

# Mid-Mount “Boom Truck” Gets Plenty Of On-Farm Use

Four years ago Greg Weaver of Shelbyville, Ind., bought a used 1999 IH 4900 mid-mount boom truck equipped with a 16-ft. bed from a local lumber company. He paid \$9,200 and couldn't be happier.

“I use it to fill my Deere 750 no-till drill with wheat and soybean seed,” says Weaver. “I’ve used both Pro Boxes and bulk bags, but find that Pro Boxes work the best. I just swing the box over the drill seed box and then open the slide gate. Filling the drill only takes a couple of minutes. I also use the truck to deliver seed to customers and to load and move machinery and lumber.”

But this isn't just a boom truck. “The truck also has a bed hoist, and by putting grain sides on it I can use it to haul grain during harvest,” says Weaver.

He can also tie down loads on the flatbed. “The bed has a series of ratchet straps built onto it, so if I want to hold down brush, boards, metal or other items I can just throw the straps over it like on a flatbed semi trailer and ratchet it down,” says Weaver.

“When you have a piece of equipment this versatile you develop friends that you didn't know you had. I've even driven the truck to farm sales and hauled purchased equipment home for neighbors.”

He bought the truck from a local lumber company that had used it as a delivery truck to pick up things that had already been palletized or bundled up. They would go to the job site and use a forklift-type attachment

with the boom to handle the pallets.

“I almost didn't buy the truck because when I first saw it they didn't have the bed raised up and I didn't realize it had a hoist. Then I saw it again later with the bed raised and decided I could use it as a grain truck,” says Weaver. “I bought a set of metal sides to go into stake pockets on the truck.”

The boom can lift loads up to 40 ft. high. “I've used the boom to set trusses when constructing buildings. I built a caged platform that works great to trim trees, replace light bulbs on tall poles and do other jobs. I've also used it to help friends.”

The boom is operated by controls located behind the cab. It folds up on itself into a 30-in. wide gap between the cab and bed.

Weaver can use the vehicle as a delivery truck to pick up machinery at sales, or pick up Pro Boxes of corn and soybean seed and later put them on a truck that takes them out to the planter or drill in the field. “The boom has a capacity of 9,500 lbs. so it has no trouble handling a Pro Box holding 2,500 lbs. of seed,” he says.

“The truck bed can legally hold up to 6 Pro Boxes. The boom only goes halfway in on the bed so first I put a box on one side and then on the other side. I start on back and work my way toward the front.

“The system eliminates the need for an expensive seed tender that's used only during the spring, and it also works faster.”

The forklift-type attachment that came with



**Greg Weaver uses his IH mid-mount “boom truck” to load Pro Boxes of soybean seed into his no-till drill. He also uses the truck to deliver seed to customers and to load and move machinery and lumber.**

the truck wasn't quite long enough to fit over the top of the Pro Box, so Weaver lengthened it by welding in new material.

“I plan to buy a remote-controlled box opening system so I can automatically open and close seed boxes from the ground,” he adds (see Vol. 37, No. 2 or contact Midwest, Inc., ph 618 458-7303; www.hoffmanmidwestinc.com).

Weaver says used mid-mount boom trucks

are becoming more available. “Industries that formerly used boom trucks have switched to using tandem axle trucks along with small 3-wheeled, all terrain forklifts. They park the truck and then use the forklift to load or unload pallets or bundles at the job site.”

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**Easy Recaps bolt in place without removing the old wheels.**

## Recap Worn Grain Drill Press Wheels

Mike McCaslin can save owners time and money by fixing worn, older, steel grain drill press wheels. His Easy Recaps snap on fast and lock in place. Repairs can even be made in the field with nothing more than a hammer and a socket set.

“Recapping press wheels the normal way can take hours, dropping the gangs and taking them apart,” says McCaslin. “Our Easy Recaps can be put in place in the field, as needed.”

McCaslin's recaps are CAD-designed to match press wheels exactly, CNC-cut into 2 pieces. Simply slip one piece over half the press wheel and pound it in place if necessary. Slip on the second half and bolt the two together.

“Some folks try welding steel on to repair a worn out press wheel,” says McCaslin. “That takes more time, and it is often difficult to weld new steel to the thin press wheels.”

McCaslin suggests calling to discuss the brand and type of press wheel. The only wheels he doesn't work with are newer, rubber tread wheels.

“There are hundreds of different sizes and

shapes of wheels,” says McCaslin. “I've got those I've already worked on in stock. If we don't, just send us one, and we can fabricate recaps to fit it.”

McCaslin says his recaps range from \$135 to \$200. Not only are they faster to put in place than new wheels, but he points out that they add structure to the wheels.

“OEM wheels use 16 gauge steel,” notes McCaslin. “We use 14 gauge for even longer life.”

McCaslin also offers a conversion recap for split press wheels. “Split press wheels work well in dry conditions,” he notes. “However, they don't leave a good furrow in dry soils. With our conversions, you can add them when soils are dry and pop them off when soils are wet. It just takes a few minutes for each.”

Check out the video of Easy Recaps at [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com).

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## He Grows Oaks That Produce Acorns in 3 to 9 Years

Plant hybrid white oak seedlings now, and within 3 to 9 years they will produce acorns, says Charlie Morse, owner of Morse Nursery in Battle Creek, Mich.

“Ninety-nine percent of our customers buy hybrid white oaks for acorn production for wildlife. They don't want to wait 20 or more years,” he says.

The white oak acorn is one of the favorite foods of deer and turkeys. Morse says he's watched wildlife go through his apple orchard to get to the acorns under his oak trees when they have heavy crops.

Hybrid white oaks occur naturally in nature from crossbreeding, but they are few and far between. Morse gathered acorns from them and started his own grove. He gathers the acorns from those trees in the fall, stores them in a humidity-controlled refrigerator and plants them in January to be ready to sell as seedlings in the spring.

“We use air root pruning, which tricks the plant to grow more lateral roots in the top 12 in. of soil. This helps speed the process of nut production,” he explains. While the seedlings above ground are short, with twice as many roots, the trees grow 2 to 3 ft./year for about five years.

“In Michigan (Zone 5) we see them produce acorns regularly by the 5th year – and almost always by the 6th or 7th year,” Morse says. Minnesota (Zone 3) takes 5 to 9 years, while warm (Zone 8) states can produce acorns in just 3 years.

The seedlings sell for \$4.50 to \$6.50 each according to volume. Morse also offers older plants, starting at \$11.50 for year-old plants. They are shipped in special packaging in containers with soil (not bare root).

Morse emphasizes that it's important to know where the seed comes from when buying stock. His seedlings start from acorns grown in Michigan, so they are cold hardy for customers in places such as Minnesota,



**Hybrid white oaks produce acorns within 3 to 9 years. Charlie Morse stores acorns from his grove in a humidity-controlled refrigerator and plants them in January, then sells the seedlings in the spring.**



yet also adaptable to warmer climates.

In addition to hybrid oaks, he sells fruit trees, chestnut trees, crab apple trees, persimmon trees and many other varieties.

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