

## Air Ride Kits For Pickups, Trucks

Three new air-ride kits let you easily adjust carrying capacity and riding comfort of pickups with the touch of a button.

### Kelderman

Air spring kit replaces rear leaf springs on 2003 2-WD Dodge Ram pickups with a pair of Firestone airbags. According to Kelderman, the four-link Air Ride suspension system improves ride quality and load-carrying capacity. The air springs mount on brackets engineered over the rear axles, and the system's air tank adds compressed air to the bags as needed. The bolt-on system includes an air compressor, air tank, and height-control valves.

Kits that include self-leveling options sell for \$2,600.

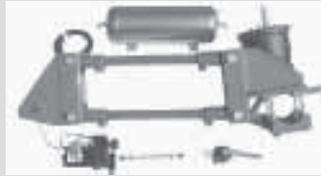
The company also offers an air ride lift kit for 2003 4-WD Dodge 2500 and 3500 pickups. The factory leafs are replaced with a heavy duty four-link system that eliminates the wheel hop found with factory leaf springs. The bolt-on kit requires no cutting or drilling. A large 12-volt air compressor is included with the kit, as well as a pressure switch and air tank. In-cab controls are included that allow you to raise and lower the pickup with the push of a button.

Kits are available that allow the pickup to be lifted from stock height up to 10 in.

Dodge front lift kits replace the factory coils with a large, long travel high capacity airbag. The factory trailing arms are replaced with longer trailing arms to keep the axle in the correct location. Because they are on air, the kits allow the pickup to ride at different heights. For example, a 6-in. lift kit can go from raising the pickup 3 in. (no air in the bags) to almost 10 in. (air maxed out and shocks topped out). This allows you to travel in air ride comfort going down the road, and



Kelderman's front lift kit for 2003 Dodge Ram pickups replaces factory coils with a large, high capacity air bag.



Rear lift kit eliminates wheel hop found with factory leaf springs, says Kelderman.

then raise your pickup another 3 to 4 in. while parked.

The kits are custom made for what you want to do. Chrome trailing arms, off-road racing shocks, and computerized ride control are popular options. The company also builds air ride kits for horse trailers, car trailers and RV's.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kelderman Manufacturing, Inc., 2686 Highway 92 East, Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577 (ph 800 334-6150 or 641 673-0468; fax 641 673-4168; website: www.keldermanmf.com).

### Firestone

Firestone's air springs allow your pickup to support 3,000 to 5,000 lbs. of extra gear. Ride-Rite suspension systems use double-convoluted air springs for increased load-leveling and carrying capacities. Each air spring mounts between a truck's frame and its suspension in less than two hours.

The air bags fit most light trucks, SUV's, motorhomes and vans. They can be adjusted for various road and load conditions.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Firestone Industrial Products Co., Dept. TT, 12650 Hamilton Crossing Blvd., Carmel, Ind. 46032 (ph 800 888-0650; website: www.ride-rite.com).



Firestone uses double-convoluted air springs for increased load-leveling and carrying capacities.

### Air Lift

Air Lift's Ride Control is engineered for 1/2-ton and mini pickups, full-size and mini vans, and SUV's used for light to medium duty hauling or towing. The helper springs add up to 2,000 lbs. of load-leveling support for half-ton and smaller pickups as well as for SUV's and vans. Load ratings vary by kit - from 1,500 to 2,000 lbs. - depending on the size of the air springs.

The air-sleeve design is designed to provide a comfortable ride, loaded and unloaded. It also helps eliminate sag, sway, and bottoming out when hauling a big load. The system can be installed in an hour, and the addition of a SmartAir Automatic Leveling System will keep a truck level at all times without the need for in-cab controls.

Each kit comes complete with air bellows, inflation valves, air lines, fittings, brackets, mounting hardware, and a detailed installation manual.



Air Lift helper springs add up to 2,000 lbs. of load-leveling support.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Air Lift, Dept. TT, P.O. Box 80167, Lansing, Mich. 48908 (ph 800 248-0892; website: www.airliftcompany.com).

## Tree Saw Mounts On Skid Steer

When Ralph Bolinger went looking for a skid steer-mounted tree saw to cut saplings and small trees at their roots, he decided he couldn't justify the \$4,500 price tag. He ended up building his own, patterning it after an antique "corn sled".

