

## Self-Unloading Round Bale Hauler

Oklahoma farmer Steve Robertson built his own self-unloading hay trailer that's designed to be pulled by a pickup.

The trailer can handle up to six 4 by 5-ft. bales. The operator releases all the bales at once by simply flipping a lever. "There are no hydraulics, chains, or motors," says Robertson.

A loader tractor is used to load bales one at a time from the rear, with each bale pushed forward as a new one is loaded. To unload, Robertson pulls back on a long lever that's attached to the cradle, which causes a pair of locks to trip. Once the locks are tripped, he pulls up on the lever and the weight of the bales tips them over the side of the trailer.

"It eliminates the need for a tractor to unload bales and greatly speeds up transport time between fields. One time I hauled 50 bales in three hours with only one tractor and

one pickup," says Robertson. "Only one person is needed to operate it. It's ideal for small farmers who need to carry hay long distances to feed."

Robertson used 6-in. dia. schedule 40 oilfield pipe to build the main frame. The rest of the trailer consists of 2 3/8-in. tubing. The trailer rides on a 7,000-lb. axle which he bought new. The hitch came off an old air seeder and is equipped with a 2 5/16-in. ball hitch.

"I paid about \$400 for the axle, \$100 for the ball hitch, and \$100 for a jack. The rest of the materials I already had," he notes.

Robertson says he's willing to supply plans if there's enough interest.

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Three 4-ft. removable fingers are made from cold rolled pipe and can easily slide under a standard pallet.

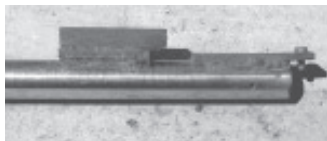
## Tractor Scoop Finger Extensions

Quick-attach finger extensions for tractor scoops help Maurice Leighton, Placerville, Calif., use his tractor to transport heavy loads.

Leighton wanted the ability to lift 1,500-lb. loads safely and securely, but he knew that other times he wouldn't need or want forks on his bucket.

"I designed, constructed and regularly use three 4-ft. removable fingers on the tractor scoop, and really like the convenience and security it affords me," he says. "They're made from used 2 3/4 by 48-in cold rolled pipes, and I welded iron blocks on the end of the fingers for quick attachment to the scoop's fingers, in a position allowing them to easily slide under a standard pallet."

Leighton used blocks on the top and bot-



Leighton welded iron blocks on end of fingers for quick attachment to scoop's fingers.

tom of the scoop lip for anchoring the fingers. The top ones are 1 1/2-in. sq. by 6 in. and the bottom ones are big enough to drop a pin through. All are made from scrap iron.

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## Push-Off Box Measures Out Firewood

Delivering firewood is a pain when it comes to unloading inside a building or under trees and overhead wires. Jeff Weeks came up with a simple solution. He built a truck box with a moving headboard that pushes wood out the back.

He can dump measured amounts of wood because the firewood tends to fall evenly off the back.

The headboard is pulled back and forth by a cable in a slot at the bottom of the box. The cable is controlled by an electric winch.

"The truck holds six cords of wood. I also put headboards on several smaller trucks that can back into a conventional car garage," says Weeks. "I could hit the button and drop the wood in place."

Weeks framed the headboard in steel and built the face in either wood or steel. He says the headboard worked equally well for long lengths as for short pieces. After having the front end of a straight truck lift



Moving headboard pushes wood out back of truck box.

into the air as he unloaded long logs, he added a stabilizer leg.

"It mounts under the trailer hitch and is chained to the truck," says Weeks.

Weeks, who runs a welding shop, has built the push-off boxes for others. He can make plans available for sale if there's enough interest.

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A front-end loader is used to load bales one at a time from the rear, with each bale pushed forward as a new one is loaded.



Operator releases all the bales at once by simply flipping a lever.

## Beetle Trap Uses Plastic Bags

Frank Miller got tired of replacing the bags on his commercial Japanese beetle trap. So he replaced the original catching pouch with a bracket that lets him use leftover plastic shopping bags.

"The traps definitely reduce the damage beetles were causing to my garden vegetables and fruit trees. However, the bags cost about \$2 apiece," says Miller.

He attached a piece of pipe to the bottom of the pipe and uses tape to attach a new bag each day.

Miller says he gets about a bagful of bugs per day at each of several locations. He burns the bags of dead bugs.

The trap is equipped with a number of plastic vanes at the top onto which bait is applied. A cone leads from the vanes down into the bag. He hangs the traps from T-posts using a bracket made from a pipe and steel rod.

Frank Miller uses leftover plastic shopping bags to catch beetles in his commercial Japanese beetle trap.



"I run the duct tape around the top part of the bag but don't get it onto the pipe. That way when I go to remove the bag it just slides right off," says Miller.

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Jon Bell used a satellite dish for a roof and vertically positioned roofing tin to make the walls on this storage shed. Note elliptical windows cut into the tin walls.

## Satellite Storage Sheds

Jon Bell made four buildings with satellite dish roofs and vertically positioned roofing tin for the walls. The vertical tin is fastened with deck screws to horizontally-mounted circular wooden ribs which Bell cut out with a band saw and assembled. He used a reciprocating saw to cut elliptical windows into the tin walls, then clamped pieces of salvaged rectangular safety glass over the openings from the inside.

The floors are made from one side of a large wooden cable reel.

"These buildings have no studs in the walls. The vertical roofing tin is able to hold up the satellite dish because of the

curvature of the walls and the corrugations in the tin," says Bell.

"The building shown in the photo is an internet cafe for students at a summer camp. I also use the buildings as storage sheds. The inside space is surprisingly roomy with the domed ceiling. Since this building is used only during the summer, it doesn't need any insulation or heating.

"The entire building cost only about \$20 for a used door and a few dollars for paint."

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