

Skid Loader-Mounted Rotary Wood Splitter

You can split logs hands-free - without ever getting off your skid loader - with this new hydraulic-powered rotary cone wood splitter. It quick-taches to any skid steer loader and is amazing to watch.

"It eliminates the need to pick up the log in order to split it," says inventor Charlie Van Dusartz. "Splitting wood with a threaded cone isn't a new idea, but this is a much safer use of the cone than when it's on a pto or axle because there's no chance of getting wrapped up in the log. Also, it works much faster than most hydraulic splitters and there's no need to ever touch the log. You can just dump the logs in a pile, drive up to them, and start splitting. Once you split the log, you can use the cone to resplit it into pieces as small as you want. It'll split just about any log, even fresh cut or seasoned logs."

Charlie says he routinely uses the machine to split logs up to 36 in. long for use in his outdoor boiler. A typical log can be split in less than a minute.

"All it takes to keep the wood from spinning is a little down pressure from the skid

loader arms to hold the log against the ground."

He says the splitter offers other advantages. "Ram-style splitters require that you split the log end for end, so you've got to approach the log just the right way or have someone on the ground align the logs for you. With our splitter, you can drive up to the log and split it no matter how it's laying. Since it'll even handle large logs, you can make use of big diameter trees that you'd otherwise leave on the ground. The splitter has plenty of power and rarely gets stuck, but if it does, just reverse the motor, back out, and start in a different spot."

The splitter is powered by a hydraulic motor contained inside a rectangular metal box. It attaches with a pair of coupler levers and quick-tach mounting plates.

Sells for \$3,295.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, U.S. Pride Products, 1516 110th Ave., Hammond, Wis. 54015 (ph 715 246-9237; fax 715 796-5560; vqw@centurytel.net; www.usprideproducts.com).



Hydraulic-powered cone-type splitter quick-taches to any skid loader. "It eliminates the need to pick up a log to split it," says inventor Charlie Van Dusartz.

Make-It-Yourself Biodiesel System

After 2 1/2 years of success making fuel from used cooking oil, Steve Fugate decided to market the system he had perfected. His biodiesel production system comes with everything you need to start making 80 gals. of fuel in a day, right down to goggles and safety contaminant equipment. Besides durable equipment, customers receive education and assistance in setting up accounts with restaurants to stay supplied with oil.

"We've purposely kept it non-automated so it's easy to figure out," says Fugate of Tiffin, Iowa. "People can immediately begin making their own fuel."

Formerly in the restaurant business, Fugate started researching how to make biodiesel for his 1998 Jetta TDI. He discovered there were lots of plans available, but that cheap systems failed to deliver.

"Plastics and heat don't mix. Some systems don't heat the oil and aren't safe," Fugate says. "Our equipment is made of metal and built on a spill container basin."

Fugate uses an efficient, high heating, 50-gal. water heater with black pipe plumbing and brass valves. It heats the oil and injects a catalyst - a mix of methane and potassium hydroxide. When pumped into the two barrels (recycled petroleum barrels) the glycerol sinks to the bottom and is drained from the oil. Because the system uses potassium hy-

dioxide instead of other harmful chemicals, the glycerol can be used on livestock feed, to manage gravel road dust, in a waste oil burner, or on compost piles. The system is also capable of recovering part of the methanol, which helps reduce the cost.

Every 100 gal. of fuel produces about 50 gal. of wastewater, which has fertilizer value because of the potassium hydroxide. The oil is then dried (via heat and evaporation) and is ready to use within a day, Fugate says.

He and his friends created a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) type cooperative, gathering one night a week to make fuel. They average about 500 gal./month, but could double that, Fugate says. Working members pay about \$1.75/gal., and non-working members pay \$2.50/gal. Individuals are also required to pay state road use taxes.

Excluding the labor and oil, each gallon costs about 70 cents to produce. Finding good oil is an important part of the process. Some fast food restaurant oil does not make good fuel. Though 3 billion gallons of waste oil are annually produced in the U.S., large companies pick up about 90 percent for animal feed. Fugate helps customers find local, reliable sources.

"To us it's also a rural economic interest issue," he says. "We're in it for the community. We think that gives us an advantage over



Fugate's biodiesel production system comes with everything you need to start making 80 gal. of fuel in a day. "We've kept it non-automated so it's easy to figure out," he says.

big companies, because we eat at these restaurants. We offer a service."

A Green World Biofuels system costs \$6,450, plus shipping. By adding a double wash and dry system, groups can make 240 gal. of fuel per day.

Fugate sells the systems through his website and at energy conferences and fairs.

He's planning to set up a network of trained dealers in the future.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve Fugate, Green World Biofuels, 400 Stevens St., Tiffin, Iowa 52340 (ph 319 545-7022; wende@greenworldbiofuels.com; www.greenworldbiofuels.com).

"Catch Pole" Makes Animal Handling Safe

Sometimes it's good to not get too close to an animal, whether wild or domesticated. The Ketch-All Pole keeps critters at just the right distance. With six different models, you can pick the one that is right-sized for the animal you want to restrain, whatever it is.

"Our poles have been used for everything from snakes to alligators," says Jill Gordon. Her husband Andy's grandfather invented the pole in 1952, and now the Gordon's market it direct and through distributors. "It is designed for humane handling of animals while affording maximum protection to the handler."

The lightweight, but durable pole is made with tempered aluminum tubing with

excess cable stored inside the tubing. A quick release knob with snap back release to retract excess cable at the handler's end of the pole regulates the size of the noose at the working end of the pole. For the animal's protection, the cable is covered with plastic, and a plastic tooth guard covers the end of the pole nearest the noose. Rubber grips at the handler's end and halfway down the pole ensures the handler can keep a firm grip on the animal.

Gordon reports that the Ketch-All Pole is used widely and endorsed by humane societies, animal shelters, zoos, veterinarians, police and others. In addition to alligators and snakes, it has been used successfully on cougars, bears and wolves.

The poles are available in standard and



Catch poles can be used for everything from snakes to alligators.

telescopic versions. A 28-in. baton style sells for \$68. A \$145 7 to 12-ft. telescopic model can be used as a heavy duty restraint in its retracted position or for animal rescue from storm drains or trees in its extended position.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Ketch-All Company, 149 Santa Fe Rd. 2, San Luis Obispo, Calif. 93401 (ph 805 543-7223; fax 805 543 7154; toll free 877 538-2425; ketch-all@ketch-all.com; www.ketch-all.com).



The Ketch-All pole holds animals at a safe distance.