



Pull-Type Cart Takes Weight Off Air Seeder

Ken Progdgers, Blackfoot, Alberta, had problems with his 28-ft. Friggstad field cultivator-air seeder when the weight of the 35-bu. seed tank mounted on it caused the wheel standards to break. Before the breakage he had already been struggling with the fact that the middle section of the cultivator would plant 1/2 in. deeper than the outer wings due to the weight of the seed tank.

To solve the problem Progdgers removed the tank and started pulling a home-built seed cart fitted with a 60-bu. tank off an old Massey Harris combine. He mounted the original Valmar air seeder blower on the cart's hitch and mounted a gas engine ahead of the tank. The engine belt-drives the blower as well as a hydraulic pump that drives a pair of 4-in. dia. augers that deliver seed up to a small 350-lb. capacity hopper that's mounted on the center section of the field cultivator and is fitted with the original Valmar seed metering components. An air hose runs from the blower on the pull-behind cart's hitch up to the small seed hopper.

The pull-type cart mounts on the frame of an old truck and rides on big 11 by 24 tires off a Versatile pull-type combine. A pair of caster wheels mounts under the tank's hitch.

Home-Built Electric-Powered Tractor

"No one's ever made an electric-powered tractor as well-built or as versatile as mine. It'll blow snow, mow grass, grade driveways, and tow big loads," says Peter Heide, Steinbach, Manitoba, about the workhorse electric utility tractor he built 25 years ago.

The machine is 38 1/2-in. wide, 67 1/2-in. long, 33-in. high, and weighs 1,000 lbs.

It's powered by six 6-volt deep cycle batteries coupled to a 36-volt series wound electric motor.

Heide used dual control, variable cone-to-dish friction drives for the transmission. Chain-driven planetary drives off aircraft starters mount inside each drive wheel, which are fitted with 10.5 by 12-in. low-profile flotation tires. Independently controlled drive wheels permit 360° spins, Heide notes. Rear caster wheels fitted with small aircraft tires help to turn on a dime. Top speed is 5 mph.

Drive levers in the middle of the tractor are fitted with cams that automatically engage the tractor's brakes when moved to the central, neutral position. Brakes came off a snowmobile.

The tractor's seat is fitted with prongs so it can be positioned in one of two sets of sockets in its frame. It can be turned 180° to face backwards.

Heide built a 3-pt. hitch for the tractor out of tubing and flat iron. He uses linear actuators, like those used to open and close bombay doors on aircraft, to lift and tilt the 3 pt. with the control levers.

Heide's 3 pt.-mountable snowblower, mower deck, blade and bucket are all 42 in. wide.

He uses a General Electric snowblower



"It pulls easy and does a better job than before because it always seeds at a uniform depth," says Progdgers. "I've used it to seed 500 acres of wheat, oats, and barley with no problems. The small hopper and seeding components on the cultivator weigh only about 600 lbs. compared to 3,000 lbs. for the original Valmar system. I use a 150 hp Allis-Chalmers 8050 tractor to pull it.

"The hydraulic pump is on an electric clutch and the orbit motors on the augers run in sequence. The augers automatically start up whenever the seed level in the hopper goes down and shuts them off as soon as the hopper is full.

"I spent \$320 for the orbit motors. My total cost was only about \$500."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Progdgers, Box 119, Blackfoot, Alberta, Canada T0B 0L0 (ph 403 875-8266).



for clearing snow. He modified the original snowblower by cutting off two auger flights from one side, then reattaching it at a 90° angle, giving him four shovels instead of two to increase capacity 50%. He also repositioned the motor and made a new chain drive for the blower to improve balance and visibility over it. For snow-blowing, drive wheels are in front.

He uses a General Electric mower which has separate electric motors for each of its three 16-in. overlapping blades. For mowing, castor wheels are in front. A two-tire oscillating axle bolts on instead of the single tire axle for operating on uneven ground.

