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Old Corn Chopper Makes Great Brush Chipper

Paul Dietz couldn't justify the cost of a commercial brush chipper. So he built his own - with very little modification - out of an old 1-row, pull-type silage chopper.

"It lets me chop brush up to three inches in diameter with no problems," says Dietz, of Hicksville, Ohio.

He bought the pto-driven silage chopper at a local sale for \$25. The 1970's Fox model was equipped with a corn head and a 5-ft. long, 2-ft. wide slatted conveyor leading into it. The conveyor fed the corn into a flywheel-type cutterhead with four 4-in. wide by 18-in. long blades. Dietz removed the corn head, leaving the conveyor in place, and used 2 by 4's to build a frame around the conveyor that keeps tree limbs from falling off it. "It eats brush like crazy and really works fast," says Dietz. "I use a small Deere 30 hp utility tractor to operate it. Sometimes I hook a wagon behind the chopper and use the blower spout to deliver the wood chips into it. The chopper spout can be turned to either side or straight back

"It's important to make sure you don't hang

onto branches when you feed them because it works so fast. I feed the small ends of branches first, because generally they don't go in as fast as the larger ends. It chews them up into 1 1/2-in. wide chips and throws them as far as 40 ft.

"We have a lot of trees around our house, and also a wooded area where there are tree limbs dropping all the time. I use the wood chips as mulch around our buildings, and also in pole sheds with dirt floors. The mulch always stays dry and eliminates the problem of a muddy, wet floor."

Dietz says the chopper is built heavy, with a heavy duty driveshaft and U-joints. It came equipped with an extra grate that Dietz installed under the blades. After wood is chopped by the blades it goes through the grate and gets chopped up even finer. "The chopper has a reverser box on it, so if it plugs up I can reverse them to kick material back out," notes Dietz.

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UltraVac uses a big 22-in. impeller connected to a 16-ft. long flexible rubber hose.

Pto-Driven "Manure Vacuum"

"Our new 3-pt. mounted, pto-driven manure vacuum makes cleaning manure out of pastures a much faster, easier and more pleasant job," says Lona Frank, Beaverton, Oregon.

The UltraVac is designed for use with any tractor with a minimum of 25 hp. Manure inside the box can be dumped without ever getting off the tractor.

It consists of a large steel box equipped with a hydraulic-operated, retractable bottom which runs off a self-contained hydraulic pump. A big 22-in. impeller creates the vacuum and is connected to a 16-ft. long, 6-in. dia. flexible rubber hose. The operator uses a built-in aluminum handle at the end of the hose to control it.

"It's a safe, simple method of manure management, and it's powerful enough to create a lot of suction so the hose won't plug up," says Lona. "My husband John designed it mainly for the alpaca and llama industry, but it will also work with horses and donkeys to keep pastures clean."

Three models are available ranging from a 25 hp model that sells for \$4,910; a 30 hp model sells for \$5,600; and a 40 hp model sells for \$6,100.

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With the help of a Lazy Susan bottom and a wind vane top, dog house always faces out of the wind.

Revolving House Keeps Dog Out Of Wind

Murray Crich doesn't have to worry about winds blowing rain or snow into his dog's house anymore. With the help of a Lazy Susan bottom and a wind vane top, the house always faces out of the wind.

"I made a carousel out of a front spindle from an old car," explains Crich. "The bottom of the dog run is concrete, so I just cemented it in. I mounted a steel plate to the bottom of the dog house and bolted that to the spindle."

The weather vane is a piece of plywood

mounted to the doghouse roof with a brace. It is further secured by a clamp that runs around the dog house and the brace.

"It takes a little bit of training with the dogs, locking it in place at first until they get used to it," says Crich. "When it gets windy, it will spin right around. The dogs don't mind, and it keeps them dry. People say it looks strange, but it works."

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John Rathjen built this 32-ft. boom from two parallel pipes spaced 6 in. apart.

How To Make A Sprayer Boom

"The original boom on my sprayer was built light and bounced around a lot. I couldn't justify buying a new boom, so I found a way to build my own for less than \$100," says John Rathjen, Fort Calhoun, Neb.

The 32-ft. boom is made from two parallel 4 3/4-in. dia. black water pipes spaced 6 in. apart, with vertical braces welded on between them at 19-in. intervals. The sprayer still has its original 6-ft. center section - all Rathjen did was build new manual-fold wings to replace the original wings.

"It's built strong and is far sturdier than the original boom, so it doesn't bounce up and down nearly as much," says Rathjen, who used the boom for the first time last spring to spray about 250 acres of Roundup Ready corn and soybeans. "I used black iron pipe because it's easier to weld on, and because it holds paint better."

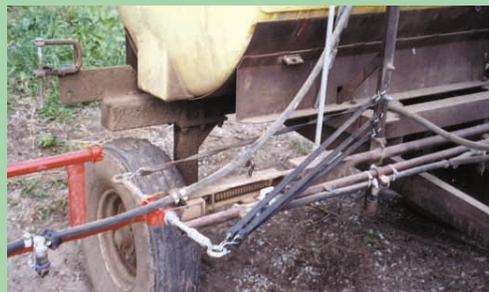
Each boom wing is made from two 10-ft. lengths of pipe, with an 18-in. extension screwed onto each end of the bottom pipe. The outside end of each extension has a pipe cap on it to keep dirt and moisture out.

The 6-ft. center section of the original boom had two spring-loaded folding mechanisms, one on each side. Rathjen sawed off

both ends of the center section, leaving a 6-in. stub just outside each folding mechanism.

To weld the boom, he laid wooden 2 by 6s parallel to each other on his shop floor and then laid the pipes on top of them, spacing the two pipes 6 in. apart and then tack welding the metal braces in place between them. The next step was to weld the wings rigidly to the ends of the center section. He drilled two 1/4-in. dia. holes into each stub and then inserted a round metal "plug" about 2 in. inside the stub. Then he drilled two corresponding holes into the lower pipe on the boom and butted it up against the stub, allowing him to make a rosette weld through the holes and butt weld the two pipes together.

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Rubber straps help keep original spring-loaded folding mechanism on boom centered. To fold boom back, Rathjen unhooks the front three straps. Clevis with pin holds boom in transport.