"Years ago, we had corn sleds that were V-shaped," explains Bolinger. "As a horse pulled them between two rows of corn, the sharp teeth on the edges cut the stalks."

His tree saw works similarly with sharp-toothed edges that slice through saplings and trees up to 8 in. in diameter. The cutting teeth are spaced an inch apart and are 1 1/4 in. deep and 1/4 in. thick.

The tree saw includes a brush guard to protect the skid steer cab from falling brush. A pincher arm connected to the brush guard/tree saw base rides on the tree saw when not in use. When an auxiliary hydraulic cylinder and controls are connected to it, the tree saw can also be used to gather brush for disposal.

Besides price, another noticeable difference in Bolinger's tree saw is the horizontal 1/2-in. steel blade mounted to the point of the V-shaped saw. It allows him to dig in

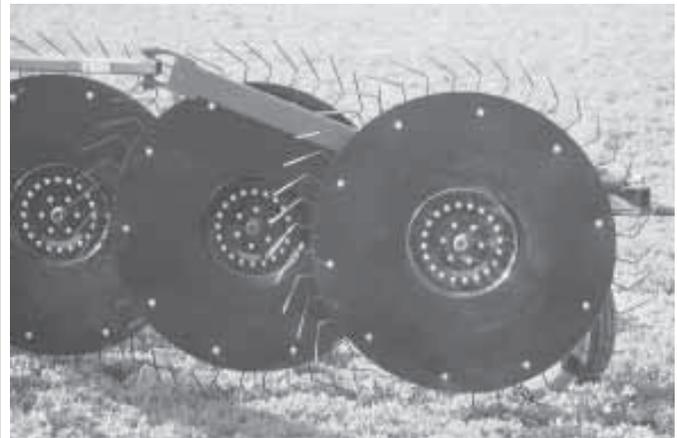


Saw has sharp-toothed edges that slice through trees up to 8 in. in diameter.

and cut off bushes and small trees underground. He notes that stems less than 2 in. in diameter are often too flexible for the lateral action tree saw.

Bolinger now manufactures the tree saw for \$2,600. A 10-minute DVD of the saw in action is available on request.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ralph Bolinger, R&G Fabricating, 8949 N St. Rt. 15, Roann, Ind. 46974 (ph 260 982-8576).



Replacement rake wheels have double centers and twin tines which add to wheel life and stand up better to heavier crops, says the manufacturer.

## Heavy-Duty Rake Wheels Save Time And Money

Replacement rake wheels with double centers and twin tines add to wheel life, stand up better to heavier crops, and the overall design makes it easy to change broken or worn tines.

"When I exhibit at farm shows, farmers would tell me how frustrated they were to buy a new rake and have to replace wheels in as little as two years under heavy use," explains Freddie Miller, owner of Milco Inc., Council Bluffs, Iowa. "Tines were often hard to replace, and as holes in the rim became worn, teeth would wear down even faster."

Miller decided to double punch the rims on his heavy-duty replacement rake wheels. The extra set of holes allows his customers to simply shift tines when the first set of holes wears.

Another design change on Milco's wheels will save time whenever teeth have to be replaced. Windshields mounted over the rake wheels keep hay from pinning to the fast moving wheels or wrapping around axles. Milco's new, larger windshields extend from the double centers to the rims and are held in place by bushings on the rims. Rather than install the plastic shield over the wheel, it's now installed behind the double centers, leaving teeth and bolts exposed for easy access.

"The new windshield is the largest on the market, extending two inches past the rim,"



An extra set of holes makes it easy to shift tines when the other holes get worn.

says Miller.

Milco replacement rake wheels weigh in at a hefty 54 lbs. While they come completely assembled, if teeth need to be moved to the second set of holes, each wheel must be disassembled.

"A special jig is available," explains Miller. "With it, the two center plates, 20 teeth, rim, 10 windshield bushings and the windshield can be reassembled in about 8 minutes."

Suggested retail price for wheels with windshields is \$180 each.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Freddie Miller, Milco Inc., 13220 240 St., Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503 (ph 712 366-2114; cell 402 680-0287; email: freddiem47@msn.com; website: www.rakewheels.com).