



Tractor-mounted leaf pusher makes it easy to move piles of leaves off lawn.

Simple Device Makes “Raking” Easy

Duane Thompson, Roseville, Ill., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of the labor-saving “leaf rake” that he used last fall on front of his riding mower.

It consists of a 2 by 7-ft. piece of plywood with a metal bracket on back. The bracket attaches to mower in place of his snow blade. The board is raised and lowered by a hand-operated lever that’s attached to a spring.

“It lets me push all my leaves into a pile

while sitting down - the only thing I do on foot is to use a blower to move the leaves out away from the house and shrubs,” says Thompson. “Whatever leaves I don’t get with the blade are chopped up by the mower. The blade will move a pretty good load of leaves, and fast.”

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Winch-Operated Dump Wagon

“It’s sort of a kid’s toy for big guys, but I like it and use it a lot,” says Phil Maki of Hermantown, Minn., who built his own winch-operated dump wagon to pull behind his garden tractor. The wagon holds more than a half yard of material and is equipped with a “flip flop” tailgate.

The wagon rides on 16-in. high wheelbarrow tires and measures 4 ft. wide by 4 ft. long by 1 1/2 ft. high, with a box that has a steel floor and plywood sides. It rests on a frame made from 2-in. channel iron, with vertical lengths of 1 1/2-in. sq. tubing supporting the sides.

A 12-volt winch mounts on front of the wagon and is driven by a 12-volt blower motor off a Toyota car, which is wired to the tractor’s battery. The winch can be operated by pushing a button either from the tractor seat or right at the wagon. Both the winch and blower motor mount on an A-shaped steel support, with the cable going up and over a pulley at the top of the support and down to a metal bracket that’s bolted on front of the box.

The blower motor direct-drives a gearbox reduction unit. A pawl on the spool “walks” the cable up or down ratchet-style to keep the wagon box stable in any position, whether



Winch-operated dump wagon is equipped with a “flip flop” tailgate to empty loads.

it’s going up or down. The spool is also made to free spool.

The tailgate can be positioned to hinge at the bottom and flop down flat. Or, by pulling two pins, Maki can reverse the tailgate so that it hinges from the top, allowing gravel or other material to trickle out in a thin layer.

The wagon’s tongue was made from 2-in. dia. steel pipe. The axles were built from lengths of square tubing, with a short steel rod welded onto each end.

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Reuseable Film Seals Silage Pits

“Impermeable” clear plastic film promises to reduce spoilage in bunker silos. Silostop® film is only 45 microns thick, but creates an effective barrier to oxygen, reducing losses of silage to less than 5 percent and virtually eliminating surface mold, says Bruno Rimini Ltd., London, England. Tests show ordinary plastic film is 40 times more permeable to oxygen than Silostop. Protective tarpaulins can be used to protect the film from damage from birds and rodents, and also from ultraviolet radiation damage by sunlight. No weight is needed on the surface, except for sealing the edges. The company offers sandbags to do the job. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bruno Rimini Ltd., 305 Ballards Lane, London, England N12 8NP United Kingdom (ph 011 44 20 8446 3646; simon@silostop.com; www.silostop.com).



Loren Etter built this insulated wooden shack on the frame of a 2-wheeled trailer. He tows the portable shack behind his garden tractor.

Wood Shack Built On Old Trailer Frame

“It’s a versatile unit that can be used as a deer hunting shack, camper, ice fishing house, or even as a tool shed on wheels,” says Loren Etter, Mora, Minn., who built an insulated, wooden shack on the frame of a 2-wheeled trailer. He tows the portable shack behind his garden tractor.

There’s a plywood door on one side and windows on all four sides, including a big 56-in. sq. picture window on one side. The inside of the camper is lined with plywood and wainscoting. There’s a ceiling light and an outlet for an extension cord.

“It stays nice and cozy inside,” says Etter. He started with a 6 1/2 by 8 ft., 2-wheeled camping trailer that was given to him by a neighbor. All he kept was the aluminum box with 2-ft. high sides and the linoleum floor.

He built 5 1/2-ft. high wooden walls on

top of the aluminum sides, using 2 by 4 stud walls for the sides and 2 by 2’s for the ends. He covered the original aluminum sides with insulation and wainscoting. “You can’t see any part of the original camper, either from the inside or outside. When you step inside, it looks like you’re in a little wood fish house,” says Etter.

On the outside, he installed cedar siding and then built trusses and shingled the roof. He built a plywood door on one side and installed the windows.

“The cedar siding adds a lot of weight, but I wasn’t concerned about that because I don’t plan on towing it too far down the road.”

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Bill Reeks extended the handles on a pair of hand shears (left) for trimming grass around trees and buildings. He also added an extended handle to a dust pan in his shop.



Modified Tools Help “Beat” Arthritis

Bill Reeks has been fighting a battle against arthritis for the past few years. So far, he’s winning thanks to a lot of modifications he’s made to tools and equipment around his Cromwell, Ky., farm.

For example, he added extended handles to a pair of hand shears for trimming grass around trees and buildings. He simply attached a length of metal tubing to the upper handle and attached a piece of steel wire to

the lower handle. A handle on the upper end lets him operate the shears from a standing position. The spring on the shears opens them back up after each cut.

He also added an extended handle to a dust pan for cleaning up his shop.

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