



"It has great visibility and is highly maneuverable," says Jim Rife about the front-mounted brush cutter he made by converting a Deere 800 swather.

Swather Converted To Brush Cutter

Jim Rife of Roy, Montana likes the front-mounted brush cutter he made by converting a Deere 800 swather.

"I had used the swather for many years and just retired it, but the motor was still good," he points out. "I also had the 8-ft. wide cutter for a number of years. Both units had more than paid for themselves."

The cutter is the kind used on the state highway, pulled behind a tractor to cut the ditches. Rife bought it for cutting road ditches and around his farm buildings, but he never liked the fact that, since you drove over everything first, it would be laying flat and the cutter would miss it.

As a winter project, Rife took his cutting torch and trimmed the 15-ft. wide swather back to 8 ft. and removed all the sickle and guards. Then, he welded some brackets onto both the old swather head and the mower, so the two pieces could be bolted together.

"I had one shaft machined for the drive on the cutter," he explains. "It had a 3-pt. hitch

with a pto drive and I just took that off and had the shaft made. It's driven with a V-belt pulley and is real simple to hook up."

Rife says the rotor cutter is "real safe as far as throwing stuff, compared to a Bush Hog," and he has "hardly any money" invested in the front-mounted unit.

"It will cut up to 3/4-in. dia. brush if it's green, and height doesn't seem to make any difference," he points out. "You can go into stuff that's 3 ft. high, and it chops it up."

This will be Rife's second year of using the unit, and he really likes how it cuts without running over it first.

"It has very good visibility and it maneuvers just as good as with any little mower. With the swather controls (zero turn radius) you can spin right around in one spot," he says. "It really works good for clearing brush, roads... anyplace."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Rife, Box 269, Roy, Montana 59471 (ph 406 464-5341).



Heavy duty blowgun is powered by compressed air. Works great for cleaning combines and other farm equipment.

Air Cannon Blows Away Dirt Debris

Brushing off or wiping down farm or construction equipment can be slow and tedious, and power-washing can leave a mess. Coilhose Pneumatics has designed a heavy-duty blowgun, powered by compressed air, which makes cleaning equipment quick and easy.

The Coilhose Cannon, a heavy-duty die-cast blowgun, was originally designed for road construction to blow heavy dirt and debris out of trenches and off tracks and equipment. But since its introduction last fall the blowgun has found a home in a wide variety of industries - from cleaning equipment in paper mills, to preparing road surfaces for paving, to cleaning combines and other agricultural equipment on farms.

Users will need a large compressor since the Cannon consumes 135 cfm at 100 psi. However, the Cannon's unique tip configuration draws in outside air to amplify the stream provided by the compressor, which makes it a much more powerful and more economical alternative to homemade "pipe-and-ball-valve" blowguns. The Cannon is also lighter and safer, and features a unique trigger, which will stop the air flow if the gun is dropped.

"The extreme ease trigger is unique," says Heather Schomp, marketing manager. "It takes minimal force to actuate, so there's less



Multi-jet air cannons are also available.

fatigue. It's also very durable and well sealed."

The Coilhose Cannon, part of the N.J. company's "Extreme Construction" line, comes standard with a 24 or 48-in. extension and safety nozzle. Multi-jet air cannons are also available. Prices range from \$164.90 to \$235.40. Call the factory for more product or application details.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Coilhose Pneumatics (ph 732 390-8480; info@coilhose.com; www.coilhose.com).

He Wants To Share The Red River Hog

Of the many varieties of wild swine that Jon Wesley Conley and his family in Alamo, Tenn. raise, he says the Red River Hog (also known as the African Bush Pig) are the easiest and most rewarding to raise.

It just so happens that Conley's breeding pair is the only privately owned pair in the world. He's expecting to have some offspring available this fall to loan to other private breeders.

"I'd like people to have the chance to appreciate these animals and marvel at the beauty of this elite species," he explains. "Instead of putting a price on these hogs, I'd prefer to just loan them so I can keep tabs on them. I wouldn't want them to end up being used for hunting."

According to Conley, the Red River Hog exists in three varieties - the one he has (P. Porcus), P. Porcus Pictus, and a distinctly different looking type, commonly known as the Southern Bush Pig. San Diego Zoo has the only captive Southern Bush Pigs in the world, he says, and this variety originates in

West Africa. The other two types come from Senegal-Congo and Cameroon.

"None of the varieties are endangered, but all are experiencing a drastic decline in their populations, due to the bush meat trade and over-hunting in Africa. They're also considered a nuisance in agricultural areas," he says. "In the rest of the world, I'd say they're one of the least known wild swine, but the most beautiful."

The variety that Conley owns has a long snout, and a shaggy red coat with contrasting black and white markings on the head, with white rings around the eyes. At a young age, the pigs develop long white whiskers which seem to never stop growing, he points out.

"Short, stocky black legs support their relatively small, round bodies, which in sows is rarely longer than 3 1/2 ft. or more than 150 lbs.," Conley adds. "Old boars in the wild have been recorded at 5 1/2 ft. long and 250 lbs., though."

Besides their unique beauty, his fascination and affection for Red River Hogs stems



Red River Hog has a long snout, a shaggy red coat with contrasting black and white markings on the head, and long white whiskers.

from the animals' "personality."

"They can become extremely tame - almost as if they were a domestic pig, craving attention and treats. The boars take an active role in caring for the young, and also for the sow, reminding me of an exotic potbelly in more ways than one."

The Red River Hog litter size ranges from

three to eight piglets, and 5-ft. hog panels are adequate for fencing, according to Conley.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jon Wesley Conley, 637 Conley Road, Alamo, Tenn. 38001 (ph 731 343-5180 or 731 696-4423; fax 731 696-2400; jwconley637@yahoo.com; www.tennesseesafaripark.com).

Quick & Easy Livestock Shelter

If you've got an unused grain bin around, you can make a couple sturdy shelters by cutting it in half and laying them flat on the ground.

"I used a cutting torch to make the calf shelter from an old 3,000 bu. bin. A steel cable over the top, anchored by steel stakes, holds the bin in place. It's open at the bottom end. The roof serves as a wall at the other end," says Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rex Gogerty, 33475 K Ave., Hubbard, Iowa 50122 (ph 641 487-7617).



Old grain bin was converted into a sturdy shelter by cutting it in half and laying it flat on the ground, says Rex Gogerty.

How To Reach Us

To submit a "Made It Myself" Story Idea, New Product, Shop Tip, "Best or Worst Buy", or other information, send a note along with photos, drawings and literature, if available. We'll get back to you later if we need more details. Send to: Editor, FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665; fax 952 469-5575); email: editor@farmshow.com. You can also submit information at our

website: www.farmshow.com.

To change your address, renew your subscription, take out a new subscription, order videos or books, or for other information regarding your subscription, contact: Circulation Department, FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665; fax 952 469-5575); email: circulation@farmshow.com.