

# Ford F-800 Pickup Has Power To Spare

By spending about \$8,000 to add bigger tires, a four-door cab, dually bed and a toolbox, Philip Asher transformed a commercial low-profile Ford F-800 truck into a pickup with some serious power.

Initially, the Elizabethton, Tenn., power plant construction worker planned to use the former 1998 moving truck for hauling. But when he spotted an F-250 four-door cab at a junkyard, he decided to give the truck a makeover instead, with the help of a couple of friends. After the cab was in place there was a 2-ft. gap between the cab and the Ford 350 dually bed he installed. He decided that was just enough room for a large toolbox.

"It looks factory-built," Asher says of his truck, which includes the console and reclining bucket seats from a 1997 Ford truck. With a 5.9 Cummins in-line 6-cylinder diesel engine, he had plenty of power but the wheels were undersized. He fixed that by upsizing to 22-in. tires. The tires improved mileage to about 15 mpg but made the speedometer incorrect. He solved the problem by using a small GPS unit.

The 11,000-lb. truck has a 189-in. wheelbase and is 24 ft. long, but fits under his 8-ft. tall garage door and can



**"It looks factory-built and has some serious power," says Philip Asher, who converted a commercial low profile Ford F-800 truck into a giant pickup.**

be registered as a pickup. "There are steep mountains between me and the power plants where I work, so I need something with more power," Asher says. "This F-800 does it for me."

Though it's only 2-WD, it's built heavy-duty and durable, compared to smaller 4-WD trucks he's used in the past to pull his 11,000-lb. gooseneck trailer.

"On a farm that needs to pull trailers this would be ideal to handle plenty of weight," Asher says. "I would sell it for \$25,000 if anyone was interested."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Philip Asher, 127 Arrow Dr., Elizabethton, Tenn. 37643 (ph 423 914-1338; pasher@charter.net).

## Pooper Scooper "Super-Sizes" Loader Bucket

With 48 horse stalls to clean each day, Jim Evans needed a faster way to handle manure. His "pooper scooper" does the trick. The steel basket slides inside the loader bucket to super-size its carrying capacity. Evans and his wife operate a horse boarding and training facility and raise a herd of Boer goats. Time is at a premium.

"With the scoop in place, we can clean out the 48 stalls and 10 to 12 runs in our barns and sheds in less than two hours a day," says Evans. "It handles the equivalent of 8 to 10 times the volume of the original bucket."

Evans scoop is 6 ft. long and the height and width of his 74-in. bucket. He left just enough room for the scoop to easily slide into the bucket. The 1/8-in. steel was cut at a nearby metal shop. Evans welded the scoop together, adding two 12 by 3-in. strips of steel to the inside of the rear corners. The strips were welded in place to extend a couple of inches above the sides of the



**Steel basket hooks inside loader bucket to greatly increase its carrying capacity.**

scoop. Holes drilled in the top of the straps house a 1-in. steel rod welded in place and extending out several inches on each side of the scoop.

"I cut hooks out of 1-in. steel and welded them to the top sides of the loader bucket," explains Evans. "To connect the scoop, I just hook the rod, lift the bucket and the scoop slips in place."

When not in use, Evans parks the scoop on a couple of old tractor tires. In use, it does double duty, carrying manure away from the stalls, and spreading it on nearby fields

and pastures.

"It spreads evenly, and I follow up with a drag or rake or use a rototiller to mix it in with the soil," says Evans. "The hooks on the loader have come in handy for everything from picking up corral panels to pulling T-posts and stretching fencing. The whole thing cost me about \$700, and it works great."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James L Evans, New Paradigm Ranch, 2386 Vera Way, Gardnerville, Nevada 89410 (ph 775 783-9905; jlejr@isp.com).