

Turn Your Skid Loader Into A Dump Truck - And More!

A revolutionary new skid loader towbar system designed for Bobcats and other skid steers was introduced at the recent 3i show in Great Bend, Kansas.

The Cattail towbar system is like nothing you've ever seen before. Trying to understand how this "towable tool carrier" system works isn't easy - even the company says a demonstration is the only real way to learn what it can do. But the benefits it offers are many, says Jim Page, Quantum Industries, Inc., Bottineau, N. Dak.

"It's designed for the construction and landscaping industry, but we think it also has great potential for farmers and ranchers," says Page.

The base unit is designed to accommodate more than 20 Cattail tools and attachments, as well as other manufacturers' tools. It includes a mating attachment that quick-taches to skid loader arms; an "up and over" towbar made from 6-in. sq. tubing that attaches to the mounting plate; and a single axle which can be equipped with either a short or long cart frame to accept a flatbed or dump box. The axle can also be equipped with a 3-pt. hitch and pto, allowing use of a variety of attachments including a field cultivator, box blade, mower, tiller, round bale hauler, gravel box, and water tank with spray boom. A hydraulically-driven pto output can be added

to operate mowers, tillers, and other pto-driven tools.

The mating attachment has built-in slots and pockets for storage of buckets and grapple forks.

"We find it's best to start with an 8-ft. wide flatbed and single axle with lift kit so you can turn your skid loader into a dump truck. You can load and tow with the same skid loader. Just detach the skid loader from the towbar and load material into the dump box. To dump the load you can either raise the loader arms or use the bed tilt cylinder"

One unique feature of the system is a rotating "gudgeon" that hooks up to a wedge plate receiver and is the heart of the mating attachment.

"The gudgeon allows the operator to spin around 180 degrees under the towbar to face the opposite direction and "push" the load into position," says Page. "You can see where you're going, instead of backing in. From a safety standpoint, you can't beat it because you're never looking over your shoulder."

The basic unit sells for \$4,900. The 3-pt. assembly sells for \$900.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Quantum Industries, Inc., 10341 18th Ave. N.E., Bottineau, N. Dak. 58318 (ph 701 263-4179; Dakota@srt.com; www.cattailinfo.com).



Cattail towbar system is designed to accept a wide variety of tools and attachments.



A flatbed trailer or dump box can be towed behind.



Stoen made this grass catcher for his riding mower out of a 4-ft. sq. soybean seed bag.

Grass Catcher Made From Soybean Seed Bag

"I wanted to use a grass catcher on my riding lawn mower, but I didn't want to spend the money for a commercial unit. So I decided to make my own out of a big 4-ft. sq. soybean seed bag. It holds much more material than anything I could have bought, so I don't have to empty it as often," says Ron Stoen, Lowry, Minn.

He made the grass catcher to fit his Country Clipper zero turn mower equipped with a 60-in. deck. It rides on a pair of 8-in. caster wheels. The front of the catcher bolts to the lawn mower and follows directly behind it.

He used 2 1/2-in. angle iron for the frame and plywood for the floor. Loops at each corner of the bag slip over an L-shaped aluminum frame on top of the frame. A large pvc pipe leads from the mower deck up into a hole that Stoen cut into the side of the bag, about two thirds of the way up. "After the

bag is full I back up to my mulch pile, slide the bag off the trailer, and put another bag on, leaving the bean bag intact so the grass and leaves won't blow around," says Stoen.

"I didn't need to install a blower because the mower's blades travel at just under 19,000 ft. per minute, which is enough to blow the grass into the bag. I made the frame so that I can easily fold it down and use the trailer to haul other stuff.

"I paid \$15 for the caster wheels and \$40 for the chute. My total cost was about \$75. A comparable bagger would sell for about \$500. Seed bags are easy to find. Many farmers have them laying around."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ron Stoen, Stoen Farm Supply, West Highway 55, Box 155, Lowry, Minn. 56349 (ph 320 283-5283 or 320 283-5856; sfslowry@rune.stone.net).



Lake Superior Cabs says it can custom build for almost any tractor.

Where To Buy A Custom Cab

If you need a custom built cab for tractors or other vehicles, Lake Superior Cabs may be the place to go. Brothers Dean and Lynn Myers have been building specialty cabs since 1992.

"A lot of cabs utilize fairly universal designs, but a customer can send drawings, and we will create whatever their needs demand," says Dean Myers. "Our most unique cabs were used on towers by the U.S. Air Force at fields testing experimental aircraft."

While most cabs are a little more mundane, Myers says company workers are real craftsmen on every cab. They handle the basic construction, as well as the seating, wiring, AC, heat and sound insulation.

"We do about everything except hydraulics," says Myers. "We wire for 110-volt outlets, do double wall insulation with 1 1/2-in.

polystyrene between steel layers, and whatever else is needed."

Standard equipment on cabs includes safety glass on all four sides and 30 in. from the bottom of the side, one door with lock, sound suppression package and a steel floor equipped with non-skid floor mat. Options include front wiper, sliding windows, fluorescent lights, 110 and 220-volt outlets, a wall-mount air conditioner and heater, locking handles, tinted glass and counter top.

Prices start at around \$3,000 for a small cab. There's no extra charge for custom engineering, even on small cabs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lake Superior Cabs, Inc., 121 West Harney Road, Esko, Minn. 55733 (ph 218 879-4526 or 800 328-1823; fax 218 879-4640; lscabs@aol.com; www.lakesuperiorcabs.com).