 4-ft. extensions to each end of the bars on the old 10-ft. cultivator, making it 18 ft. wide. Then they added new 18 in. shovels on the toolbars. Flush on top of the shovels, they welded 3 by 3/8-in. thick wear plates, sloping them inward about 15 degrees.

"To finish leveling the field, I mounted a 3 by 5 by 5/16-in. thick angle iron behind the shovels, cut 20 ft. long so it would overlap the end shovels on both sides. I added a 3-in., 3/8-in. wear plate on the bottom edge of the angle iron," he explains.

After taking the new leveler to the field, he decided the shanks weren't strong enough, so he went back to the shop and reinforced them with chains to hold them in place. "This wouldn't have been necessary on a newer



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cultivator," he notes.

Klassen says he first plowed fields to be seeded and then disked them lightly to leave a little loose soil. "Then I ran the leveler over the field at an angle to the plow furrows. It did a great job of leveling and smoothing. It is now a very important piece of equipment for me. I just wish I'd gotten it done sooner."

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Cheap Grain Hopper Works Great

Dean Nixon made an auger hopper that he says is better than anything he could buy. All he used were three straw bales and a piece of old carpet.

He makes a boxed-in area out of the bales and then creates a holding area out of a piece of carpet. The upper ends of the carpet are held in place with vise grips clamped to the frame of the bin door.

When he's done moving grain, Nixon simply lifts up the carpet to clean up any leftover grain and then rolls it up until it's needed again.

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Three straw bales and a piece of old carpet - that's all Dean Nixon needed to make an auger hopper that he says works better than anything he could buy.



Pickup-mounted lift can be used anywhere you can go with a pickup.

Pickup-Mounted Lift Helps Physically Challenged Farmers

Tractor and combine-mounted lifts have helped farmers with physical limitations to continue working around the farm, but in the past, a separate lift has usually been needed on every implement.

Hubert Von Holten and Kathy Smith have come up with a pickup-mounted lift that can be used anywhere you can go with a pickup.

For 18 years, Life Essentials, a company owned by Smith and founded by Von Holten, has produced and sold lifts and other equipment to help physically challenged people continue to enjoy activities like operating equipment, horseback riding, swimming, camping, etc.

Polio cost Von Holten the use of his legs at age five. "But it didn't stop me from working and doing other things I wanted to do," he says. That included farming.

Two versions of the pickup-mounted lift are available. One mounts in the front of the bed, behind the cab. "This one can pick you up from the truck seat and put you onto a combine or anywhere else, up to about 8 ft. high and 15 ft. away," Von Holten says.

The second pickup lift mounts in the back of the bed. "It can reach higher and farther, but it requires you to get out of the pickup and onto the lift," he says.

While Smith and Von Holten start each lift they sell with the same basic design, no two installations are the same. "We design them to fit each individual's abilities, so each one is different," Von Holten says.

"A tractor or combine lift can cost around \$9,000, and works only on the one machine," he continues. "The pickup lift starts at around \$13,000, but it can put you onto any machine, so you may only need one lift. It may not be quite as handy as an implement-mounted lift, but it's much more versatile."

Von Holten says grants and assistance programs are available in most states and through the Easter Seals Society to help pay for equipment. He also recommends getting in touch with Bill Field, who directs the Purdue University Breaking New Ground program for farmers with physical limitations. "He can help you locate anything you might need, from wheelchairs to wagon hitches to automatic gates," he says.

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