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## 4-WD "Tag Axle" Tractor With Dump Box

"I built it as a challenge after reading about a similar tractor in FARM SHOW," says Doug Brown, Columbia, Tenn., about his 4-WD garden tractor that's equipped with an add-on tag axle, a dump box, and a front-end loader.

He started with a Sears Craftsman 18 hp garden tractor equipped with a 6-speed transmission and front-end loader.

He bought a second, identical tractor and cut off the rear half of the frame. Connecting the two axles was a tricky job, because to make the two frames match up he had to turn the add-on frame upside down, reversing the position of the two halves of the frame. And, he reversed the direction of the fenders.

To drive the rear axle, he machined down the wheel hubs on all four wheels so he could mount sprockets onto each wheel. The rear axle chain-drives the add-on axle.

"The tractor drives and steers beautifully, which surprised me because I thought I might have problems with the add-on axle," says



Doug Brown bought a second, identical tractor and cut off the rear half of the frame to make the tag axle.

Brown. "At first I tried to get both transmissions to work together with one shift lever but it didn't work, so then I decided to chain-drive the add-on axle. I keep the add-on axle's transmission in neutral."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Doug Brown, 2904 Luke Moser Rd., Columbia, Tenn. 38401 (ph 931 388-1314; dkbrown13@earthlink.net).

## "Shoulder Holder" Squeeze Chutes

There's a new cattle restraint system on the market that offers safer, less stressful stock handling. The patent-pending "Cattle Shoulder Gate" is an "add-on" for existing cattle squeeze-chutes.

It works by further restricting an animal's movements by providing a stabilizing barrier in front of its shoulders. It eliminates the need for side-squeezing by providing superior forward and backward control. This results in fewer cattle shoulder injuries while making it easier for the operator to do injections, branding and banding, or more complex head inspections. The system provides better neck exposure because it prevents the animal from moving forward. This makes neck injections easier, faster, and less stressful to the animal.

Inventor and veterinarian, Dr. Barry Ross, of Dawson Creek, B.C., says his 28 years experience as a beef veterinarian is what convinced him that a better system was needed.

"Living beside a chute for most of my life, I knew from my own experiences that someone needed to develop a better tool for restraining cattle," he says.

Ross has already secured an agreement with Morand Industries Ltd., a large Canadian livestock equipment manufacturer to incorporate the Cattle Shoulder Gate into their new squeeze chute. They call it the "Shoulder Holder".

"I'm approaching various manufacturers and trying to convince them to incorporate it into their new designs," he says. "I'm also working to develop an insert kit so cattleman could install the shoulder gate into their existing chutes."



Cattle Shoulder Gate eliminates the need for side-squeezing by providing superior forward and backward control. This results in fewer cattle shoulder injuries while making it easier for the operator to do injections, branding, or more complex head inspections.

He welcomes inquiries from anyone interested in becoming a distributor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Barry Ross, DVM, 10755 Poplar Cres., Dawson Creek, B.C., Canada V1G 4N3 (ph 250 784-4258; bross447@shaw.ca; www.cattle-shouldergate.com) or Morand Industries Ltd., Box 780, Onoway, Alta., Canada T0E 1V0 (ph 800 582-4037; www.morandindustries.com).

"Our tractors range from 18 to 52 hp, with anywhere from 50 to 1,000 hrs. on them," says Dennis Ficken.



## Low-Cost Used Tractors From Japan

FARM SHOW recently spotted an ad in a farm publication that read: "Compact Estate And Small Acreage Tractors - Seven Makes Of Diesel Tractors From Japan".

The ad was placed by MO River Tire Co., Boonville, Mo. They sell used 2 and 4-WD Japanese tractors ranging from 18 to 52 hp, with 50 to 1,000 hours on them. The makes available include Iseki, Yanmar, Mitsubishi, Shabiro, Hinomoto, and Satoh. The used tractors come with no warranty.