Heide can mow about a half a day before having to recharge the tractor with his 115-volt automatic recharger. He can blow snow for two or three hours before recharging. It takes about three hours of recharging for each hour of running.

"I've been told it would be too costly to mass produce, but I wouldn't trade this buggy for the moon, says Heide. He has about \$4,400 invested in the project.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Peter Heide, P.O. Box 1334, Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada ROA 2A0 (ph 204 326-2288).



Can You Use This Mini Log Skidder?

"Our mini log skidder isn't designed to haul four or five big trees at a time like commercial skidders. But it will pull a log up to 16-ft. long and 14-in. dia. with no problem, and it can get into and out of tight places a big skidder can't. It's perfect for any small logging business or private woodlot owner," says Tim Clouser about the highly maneuverable, easily transportable prototype log hauler his company designed.

The 4-WD "Timber Mule" is 10-ft. long, 5-ft. wide, 6-ft. high, and weighs 2,000 lbs. It articulates on a pin in its center frame.

It's hydraulically driven by a 24 hp Onan engine, which permits a top speed of 8 mph. A 9 hp hydraulic motor chain-drives each 2-in. dia. ADM 400 axle. They're fitted with

9.5 by 16-in. rear utility tractor tires.

While commercial log skidders require transport on semi flatbeds, this one can easily be hauled on a 8 by 12-ft. trailer behind a pickup, Clouser notes.

Three models are available, two larger with hydraulic-operated winch and 4-ft. blades, which are as good for pushing snow as logs, adds Clouser. They sell for \$10,000, \$12,500, \$15,000, respectively.

Clouser would like to find a manufacturer. Meantime, he'll build the machines for anyone interested.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clouser Enterprises, Box 76, Madisonburg, Pa. 16852 (ph 814 349-5715).

Portable Hot Shower Unit For Livestock

You can have 90 to 100° hot water in 5 to 10 seconds anywhere you go with a new portable shower designed for show animals.

"There's nothing else like it on the market," says Don Lyman, owner of the Out Pac Shower Company. "About 80 percent of our customers are horse people, but we make models for cattle and for people too."

The "Fantastic Hot Shower" is a propane-fired unit mounted on a wheeled dolly, like a barbecue grill. It hooks up to a garden hose which is fitted with a shower nozzle on one end. The unit's burner is activated by water pressure in the line. It only comes on when water's moving through the system and shuts off when it's not.

A mixer valve makes it easy to control water temperature.

It uses very little fuel, Lyman notes.

Portable horse washer (Pro Gen II), which supplies 2.5 to 4 gpm, sells for \$608



plus S&H. The manufacturer offers a 5% discount to FARM SHOW readers. Dealer inquiries welcome.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Out Pac Shower Company, P.O. Box 110 Mtn. Ranch, Calif. 95246 (ph 800 242-3922).

"Service Center" Deck For ATV's, Garden Tractors

You can work on your ATV or riding mower without having to lay on your back with this new "service center" built by Harold Willett, Jeanerette, La.

You drive your ATV or mower up a pair of 6-ft. long steel ramps and onto a 20-in. high steel deck that's 6 ft. long and 4 ft. wide. The unit is made from sq. steel tubing and rides on two small wheels. It comes with a hand-operated cable winch that can be used to pull a vehicle onto the deck or to raise the front or rear of the vehicle up to 18 in. off the deck. Capacity is 700 lbs.

"It works great for changing or sharpening mower blades, working on engines, changing tires, etc.," says Willett. "You can use the winch to raise the vehicle so you can sit on a stool and work in comfort. The ramps can also be used to load the vehicle from the deck onto the back of a pickup or visa versa."

The unit comes with a tow bar that al-



lows it to be moved around the work area or shop, as well as a single drawer rack for storing fuel containers and toolboxes. Options include a 16-in. high steel work stool (\$24), mounted tool drawer (\$32), and water spray attachment (\$38) for washing the underside of the vehicle.

Sells for \$360.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, H. Willett & Associates, 900 Canal St., Jeanerette, La. 70544 (ph 318 276-3884).