Rolling Snow Shovel

Using recycled bicycle parts, an Alberta man found a way to make snow scraping much easier on the back.

Rod McFarlane of Westlock, Alberta says his “wheeled snow pusher” requires no lifting.

“You just push it using your legs and not your back,” he says. “It’s designed to be used on paved surfaces.”

To make the unit, McFarlane cut an old bicycle all apart.

He made the horizontal section of the “rolling snow shovel” frame by using the bicycle piece that went from the pedal to the back wheel. The vertical part of the snow pusher’s frame is made from the bike support that ran from the back of the wheel, up to the seat.

With a pivot pin, he sets the blade straight across, and then drills a hole two inches back from the pivot pin hole, through the blade anchor’s upper and lower plate and the blade mount.

McFarlane sets the blade at the angle he prefers for use, and uses the 1/4-in. hole in the upper plate as a guide to drill another hole through the blade mount. He follows the same procedure for the opposite angle.

To attach a snow blade, McFarlane first removes the handle, and then welds a strap 2 by 1/8-in. piece of flat iron to the bottom of the blade. Next, he cuts the handle mount at an angle and welds it to the top of the blade, before welding a piece of 1/4 by 1 1/2 by 6-in. flat iron to the blade’s handle mount. Then McFarlane cuts a piece of 1 by 2-in. flat iron diagonally, and welds it to each side of the blade mount, to form a triangle.

Ron McFarlane says his “wheeled snow pusher” requires no lifting.

“Also, I weld a piece of 1/8 by 2 by 4-in. flat iron to the horizontal frame and use a small piece of 1/4 by 1 by 2-in. flat iron as a spacer at the wheel-end of the of the way for aeration,” he explains. “Next, I take a piece of flat iron that’s 1/8-in thick by 2-in. wide, and this becomes the upper anchor for the blade angle.”

McFarlane then drills 1/4-in holes in the end of the horizontal frame and the blade mount, (all the way through where the ped- als were originally mounted). This is for the snow blade’s pivot pin.

“I’ve made a few deals for $50 each, but I don’t want to go into business,” he says.

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Aerator Helps Pasture Soak Up Rain

They do it to golf courses, lawns and ball fields. So why not aerate pastures? Charles Golden does, and he swears by it. His home- made aerator drives its blades 8 in. deep.

“It just stirs the ground a little,” says Golden. “The hole isn’t big enough to cause problems for cattle, but when you’re done in the fall, the rain really softens the ground. It soaks right in.”

His aerator is massive, with a drum 5 ft. long and 5 ft. in diameter and made of 1-in. thick steel. Originally a self-propelled road packer, it was being junked when Golden ran

the base and taper to a point. They were cut through the blade mount. He follows the same procedure for the opposite angle.

The extra weight pushes the tongue down into the grain. In most cases the panels slide down easily, but panels also can be equipped with slide hammers for driving them down.

The grain then is removed from around the trapped person. Grain can be scooped out or sucked out by a shop vac, if available. The tube is equipped with support handles for victims to grab onto.

According to the company’s website, over the past 40 years more than 600 workers have been engulfed and suffocated in flowing grain. Until now, the method most often used in rescues has been cutting holes in bins to allow grain to spill out.

The Rescue Tube was used recently in grain rescue training workshops in Maryland, Michigan, and Indiana. According to the company, advanced training by emergency and rescue personnel certainly is a “must” with this entirely new system so they will be able to use it rapidly and with confidence in a real emergency.

List price is $3,700.

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