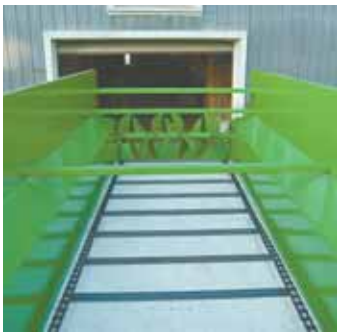

Steve Lalonde used parts from an old Massey Ferguson manure spreader to build this low-profile spreader for his poultry operation.

A hydraulic motor drives the gearbox and turns the shaft that drives the unloading chain. A variable hydraulic flow valve allows Lalonde to precisely change speeds.

Manure Spreader Ideal For Low Rate Application

Steve Lalonde could have spent $25,000 to $50,000 on a new manure spreader for his Quebec poultry operation. But, instead, he built his own to meet his specific needs for less than $15,000.

The new spreader was designed to meet three main criteria: First, it spreads as low as 1 ton/acre of manure to meet Quebec's stringent manure regulations. Second, it's not as tall as new models, which allows Lalonde to drive through his 3-story poultry barn to load manure. And third, the homebuilt spreader doesn't require a large horsepower tractor.

Lalonde used some parts from an old Massey Ferguson 205 spreader: the beater, gearbox, power shaft and frame, which has tandem wheels.

Lalonde and an employee spent many hours making the box out of 3/16-in. steel.

"We butt-jointed and welded on both sides and ground them off to be smooth," Lalonde says. "On the old spreader the steel overlapped, and dirt got in it and corroded. We wanted it to be easy to clean."

A hydraulic motor drives the gearbox and turns the shaft that drives the unloading chain. The variable hydraulic flow valve is key because it allows Lalonde to reduce and change speeds from 0 to 300 rpm's for low application rates. Two crossbars in the box also help maintain a steady height to restrict the volume of manure that goes to the back at one time.

"I tried to build it so it would be strong and last, and be simple and easy to fix," Lalonde says. "It also gave me an excuse to buy a MIG welder and a plasma cutter."

Unit can spread as little as one ton per acre of manure.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stephen Lalonde, 2890 Tullogorum Rd., Ormstown, Quebec, Canada J0S 1K0 (ph 450 829-3933; lamblalonde@gmail.com).

"Roller-Skids" Make Your Snowblower Easy To Handle

"Snow Thrower Roller-Skids make handling and maneuvering snowblowers a much easier job. They also protect surfaces from scuffing and scraping, and won't wear down like steel or plastic skids," says Bill Raftery, Raftery Design, Inc., Canton, Ohio.

Roller-Skids bolt onto both sides of a snowblower, replacing the machine's original factory skids. They consist of a tough, 1/4-in. thick glass-filled nylon housing with a 2-in. dia. nylon wheel extending down through the middle. To install, you simply unbolt the factory skids and attach Roller-Skids using the same bolts and nuts. Slots in the skid roller's housing make it easy to adjust the snowblower's scraper bar height.

"The wheels roll around easily on dry surfaces, and the skids take over on snow and ice," says Raftery. "I came up with the idea because I got tired of constantly fighting my snowblower to keep it moving in a straight line. The skids kept grabbing the concrete surface and jerking the machine left or right.

"Roller-Skids won't scratch concrete driveways and walkways like steel skids do, and they won't leave rust stains on your garage floor."

Raftery says he doesn't recommend using Roller-Skids on gravel surfaces. "They work best on asphalt and concrete drives and walkways," he says.

The Skid-Roller retails for $29.95 plus S&H. Replacement wheels retail for $9.95 plus S&H.

Roller-Skids replace snowblower's original factory skids. "The wheels roll easily on dry surfaces, and the skids take over on snow and ice," says inventor Bill Raftery.

"The Skid-Roller fits snowblowers with 2 3/4 and 3-in. bolt centers, which covers 75 percent of all snowblowers on the market," says Raftery. "For all other snowblowers with different bolt centers, we offer Universal Adapter Brackets that can be rotated to fit different bolt centers. The same kit also lets you mount practically any skids to any manufacturer's snowblower."

The Universal Adapter Bracket kit retails for $15 plus S&H.

Raftery sells wholesale to dealers only. "I don't sell retail, so I welcome dealer inquiries only. You can contact me for a dealer near you," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Raftery Design, Inc., Canton, Ohio (bill@rafterydesign.com; www.roller-skid.com).

"I have a great view of everything in front of me," says Fred Tessendorf, who bolted a 24-in. garden tiller off a Deere riding mower to the side of his skid loader.

Skid-Steer Mounted Garden Tiller

Fred Tessendorf, Sr., Lena, Ill., bolted a 4-in. piece of angle iron to quick-tach plates that attach to his skid loader and bolted a 24-in. garden tiller off a Deere 110 riding mower to it. The tiller, which is located off to the side of the skid steer, is belt-driven by an orbital hydraulic motor off a fertilizer auger. The unit's overall length is 80 in.

"It's easy to use, and I have a good view of everything in front of me. I built it entirely from stuff I already had and didn't have to buy anything," says Tessendorf.

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Tiller is belt-driven by an orbital motor off a fertilizer auger.

Easy Way To Reduce Electric Bill

You can reduce your summertime electric bill by as much as 20 percent with this do-it-yourself AC mister developed by inventor Virgil Johnson of River Falls, Wis.

The idea is to keep the air conditioner's fins wet so it cools better. "My method uses rain water so it's mineral free, and there's no cost for the water," he says. "And with no mineral deposits, I don't have to worry about buildup on the fins."

He sets up a rain barrel to catch water (275-gal. chemical totes work well) and installs a small 12-volt pump unit. A current switch mounts on the air conditioner. The AC power lead goes through the current switch, which activates the pump, sending water to a wand aimed at the AC fins.

The system is like an evaporative cooling tower and reduces kilowatt usage by 250 watts per hour or more.

"I have an old 1970's air conditioner, and with the mister it costs $40 or less to cool my house per month," Johnson says. In addition, he saves electricity by not having to run a dehumidifier.

Johnson is an industrial mechanic. He experimented with a variety of misters, pump filters and components to get the most efficiency. He sells detailed plans that can be downloaded through Gizmo Plans for $4.99 (www.gizmoplans.com). He also sells a CD on eBay for $10. Johnson says he's also available to answer questions.

Do-it-yourself mister keeps air conditioner's fins wet so it cools better.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Virgil Johnson, 218 South Falls, River Falls, Wis. 54022 (ph 715 425-8473; www.gizmoplans.com/air-conditioner-mister).