"We've been doing a booming business for the past several years," says manager Dennis Ficken. "These tractors are very affordable and are in good mechanical condition. A lot of them are lower hour models, and were used for tillage work in rice paddies. They call them 'gray market' tractors because new Japanese-made tractors can not be sold in the U.S. The same companies that build these models build compact tractors for U.S. tractor manufacturers, including Deere, Massey Ferguson, and Case IH. They don't want the Japanese to sell new tractors in the U.S. because they don't want the competition."

According to Ficken, used Japanese-made tractors sell for about 50 percent less than

similar used Deere, Kubota, and New Holland tractors. "Our market is people who don't put more than 50 hours a year on their tractors. They want a tractor to move horse manure, snowplow their driveway, drill a few fence posts, etc. These tractors don't have power steering, but often they still handle better than a riding mower. The biggest disadvantage is that they don't have all the safety specs required in the U.S."

According to Ficken, Japanese farmers who buy a new tractor don't have to pay any property tax until the fifth or sixth year. After that, the tax gets progressively higher every year. "The tax progresses to the point where it's cheaper for farmers to trade off their tractors than to keep them. That's why there are so many good used ones available."

Ficken says they keep some parts on hand, and parts are also available from other U.S. companies. "If we don't have the part you need, we can order parts directly from Japan," notes Ficken.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dennis Ficken, MO River Tire Co., I-70 exit 111 (Hwy. 179), Boonville, Mo. 65233 (ph 660 882-8473; denficken@socket.com).

## www.skidsteerstuff.com

This website offers innovative products designed to accessorize a skid loader. Here's some of what's available:

**Panoramic safety mirror:** The 18-in. mirror has a convex shape and is designed to mount directly in front of the operator. It bolts to the overhead safety cage. A knob is used to adjust the mirror up or down. Gives you nearly 360 degrees of visibility and eliminates the blind spot behind your rear tires that can't be seen from operator's seat. No drilling is necessary on newer model machines.

Sells for \$33 plus S&H.

**Skidsteer cab heater:** This 22,000 btu, 12-volt heater mounts flat, upright, sideways, etc. Other heaters are available, including under-the-seat models.

Sells for \$203.99 plus S&H.

**Uni-hitch:** This hitch is designed to be bolted on over the cutting edge of any front-end loader bucket. Lets you use your skid loader to move empty trailers around your job site. It's designed to be used on empty and under 10,000 GVW trailers only. Requires safety chain.

Sells for \$85 plus S&H.

**Tailgate locks:** Lets you use a padlock to secure the rear tailgate.

Sells for \$25 plus S&H.

**Uni-Pro anti-theft switch kit:** Interrupts the circuit to the electronic solenoid that activates the fuel pump. The engine turns over but won't start. Works on diesel models only. The kit consists of connectors that plug into the existing wiring. It works better than other anti-theft wiring kits which mount between the battery cables and completely disable the engine, because the thief knows he can still use the vehicle's master switch to start the engine.

Sells for \$54 plus S&H.

**Door protection kit:** Designed to shut off the machine's loader controls whenever the door is open. Keeps the loader from accidentally ripping off the door. The kit consists of connectors that plug into the wiring between the lap bar lock switch and a switch mounted on the door.

Sells for \$42 to \$83.70 plus S&H.

**Auxiliary electrical tester:** Connects to 14 or 8-pin accessory connector on front of machine. When switches are operated from the cab, lights illuminate to indicate which pins are powered. Makes this traditionally two-man task a one-man operation.

Designed for Bobcat, Case, and Cat skid loaders.

Sells for \$137 plus S&H.

**ZF transmission electrical tester:** Connects to the ZF transmission in Case or Deere wheel loaders to test electrical and clutch operations. When switches are operated from the cab, lights illuminate to indicate which pins are powered.

Sells for \$325 plus S&H.

**Bobcat attachment controller:** Operates new attachments on old machines or on machine without 7-pin or 14-pin auxiliary electric. For use on brooms, sweepers, SG series stump grinders, etc.

Sells for \$187 to \$267 depending on number of functions.

The company also offers used parts and manuals, with many manuals available for older equipment.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve's Heavy Equipment & Diesel Service, 15830 Carver Highlands Drive, Carver, Minn. 55315 (ph 952 448-2429; dieseldoor@aol.com; www.skidsteerstuff.com).