

Farm-Based Businesses Help Boost Incomes



You don't need big equipment to get big logs out of the woods, says the manufacturer of logging equipment for ATV's and small tractors.

“Logging Arch” For ATV's

You can use your 4-wheel ATV to move logs safely and with less power using this new “logging arch.” The unit can also be used behind a small tractor or pickup.

The two-wheeled rig lifts most of the log off the ground, reducing drag and keeping dirt off the log. It's equipped with a 3,200-lb. 2-speed manual winch; a 25-ft. long, 3/8-in. dia. choker; and two-side release snatch blocks. A pair of handles on the arch is used to lift it up and over the log.

The unit handles logs up to 20 in. dia. and 16 ft. long or even longer. Logs less than 10 ft. long can be balanced so they can be fully suspended. For longer logs a second arch can be used on back, allowing you to carry both ends of the log.

“It's lightweight and easy to maneuver

which makes it easy to position over logs. A doubling option allows the winch to handle up to 6,000 lbs.,” says a spokesman.

The company makes several other logging arch models, including a “junior arch” equipped with tongs instead of a winch; and a “fetching arch” designed to pull logs up steep hillsides. The largest model handles logs up to 4 1/2 ft. dia.

The logging arch sells for \$1,475, the junior arch for \$430, and the fetching arch for \$1,575.

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For longer logs a second arch can be used on back, allowing you to carry both ends of log. A hand-pushed model for smaller logs is also available.



In field trials, workers have weeded up to 35 percent faster compared to hand labor.

“Lay Down” Electric-Powered Crawler

Bending over to plant, pick or weed is the worst part of market gardening. But “the bends” are just a bad memory once you climb on the Crawler from Elomestari, Ltd., Juva, Finland.

The Crawler is a battery-powered cart with foot-operated controls. A padded frame supports a reclining body and head, leaving hands free to do their work. At row ends, the cart can be moved to a new row or the body frame can be rotated 180° and slid sideways to return up the same row.

The base price of approximately \$2,600 can be paid for quickly in increased productivity. “In field trials, workers have weeded up to 35 percent faster compared to hand labor, planting speed has doubled and fewer rests are needed,” says Petri Leinonen, Elomestari owner. “It also reduces occupational injuries.”

A 12-volt electric motor in each wheel propels the working bed through a field at up to 0.3 mph. A single battery charge powers the unit for 6 to 10 hours.

Optional accessories include a second worker's platform, solar cells and canvas canopy. Customized Crawlers as wide as 39 ft. with room for multiple beds are available. Special greenhouse units have sensors for steering, leaving speed foot-controlled.

on hills.”

He also designed a lot of adjustable features into the rig. For example, the rear wheels adjust from 32 to 40 in. rows. “The frame that goes over the rider can be slid all the way to the left or right so that the front and rear wheel follow the same track, with the other rear wheel on the other side of the row,” says Gurgel.

To make it easier to reach two rows, the seat swivels from side to side or adjusts up



Battery-powered cart has foot-operated controls, leaving the operator's hands free to do the work.



Special greenhouse units have sensors for steering, leaving speed foot-controlled.

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and down. “I can sit anywhere from 2 to 12 in. off the ground by changing the position of a pin. Also, the foot rest can be slid forward or backward for different size people by loosening a knob,” he notes.

Gurgel builds units for sale for about \$2,900.

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Junior Gurgel built a lot of adjustable features into this 3-wheeled picker. It's powered by a 5 1/2 hp Honda gas engine that belt-drives the front wheel.

Low-Slung Cart Makes Harvest Fun

Junior Gurgel says harvest on his fruit and vegetable farm is a lot more enjoyable since he came up with this low-slung one-man cart.

The 3-wheeled picker is 8 ft. long and has a chassis made from 2 1/2-in. sq. tubing. Two 26-in. bike-type wheels mount on back, and there's a single 12-in. lugged wheel on front. Power is provided by a 5 1/2 hp Honda gas engine. The engine belt-drives the front wheel, with a 12 1/2-in. dia. double pulley attached to the engine and a smaller double pulley attached to the wheel. Gurgel uses his left foot to push on a pedal that releases an idler pulley and allows the rig to go forward. He uses his right foot to activate the bicycle-type brakes on the rear wheels.

The rig steers via a handle located in front of the driver's seat. The handle is connected by cable to a 1-in. dia. bolt that goes through a car wheel hub and yoke. Gurgel pushes the handle to turn left and pulls on it to turn right.

“I use it to harvest asparagus and beans and to train strawberry runners to fill in the

row instead of the walkway between rows,” says Gurgel. “I can harvest three acres of asparagus in only 3 1/2 hours. I also use it to control weeds. I often take my picker to vegetable shows, where I tell people it's the only way a mom and pop operation like ours can increase acreage without having to hire more help.

“The belt tightener allows me to just inch along, although I can also go at a brisk walking speed if I want. The steering handle mechanism has small notches cut into it 1 inch apart so the rig stays where I set it, so when I'm going straight down the row I don't even have to steer which leaves my hands free for harvesting.”

He says he built the picker heavy to hold up under heavy farm use. “The rear wheels are off a feed cart and have 1/4-in. rod spokes which are a lot heavier than bicycle wheel spokes. The front wheel is off a small manure spreader. The engine mounts low on front to keep a low center of gravity, which is important on side hills. I've driven it on 45 degree slopes with no problems. I used double pulleys to make sure that the belt won't slip