Lloyd Lohman's home-built 4-WD log skidder is completely hydraulic and articulates in the center.

Winch is made from a 1932 Chevrolet car transmission. It drives a 3/8-in. dia. cable with hook.

Mini Skidder Leaves Less Mess In Woods

"It's a little workhorse," Lloyd Lohman says to describe his 4 ft. 9 in. by 12-ft. long log skidder he built from scratch. "It turns in an 11-ft. diameter and doesn't leave a mess in the woods."

The Hamilton, Michigan, man and a friend had been pulling out logs with a Quad and a winch when they decided to build a skidder to pull logs for Lohman's hobby sawmill. Lohman had hydraulics on hand and a 6-cylinder Chrysler motor. The 4-WD skidder is completely hydraulic and has a 40-gallon hydraulic reservoir. It articulates in the center.

"The back end goes where the front end goes," Lohman says, "so it can fit through some tight spots."

He built the frame of tubular steel and put an old snow plow with a brush guard on the back for pushing brush. The winch, made from a 1932 Chevrolet car transmission, runs the 3/8-in. cable with a hook.

"I pulled a truck and trailer with the winch," Lohman says.

He's used the skidder for about four years and pulled in good size logs for his sawmill. The mini skidder has held up well, right down to the paint. Lohman says he used Massey Ferguson red so he can see the skidder easily in the woods.

Lohman is thinking about making another skidder and would sell his mini skidder for $5,000 (negotiable).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lloyd Lohman, 5979 134th Ave., Hamilton, Michigan 49419 (ph 269 751-5264).

Hydraulic-Powered Loader-Mounted Snowblower

After experiencing some "hang up" problems with the pto-driven Erskine snowblower mounted on front of his tractor, Doug Webster Jr. successfully converted it to hydraulic power.

The 84-in. wide snowblower quick-taches to the loader on Webster's 1995 Massey Ferguson 375 4-WD tractor. Originally the blower was powered by an underslung driveshaft that led from the tractor's rear pto to the snowblower in front.

"The driveshaft was low to the ground and would get hung up on uneven ground," says the Terra Alta, W. Va., farmer. "Another problem was that the blower head could only be raised about six inches. If a snowdrift was higher than the blower, snow would ride back over the top of the blower and get between the blower and tractor, causing more problems. One time it took us more than three hours to free up the tractor after it got hung up on snow. Now the blower lifts as high as the loader will go."

The blower is driven by a 30 gpm hydraulic motor mounted on a steel bracket that attaches to the back side of the blower. The motor is driven by hydraulics from a pto-driven pump at the back of the tractor.

To get enough hydraulic capacity, Webster converted a 40-gal. truck fuel tank into a 3-pt. mounted hydraulic reservoir. He mounted the 3,500 psi hydraulic pump under the tank. Hydraulic hoses lead from the tank to the motor on the blower.

"It solved all my problems and really works nice," says Webster. "My friend Kevin Luckel helped me make the conversion. To operate the snowblower I drop the blower head to the level I want to blow, adjust the chute, engage the pto and begin to blow snow. The motor never 'pulls down' and there's almost no vibration in the machine - it feels like it'll run forever. The blower can handle snowdrifts up to 10 ft. high with no problem. I just raise the loader, tilt the blower head so that it's square, and wipe out a chunk of snow. Then I back up and repeat the process until all the snow is gone. I think the same kind of conversion could also be used on rear-mount snowblowers."

To set up the hydraulic system, Webster called a hydraulic company and explained what he needed. They recommended a double pump turning 1,000 rpm's off the pto, and a hydraulic motor with a maximum of 540 rpm's (this is the original speed of the blower on the pto-driven system). "It's important to maintain the correct speed on the blower head or else parts could fly off," says Webster. "This unit isn't a toy as the hydraulic system operates at 3,000 to 3,500 psi and has a volume of 35 gpm."

Blower is driven by a 30 gpm hydraulic motor that attaches to back side of blower. The motor is driven by hydraulics from a pto-driven pump (shown in photo) that mounts on back of tractor.

Before mounting the fuel tank hydraulic reservoir on back of the tractor, they designed a cage to mount the pump in under the tank. They installed two 3-pt. pins on the cage, secured the tank to the cage, and mounted a top link bracket, allowing Webster to raise and lower the tank assembly. They also added plumbing, a gauge, filter and relief unit.

"It takes less than five minutes to detach the blower head and tank unit," says Webster. "The chute rotates hydraulically from the cab and uses two remote outlets on back of the tractor.

"It didn't cost too much to build. I paid $100 for the fuel tank, $300 for the hydraulic motor, and about $500 for the hydraulic hoses and quick tach fittings. My total cost was less than $1,000."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Doug Webster, Jr., P. O. Box 9, Terra Alta, W. Va. 26764 (ph 304 789-2488 or 304 698-8777; fax 304 789-3133; dougwebster @verizon.net).

Doug Webster converted his pto-driven Erskine snowblower to hydraulic power, eliminating an underslung driveshaft that led from tractor's rear pto to the up-front blower.

Ground-driven spreader can be easily pulled by a golf cart, garden tractor or ATV. At less than 4 ft. wide it maneuvers easily into stalls.

Mini Spreader Crumbles Dry Manure

"It crumbles the manure, and it falls out the bottom as opposed to being slung out the back," explains Rick Gaughan, owner of the Sanford, Florida, company that manufactures and sells the Newer Spreader.

The aluminum and stainless steel carts are designed primarily for horse manure. The spreader pulls easily with a golf cart, garden tractor or ATV, and at less than 4 ft. wide it maneuvers easily into horse stalls.

The spreaders are ground driven. Flipping a couple of locks engages the drum inside the cart to turn when it is pulled. The manure crumbles to 1-in. or less chunks and falls through holes of the cart's stainless steel bottom panel.

Customers like the mini spreader because it lets them spread manure on a daily basis, rather than piling it up. Also, the crumbled manure decomposes rapidly into the soil.

For wet manure, Newer Spreader has an agitator option for the Model 100. All units have solid composition tires (no air) and come standard with drop-pin hitches. Ball hitches are optional.

Agitator crumbles dry manure into chunks that fall through holes of cart's stainless steel bottom panel.

Newer Spreaders are shipped UPS. Assembly takes about 1 1/2 hours. Prices start at around $700. Two models are available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Newer Spreader (ph 866 626-8732; orders@ newerspreader.com; www.newerspreader.com).