

## Robotic Turkey Lures Toms To Blind

Wayne Stang's motivation to invent a robotic turkey was to help his daughters be successful hunters. And, it has worked.

"I'm 43 and have never shot a turkey. My daughter has shot seven," Stang says.

He came up with the idea in 2012 on a windy day when his turkey calls failed to get the attention of toms 200 yards away because they couldn't hear him. Stang decided to attract them with movement and grabbed a decoy, held it above him, and crawled back and forth. It worked, and a tom came in within 100 yards. He went back to the blind, but the tom moved farther out. Stang repeated his decoy antics until he got the tom within 75 yards.

Though his daughter was unable to shoot because of a tree in the way, it got Stang thinking. To avoid future crawling, Stang researched remote-controlled toys.

"I wanted one that could handle the load and not get stuck, and that had a wide stance and low center of gravity so it wouldn't tip over," he explains.

He purchased a Mad Torque Rock Crawler remote-controlled truck for about \$180. He bent the aluminum frame to create a bracket to support an all-thread bolt that sticks straight up. He put a turkey decoy down over the bolt and fastened it in place with a screw-on carrying handle.

The flexible suspension and low torque allows Robo Turkey to roll easily over minor obstacles and up and down slight inclines. It travels as fast as 4 mph, and Stang has operated it from as far away as 250 yards. Sometimes, he has it make short runs, other times he drives the decoy out 50 yards and brings it back toward the blind. It is especially effective when toms are more aggressive at the end of the season.

Stang has also mounted a hen turkey decoy on the chassis and has experimented with rigging it to lure in coyotes.

This spring Robo Turkey helped his younger 9-year-old daughter also have a successful hunt.

Stang notes that the decoy is legal



Remote-controlled robotic turkey has a wide stance and low center of gravity.

in Nebraska, but hunters should check regulations in their states.

It really works well, he says, and his daughters love to drive Robo Turkey. Stang considered patenting the idea, but recently discovered someone had a patent pending on

a similar model.

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Hand-operated winch on one side of garage door is used to open door.

## Hand-Cranked Garage Door Opener

"I live in Minnesota and have had a lot of trouble with garage door openers because of the way ice and snow freeze them to the ground. I broke three door springs as well as the chain and sprocket clutches on electric door openers before I finally came up with my own hand-cranked opener," says Mark Klemp, Buffalo Lake, Minn.

"I mounted a 600-lb. hand winch on the left side of the door and ran steel cable straight up to one pulley and then over to a second

pulley over the center of the door. From there it runs down to the door's handle.

"The crank is at a handy height so it's easy to crank. I've been using this opener for 4 years with no problems. It's simple and it works. The only problem is that you have to get out of the car."

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Allen Kimball converted an old 3-pt. mounted, pto-driven rake into a pull-type, ground-driven unit.

## Pto-Driven Rake Converted To Ground Drive

Allen Kimball wanted a more versatile rake, so he transformed a 3-pt. mounted pto-driven unit to a pull-type ground drive. Since making the switch, he has used the rake for many years behind multiple tractors.

"It is a Harry Ferguson rake, so I know it is old," says Kimball. "It works great, laying out about a 7-ft. swath."

To make his conversion, Kimball used a gearbox from an Allis Chalmers combine, shafts and carrier bearings from an old Case cotton stripper, and a hand clutch from an old garden tractor. He removed the pto driveshaft and fabricated a tongue that attaches to the original 3-pt. hitch.

He mounted the Allis gearbox with its driveshaft and thru-shaft on the trailing end of the rake. Drive wheels attached to the thru-shaft on the gearbox and a caster wheel mounted to the leading end of the rake provide support, with coiled springs on the trailing wheel for suspension. The caster wheel also allows the rake to turn corners.

The driveshaft connects to the Case shafts and bearings. They carry power forward over the rake to the hand clutch and a roller chain with a sprocket on the original rake drive.

"I use the drawbar on the tractor's 3-pt. hitch to provide lift and lower for the rake," says Kimball. "It lets me easily adjust height on the go. I put a hinged cover over the hand clutch."

A long rod extends from the clutch to an upright lever mounted over the hitch. It can easily be reached from the tractor seat to engage or disengage the drive.

"I've decided my days of cutting, raking and baling hay are about at an end, but I haven't decided what to do with the rake. It could easily be converted back to its original design."

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## Additive Lowers Cooling Costs

When your air conditioning or refrigeration system doesn't seem to be working well, it's likely due to oil-fouling inside the system – similar to plaque building up in arteries. Eliminate the oil-fouling and the system operates more efficiently – saving money – and extending the life of the equipment. IceCOLD®, a synthetic catalyst, does that, breaking the compressor oil's surface tension so globules of compressed oil will not stick to the inner walls of the tubing, says David Pickett.

Twelve years ago, Pickett and the leading chemist of a large chemical company developed IceCOLD. It's a one-time treatment of the system and using it is similar to simply adding Freon. IceCOLD lasts the lifetime of the equipment. Besides eliminating oil-fouling, a second catalyst lowers the evaporating temperature in the system and increases the BTU capacity by 15 to 30 percent, meaning more and faster cooling.

Customers include Fortune 500

corporations, residential, and automotive customers. IceCOLD has more than 22,000 installations in more than 28 countries.

IceCOLD comes with a money back guarantee if it does not save at least 10 percent in A/C and refrigeration electrical costs. In 12 years, no one has asked for money back, Pickett says. Payback is normally a year or less. Approximate cost to install IceCOLD is \$100/ton of cooling. An average home air conditioning system uses 3 1/2 tons of cooling, which would cost about \$350.

"In refrigerated (semi) trailers the payback is usually less than 5 months," Pickett adds.

Pickett suggests those interested in IceCOLD contact Aire Serv, an HVAC franchised network with dealers and installation throughout the country.

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