



Produce farmer Mark Altemeier uses his Kubota RTV utility vehicle to plant crops, thanks to the add-on 3-pt. hitch he developed.

Add-On 3-Pt. Hitch For Utility Vehicles

“Our new 3-pt. hitch for utility vehicles works great for everything from planters to cultivators, seeders, lawn dethatchers, and snowplows. It lets you use your utility vehicle to do almost anything a compact tractor can do,” says Mark Altemeier, RTV Hitchworks, Maineville, Ohio.

“The Farmboy” hitch, as it’s called, is designed for utility vehicles equipped with a standard hydraulic system. It can be mounted either on the front or rear, while still allowing you to use the vehicle’s hydraulic-operated dump bed.

The unit fastens to the utility vehicle’s receiver hitch and comes with 2 other bolt-on brackets that hook up to the cross member on the vehicle’s frame. A hydraulic cylinder hooks up directly to the hydraulic ports on back of the utility vehicle. The unit can handle loads of up to 600 lbs.

Altemeier, a produce farmer, came up with the idea as a way to cut costs. “I needed another tractor to pull a Deere 3-row planter that I had recently bought, but I didn’t want to spend the money. My Kubota RTV already has a standard hydraulic system so I started looking for a hydraulic 3-pt. hitch for it. To my surprise, I couldn’t find anything. So my 4-year-old son and I started building ‘the contraption’, as he calls it. I used it successfully last spring to plant sweet corn, beans and pumpkins. Farmers tell me it could also be used to plant field corners and drowned-out areas, and to plant wildlife food plots. It only takes about 15 min. to take the hitch on and off.”

The Farmboy sells for \$1,695 plus S&H. Altemeier also offers a 3-pt., front-mounted snowplow called the Plowboy that attaches to the Farmboy. An optional hydraulic kit or actuator can be added, allowing you to change the blade angle automatically. “Kubota recommends purchasing heavy duty struts when using a snowplow on front of their RTV,” says Altemeier.

“Helping Hand” Firewood Gripper

Lloyd Elliott, Mindemoya, Ont., made a “firewood gripper” to make loading firewood into trailers an easier job. He added a “D” handle on one side so he can lift logs with two hands.

The D handle comes in handy whenever I have to lift an extremely heavy block of wood that I can’t lift with one hand,” says Elliott. “Once I get a grip on the log, I grab the D handle with my other hand.”

The gripper has 2 hooks that grab each end of the logs up to 16 in. long.

“I find I no longer have a stiff and sore back after a day spent cutting firewood, because I don’t have to stoop to pick up heavy firewood. My hands never touch the log so I never get them wet or dirty. It also eliminates splinters and bruised knuckles,” notes Elliott.



Hitch fastens to utility vehicle’s receiver hitch and comes with 2 bolt-on brackets that hook up to vehicle’s frame.



Hitch can also be mounted on front of vehicle and used to support this 3-pt. snowplow.

The Plowboy sells for \$1,395 plus S&H. Also available is a hydraulic kit that mounts under the utility vehicle’s hood. It comes with six 10-ft. hydraulic lines and hydraulic quick disconnect valves. The kit has 4 accessory ports, providing front and rear hydraulics, and operates off the utility vehicle’s factory control valve.

The hydraulic kit sells for \$995 plus S&H. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, RTV Hitchworks, 1295 U.S. 22 and 3, Maineville, Ohio 45039 (ph 513 260-3705; rtvhitchworks@gmail.com; www.rtvhitchworks.com).



Firewood gripper has a “D” handle on one side, allowing Elliott to lift logs with two hands.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lloyd and Bill Elliott, 221 Elliott Rd., Mindemoya, Ont., Canada POP 1T0 (ph 705 377-4606; lloydlyman@hotmail.com).

Tailgate Step Fits Into Receiver Hitch

This new “receiver hitch” tailgate step from Koehn Marketing makes it easy to get in and out of any pickup bed.

The Handy Step fits any standard 2-in. receiver hitch and measures 15 in. wide by 11 in. long. When fully extended the step is 34 in. away from the hitch. A 42-in. long steel rod handle slips into a hole on either side of the step. The step swings in behind the pickup’s rear bumper and locks with a pin.

In tests, the step has handled weights up to 350 lbs.

Sells for \$179 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Koehn Marketing, Inc., P.O. Box 577, Watertown, S. Dak. 57201 (ph 800 658-3998 or 605 886-2120; koehn@iw.net; www.koehnmarketing.com).



Tailgate step fits into receiver hitch. It comes with a 42-in. long handle that slips into a hole on either side of step.

Folding Tailgate Ladder For Pickups

This new tailgate ladder for pickups folds out of the way when the tailgate is closed, taking up very little space. It’s easy to install and also easy to remove.

The StepDaddy ladder is designed to fit most pickups and mounts on either side of the tailgate. The ladder hinges on a rectangular metal plate, which fits into a slot on a “pivot plate” that bolts onto the tailgate. When not in use, the ladder sets flush with the closed tailgate.

To use, lower the tailgate and swing the ladder back and down onto the ground. Then pull up a folding safety handle on one side of the ladder and climb the steps. To remove the ladder, lower the tailgate and lift the ladder up off the tailgate, then rotate the pivot plate 90 degrees and lift the plate and ladder out.

Sells for \$179 plus S&H.



Ladder mounts on either side of tailgate and folds out of way when tailgate is closed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Step Daddy Ladder LLC, 1458 Iva, Burton, Mich. 48509 (ph 877 477-7154; www.StepDaddyLadder.com).

“Swather Snowblower” Powered By Its Own Engine

Leon Brech built a 9-ft. wide snowblower and mounted it on a self-propelled swather. The result is a snow machine that he says is much more maneuverable than any snow rig he’s ever used before.

“It’ll turn on a dime and can blow snow out 110 ft.,” says Brech.

He started with a 1960’s Massey Ferguson 655 swather with a slant 6 engine. He threw away the header and replaced it with his home-built double auger snowblower. The main part of the snowblower is about 4 ft. tall and 9 ft. wide.

The snowblower is powered by its own straight six 292 Chevy truck engine and transmission that’s mounted on a frame next to the swather’s engine. He had a driveshaft made to connect the transmission to the snowblower. The transmission’s gearshift lever puts the snowblower in gear. An electric winch operates the snowblower’s 2 spouts. The cab was made from 1-in. sq. tubing with plexiglass windows.

“I can go through 4-ft. deep snow with no problems,” says Brech. “The first time through I keep the snowblower 2 in. off the ground to keep weight on the swather’s drive wheels to provide traction. On the next pass, I set the snowblower down on the road and remove the final 2 in. of snow.

“I used the Massey Ferguson swather because it’s hydrostatic, which allows me to go real slow if I need to. I run the transmission in second gear with the engine rpm’s at about 2,800. I mounted the governor from an old Deere 95 combine on the 292 engine, so when the snowblower gets under load the governor kicks in and gives the engine more gas. The add-on engine is handy because I can put the



“It’ll turn on a dime and can blow snow out 110 ft.,” says Leon Brech, who built a 9-ft. snowblower and mounted it on a self-propelled swather.

automatic transmission in reverse to eject anything that gets caught in the auger.

“I spent a total of about \$2,500. I paid \$500 for the swather and \$300 for the truck, and another \$100 to overhaul the engine. I was able to sell parts from the rest of the truck to a local junkyard to recover the \$300. I bought the augers from a company that builds snowblowers and bent 4 by 8 sheets of steel to form the body of the blower.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leon Brech, P.O. Box 84252, Sioux Falls, S. Dak. 57118 (ph 605 929-7318; livingfree1952@yahoo.com).