



Mean Green mower uses commercial-grade wet-cell, lead acid batteries that hold their charge longer than typical deep cycle batteries.

## “Acre Per Charge” Electric Mower

You can mow up to an acre per charge with the new Mean Green 33-in. mower. If it starts to run low on power, the two 17-in. blades shut down yet there's plenty of juice for the self-propelled unit to travel up to a mile back to an electric outlet.

“Some people like it for its low noise level (74 dB), about that of a loud conversation,” says Joe Conrad, Mean Green Products, LLC. “Others like it for the lack of exhaust. Still others like it for the low cost of operation, about \$2 in electricity versus \$20 in gasoline.”

Maintenance is at an absolute minimum with the Mean Green mower. There are no belts, pulleys, plugs, points or oil to worry about. There are very few moving parts, only a couple of electric motors and a few bearings.

The heavy-duty mower weighs in at 390 lbs., and is 69 in. long, 38 in. high and 35 in.

wide with the discharge chute up. Each blade is driven by its own motor and controller with up to 10 hp available to drive each blade.

The mower uses commercial-grade wet-cell, lead acid batteries that are more durable, have heavier plates and hold their charge longer than typical deep cycle batteries.

When under power, fingertip, variable speed control lets the operator go from barely moving to 5 mph in forward and 2 1/2 mph in reverse. The residential mower is priced at \$2,795.

Mean Green Products makes a commercial walk-behind that's slightly heavier and includes a slide-out battery exchange pack.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mean Green Products, LLC, P.O. Box 317, Okeana, Ohio 45053 (ph 513 200-7561; joe@meangreenproducts.com; www.meangreenproducts.com).



Hydra-Grasp tool has a pair of metal arms equipped with rotating “grips” at the ends. One arm is movable and retracts inward when a hydraulic cylinder is retracted.

## Hydraulic “Grab Tool”

“You can use it to do everything from moving rocks and tree limbs to dragging brush and pulling fence posts,” says Rick Moberly, Wendrick Tools, Ponca City, Okla., about his new Hydra-Grasp tool that operates off tractor's hydraulics and can be rear-mounted or loader-mounted.

The unit has a pair of metal arms equipped with rotating “grips” at the ends. One arm is movable and retracts inward when a hydraulic cylinder is retracted. The grips can be replaced with expanded metal “grips” for grabbing brush or pulling small trees out of the ground.

The unit mounts on back of a tractor via a receiver ball hitch that hooks up to a tractor's drawbar, with a chain running to the top link on the 3-pt. hitch. An adapter and chain can

also be used to attach the HydraGrasp to the lip of a loader bucket.

“I've used it to pull small trees out of pastures and to drag big tree limbs and drag brush away,” says Moberly. “I used it last winter to help build a livestock corral. I mounted a posthole auger on back of the tractor and mounted the HydraGrasp on front. I used the auger to make the holes and then grabbed a pipe and set it into the hole, all without having to get off the tractor.”

Sells for \$625.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rick Moberly, Wendrick Tools, 2015 North Ash, Suite 120, Ponca City, Okla. 74601 (ph 620 222-4708; Moberly\_rick@yahoo.com; www.wendricktools.com).



Expanded metal grips can be used to grab brush or pull small trees out of the ground.

## Handy New Cattle Working Tool

You can hook a mouth or a hoof with the new Hook Doctor from Ritchey Livestock. It has a large hook to use on a cow in a squeeze chute and a smaller one for grabbing a calf's leg.

“Slipping the large hook into the cow's cheek between it and the gums lets the handler tug the head to the side,” says Grant Ritchey, Ritchey Livestock. “The cow will naturally open her mouth and give to the pressure on her cheek.”

Putting the hook doctor in the center of the mouth encourages the cow to open up wider and makes it easier to get her to swallow pills. Light, firm pressure should always be used.

Hooking a hoof is easy, too. Once the calf's leg is in the air, it will usually stop moving for fear of overbalancing onto its side.

The Hook Doctor is priced at \$39.95. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ritchey Livestock ID, 13821 Sable Blvd., Brighton, Colo. 80601 (ph 800 327-8247; sales@ritcheytags.com; www.ritcheytags.com).



Hook Doctor has a large hook to use on cows in squeeze chutes.



Unit also has a smaller hook for grabbing a calf's leg.

Wes Weaver converted his Case IH 3594 from full-time 4-WD to front wheel assist.



## 4-WD Case IH Converted To FWA

Wes Weaver says 4-WD is great when you need it and a hassle when you don't. That's why he converted his 3594 Case IH to Front-Wheel Assist (FWA) from full-time 4-WD.

“Going down the road, the planetary on the front axle would get hotter than when it pulled a chisel plow all day,” says Weaver, who gets plenty of road time hauling manure. “Being able to disengage the front axle gives a better ride and there's less wear to the front end and clutch. The tractor uses less fuel, too.”

Weaver worked with Nears Precision Products, a Beloit, Wis., area machine shop to make the conversion.

“I had seen similar transfer cases on other tractors, like the smaller 2294, so we based ours on that,” says Weaver. “When we pulled apart the transfer case, there was plenty of room. It actually looked like Case IH may have planned to offer FWA at some point.”

Weaver and Nears redid the output shaft. The gear was splined to the shaft, so they cut a section out of the shaft at the gear and added a neck with splines to the gear. They fixed splines to the remainder of the shaft and used a shift collar to connect the two. They drilled a few oil ports for lubrication, and the tractor was just about good to go.

“We added a shift fork with a push/pull cable going up to the cab and connected it to a lever in the console,” explains Weaver. “In the corner of the case, there was a chunk of steel. That was where we put the shaft the shift fork rides on. It looked like that was what it was intended for.”

A detent spring on the fork shaft lets Weaver slip it into 4-WD on the go. He just hits the clutch and engages the lever. To go back to FWA requires that he stop and back up.

“The front wheels spin a little faster than the rear, but when we back up, it just lets go,”



Modified transfer case has a detent spring on the fork shaft, allowing Weaver to slip into 4-WD on-the-go.

he says.

Weaver is mostly satisfied with the conversion. This past fall he put 150 hrs. of heavy tillage on it using the 4-WD. Later when he drained the oil and opened up the case, everything looked good.

“It does make more noise when I am driving down the road,” says Weaver. “When the shift collar is not engaged, the splines fixed on the gear spin free on the shaft. Nears thinks it may not be meshed quite as close as it could be.”

He gives a lot of credit to Nears for the attention paid to the job. “They X-rayed the shaft and ran hardening tests on it to be sure the neck matched,” says Weaver. “They even made a second set of parts in case we wanted to adapt another tractor.”

He notes that there were only about 1,500 Case IH 3594's made. However, if someone with one wanted to make the conversion, he and Nears would be glad to help.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wes Weaver, N2615 County Road V, Sheldon, Wis. 54766 (ph 715 532-9889; cell 715 403-0159; wesandonna@emypeople.net) or Nears Precision Products, 9550 W State Road 81, Beloit, Wis. 53511 (ph 608 879-3311).