

Big Shop Door Has Built-In Windows, Access Door

Replacing a worn out shop door with a flat panel raised by an electric hoist provided multiple benefits for Virgil Pook and his son Travis. With the flat panel lifted, they have a shaded work area outside the shop. In the closed position, they get easier access and better lighting because of the walk-through door and windows built into the big panel.

"In the past we had to walk to the other end of the shop for an exit door. It saves steps and the windows light up that end of the shop," says Pook.

The Pooks kept costs and complications down with timing and design. They bought the electric hoist from a local school for only \$25. It had been used to lift basketball hoops out of the way in a gym. The frame for the 18-ft. wide, 12 1/2-ft. tall door was fabricated at a local trailer maker out of 2 by 2-in. and 3 by 4-in. aluminum tubing. It cost only \$500. Nearly everything else was excess from other farm projects.

"We insulated it, sided it and installed the entry door and windows," says Pook. "We added a framework with gussets to the bottom of the door to reinforce it for lifting. Without that, the door would likely have started bulging."

Nine hinges hang the door to the old header. The winch was installed inside the shop with cables running to pulleys on two outside lift posts. From the posts, cables run to the sides of the shop door.

"The door doesn't lift real fast, but speed isn't a problem," says Pook. "It has an automatic shut-off at the opening and closing positions." Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Virgil



Virgil Pook replaced the worn out door on his shop with a flat panel that has walk-through door and windows.

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"Root Piler" Machine Makes A Comeback

A root piler that William W. Janzen invented in 1984 is making a comeback because there's a new rush to clear farmland in northern Alberta, Canada.

Janzen remembers picking roots by hand when he homesteaded in 1964. He knew there had to be a better way so he eventually created the root piler. He used it to do custom work, piling roots for other landowners. He made a second machine in 1986, which is still in use.

"With all the land being cleared this spring, I could see there was more demand for these machines," Janzen says. More than 800 quarters will be sold and cleared in MacKenzie County in the next few years.

Janzen's friend, Jake Driedger has a welding shop and has started building the root pilers, with slight modifications of Janzen's original design.

"We've made it easier to take off parts, and

the bearings are easier to change. I added a hydaswing on the hitch for transporting on the road," Janzen says.

The piler looks similar to a round baler. It has 6 horizontal rollers (or beaters) running at 400 rpm's that are 4 in. apart with three rows of 3 to 4-in. teeth that spiral from the outside to the middle. The rollers kick the roots forward and the dirt falls back behind the rollers. With the heavy-duty frame built of 3/8-in. wall 8 by 8-in. square tubing, the piler moves everything from 2-in. dia. roots to 12-in. dia. logs up to 8 ft. long.

With shields on the side, the piler takes an 8-ft. swath. The operator drives slowly as the piler rolls roots ahead of it until the pile reaches 3 to 4 ft. high and can't roll any more. Then he backs up, drives around the pile and continues. A half-mile swath typically takes 1 1/2 to 2 hours and leaves about 20 piles. Once piled, the roots can be



Home-built "root piler" moves everything from 2-in. dia. roots to 12-in. dia. logs up to 8 ft. long. It makes an 8-ft. wide swath.

dried and burned.

A 90 hp tractor is adequate to pull the piler, Janzen says.

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Mini Dump Bucket Mounts On Forklift

Three years ago, we featured "The Scoop" made by Jim Potts (Vol. 32, No. 5) for mounting on a tractor 3-pt. hitch. Now he has come out with a model to fit forklifts, ready to hook up to hydraulics or a 12-volt battery.

"This works good for a guy that needs a front-end loader once in a while, but you don't want to tie up a lot of money," says the Lubbock, Texas, entrepreneur.

The Scoop is made of 1/4-in. steel and sells for \$4,000 including delivery. Without the hydraulic pump unit, the cost is \$3,450. Potts typically makes The Scoop 15 in. deep

by 36 in. wide, but says he will customize the size to match the forklift and meet OSHA regulations.

The Scoop hooks up quickly with adapters that slip on to the forklift forks and a safety chain.

Potts has an auto glass business and uses it to fill holes in his parking lot and for other small jobs.

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Mini dump bucket hooks up with adapters that slip onto forklift forks. It can be powered by forklift hydraulics or electric hydraulic pump.