Rolling squeeze chute is made from a wire spool, with a trimming chute at the center. A winch is used to rotate the chute.

Inventor Roger Holcomb used an empty spool from a local telephone company to build the rolling squeeze chute.

Rolling Squeeze Chute Made From Wire Spool

"When I started raising goats, I realized we needed a hoof trimming chute. But after pricing units on the market, I decided to build my own," says Roger Holcomb, Mentor, Minn.

"Our local telephone company has a ready supply of empty cable spools made from square tubing. So I got one of those and mounted it on a platform fitted with two rollers on each side that allow the spool to rotate.

"I reworked the center of the spool, using some of the original cross pieces to construct a trimming chute at the center of the spool with a small platform under it.

"The finished unit mounts on a trailer and is fitted with a cable winch that serves two purposes. When hooked up one way, it's used to raise the entire unit off the ground for transport, or lower it back down for work. By reconnecting a snap on the end of the cable, the winch is also used to rotate the trimmer once the animal is secured in the squeeze chute and the headgate's closed. The winch rotates the chute so the animal is lying on his side at the proper height for trimming the hooves. The platform the animal stands on opens and the person can trim hooves without risk of injury to either the person or animal.

"So far we've run about 150 animals through this squeeze chute and it works great."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Holcomb, R&N Enterprizes, 30990 140th Ave SE, Mentor, Minn. 56736 (ph 218 637-8283).

Holcomb also uses cable spool to make big bale feeders for calves, sheep and goats. Photo shows a new feeder upside down for painting.

All Purpose Grader Turns On A Dime

"This rig works like a charm for grading orchards, landscape projects, even gravel driveways," says Marcus Benedict, describing his custom-built 3-wheel hydrostatic drive grader that turns in a 180 degree arc.

"I got the idea to build this after seeing a restored 1950's-era machine called the Bohlen's Ride Master," Benedict says. "The fellow who owned the machine said it had been used by truck farmers and landscapers and was fairly popular."

The single front drive wheel is a 12 by 26-in. lugged tire that's powered by a hydraulic motor. "I used a simple hydrostatic pump like those on zero-turn mowers. It provides plenty of power from the electric start 13 hp Honda motor."

The operator sits on a comfortable garden tractor seat, steers the machine with a full size steering wheel, and adjusts forward, reverse and ground speed with a foot pedal.

For extra traction, Benedict added about 250 lbs. of weight on the front wheel frame to provide ballast and prevent slippage. Two rear wheels with 18 by 8.5-in. turf tires mount on an adjustable frame so the operator can change widths to gain extra stability or straddle rows and ridges.

The blade is 6 ft. wide and 8 in. deep, adjustable on a center swivel bracket much like a road grader. Levers for raising, lowering, tilting and turning the blade are mounted on a console to the right of the driver's seat.

Benedict said the grader, which will sell for $14,999, does an excellent job of leveling and is easier to operate than a skid steer or an ATV. "The center-mounted blade works on the same principle as large road graders that have been around for many years," Benedict says, "so I didn't really invent a new concept, I just adapted it to a much smaller machine."

Benedict plans to make other tools like a tiller, a rake or cultivator to mount on the machine and make it more versatile.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marcus Benedict, Rumble Fabrication & Ag Service, 4124 Kiernan Avenue, Modesto, Calif. 95356 (ph 209 545-1848; Rumblefab@yahoo.com).

Marcus Benedict's 3-wheel hydrostatic drive grader turns in a 180 degree arc. The single front drive wheel is driven by a hydraulic motor that's powered by a Honda engine.

Back-To-Back Grader Blades

For years Sherman Campbell, Reed City, Mich., used his 3-pt. mounted, 7-ft. blade to clear snow, but it was always a hassle to operate.

"I would pull the blade down my driveway to clear snow. But every time I needed to use it backing up, I had to get off the tractor, pull a pin, and rotate the blade 180 degrees to the needed position," says Campbell.

So last year he bought another used identical blade without the 3-pt. assembly. He cut off the excess material, then had a friend weld it back to back to the original blade.

"As long as the blade is angled correctly, I don't have to get off the tractor no matter which direction I drive," says Campbell. "Because of the blade length I couldn't rotate it on one of my smaller tractors, because it would hit one of the tractor's rear wheels. This design solved that problem."

Campbell says there's another advantage with the second blade in the reverse position - it helps keep the front blade from digging into the ground.

He trimmed away enough of the support metal holding the swivel mechanism that he could relocate the two blades to within 2 in. of each other. Also, a length of 3/4-in. dia. rerod was welded to the leading edge of the rear facing blade. "This helps eliminate gouging when pushing the snow backward. However, if I want the rear blade to dig, I just rotate the sharp front blade around to face backward. The top link of the 3-pt. hitch can be adjusted to change the blade's incline angle, too," notes Campbell.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sherman Campbell, 19148 9 Mile Rd., Reed City, Mich. 49677 (ph 231 832-4986).

Add-on grader blade is welded onto back of original blade. "It eliminates the need to get off the tractor to rotate the blade," says Sherman Campbell.