



LaVier Schliefert added a hinged top to the loader bucket on his Deere 855 utility tractor. A welded-on grader blade forms the top's cutting edge.



"It works great for loading and spreading crushed rock, and I've even used it to lift big 30-ft. long light poles," says Schliefert.

Hinged Loader Bucket Works "Better Than A Grapple Fork"

"It works fabulously and didn't cost much to build," says LaVier Schliefert, Deepwater, Mo., who added a hinged top to the loader bucket on his Deere 855 4-WD utility tractor. It does the work of a grapple fork, and more.

He used thick sheet metal and channel iron to build an L-shaped hinged top that's braced with 2-in. tubing and pins onto both sides of the bucket. A steel arm connects the top to the bucket and is raised and lowered by a small

hydraulic cylinder. An old welded-on grader blade was used to form the top's cutting edge.

"I built it because I got tired of chasing rocks across my yard after I tried to pick them up with the bucket. The grabber also works great for loading and spreading crushed rock. I fill the bucket and bring the grabber down, then tilt the bucket and slowly retract the top to let the crushed rock escape. I've even used it to lift big 30-ft. long light poles. I never

take the grabber off because it's not in the way – it doesn't affect normal bucket use."

He also made a fabric cab with flexible plastic windows for the tractor. "I made a metal frame, then took the tractor to a fabricating shop where they fitted together the fabric and windows. The cab simply snaps together," says Schliefert.

"I made a similar cab for my Yamaha Rhino utility vehicle. I made the framework and

the upholstery shop did the rest. The cab is made from sections of snap-together canvas and has clear plastic windows. I use it when plowing snow with a front-mounted blade. The door mounts on hinge pins and can be easily lifted off."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, LaVier Schliefert, 1125 S.E. 720, Deepwater, Mo. 64740 (ph 660 723-0072).

"Pallet Boxes" Make Firewood Handling Easy

"My pallet boxes really simplify the job of handling and storing firewood. I simply nail four pallets together to make a box and then hand stack the firewood inside. I use a tractor with forks to move the boxes around and to stack them," says Eric Petrevich, Glen Gardner, N.J.

Petrevich sells firewood to local customers and gets the pallets for free wherever he can find them. He uses a pneumatic nail gun and zinc coated nails to nail pallets together.

"The boxes are a little wobbly when they're empty, but once they're filled with firewood they form a solid structure that won't wobble and that makes them easy to move around and stack," says Petrevich.

"When I need to deliver wood to a customer I can either set the pallets directly on my flatbed truck, or tilt the pallet down so the wood dumps out of the box and onto the bed.

"It's a big time-saver because I only have to handle the wood once. By stacking the pallets two high I can store more wood in a smaller space. And I can easily move the pallets to expose the wood to the sun so it dries more evenly. In the past I would set the wood on the ground in rows in one direction, and only one side would get exposed to the sun. Also, the wood in the rows in front was always the wettest. I wanted to sell the most seasoned wood first, but that wood was always in back where I couldn't get at it.

"It really works great for customers who have their own trailer and a tractor with forks, because they can retrieve wood from the trailer without having to do any restacking."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eric Petrevich, 210 Route 513, Glen Gardner, N.J. 08826 (ph 908 812-3300; farmshow@megageek.com).



Eric Petrevich nails four pallets together to make boxes and then hand stacks the firewood inside. He uses loader forks to move the boxes around.

Mud-X Gauge Wheel Eliminates Plugging

"It's the only gauge wheel with traction. It prevents plugging by keeping mud from entering the disc opener and gauge wheel," says South Dakota inventor Danny Wipf about his company's new Pro-Stitch Mud-X gauge wheel. It's designed to be used with the company's unique Pro-Stitch closing wheels.

Made from UHMW, the Mud-X gauge wheel measures 3 in. wide by 16 in. high and is designed to fit most corn planters as well as all Deere and Case IH air seeders. What makes the gauge wheel unique is that it has molded lugs built into it, which allows it to gain traction even in muddy ground. The gauge wheel also acts as a scraper, keeping the disc opener clean.

The Mud-X mounts on a heavy-duty rim and has a stainless steel hub. To install, remove the original gauge wheel and replace it with the Mud-X using the original arm.

The company says its Pro-Stitch closing wheel has a blunt tooth design that applies six times more down pressure to the sidewall

of the trench than standard round closing wheels, thus reducing sidewall compaction by fracturing and pushing the seed slot from side to side.

"After many years of no-tilling and trying many different ideas, fighting wet springs and soggy conditions, we saw no choice but to come up with our own solution," says Wipf. "We needed a closing wheel that would work in all crop rotations and soil conditions ranging from wet, low ground to dry hilltops, without causing sidewall compaction. The Pro-Stitch closing wheel tucks the soil firmly against the seed, reduces sidewall compaction, closes the slot and operates at the minimum pressure setting for all field conditions.

"We recommend staggering the wheels, one ahead of the other, and keeping them 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 in. apart. That way the wheels run out of time due to soil pressure, creating the perfect stitch effect."

The Mud-X gauge wheel sells for \$115 each plus S&H. Closing wheels for Deere,



Pro-Stitch Mud-X gauge wheel has molded lugs built into it, which allows it to gain traction even in muddy ground. The gauge wheel also acts as a scraper, keeping the disc opener clean.

White and Kinze planters sell for \$210 per row. Case IH closing wheels with mounting brackets sell for \$275 per row.

The Pro-Stitch closing wheel for Case IH and Deere air seeders sells for \$100 each.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pro Stitch, 43274 267th St., Bridgewater, S. Dak. 57319 (ph 605 999-3503; sales@prostitchag.com; www.prostitchag.com).