



Tom Mauler used a 16-ft. cattle panel to make a "safety cage" that surrounds the ladder on his grain bin. It provides plenty of room for him to move freely inside cage while climbing up and down.

"Safety Cage" Added To Grain Bin Ladder

Anyone who's ever climbed an open ladder up a silo or grain bin will appreciate the modifications that Tom Mauler of Mitchell, Neb., made to the ladder on his 24-ft. tall corn bin.

"When I reached my 70's, I no longer wanted to climb the bin to open the roof door for the elevator. It didn't feel safe any more," says Mauler. "The steps were 22 in. apart, and the ladder had no backing. So I added rungs to the ladder half way between the existing rungs, and also added a metal cage - made from a 16-ft. cattle panel - around the ladder to rest my back against. I spent almost nothing to build it."

The bottom of the ladder is about 4 ft. off the ground and the bottom of the cage is about 8 ft. off the ground.

Mauler is 5 ft. 9 in. tall and weighs about 205 lbs. so he extended one side of the cage out about a foot from the ladder, providing enough room for him to move freely inside the cage while climbing up and down. "The cage is built so sturdy that if I want, I can lean back and rest against it without hanging onto the ladder," says Mauler. "The cage extends about 3 ft. above the eave so when I come down off the roof, the first thing my rear end hits is the cage and that makes me feel safe."

He did not remove the ladder from the bin to make any of the changes. "I formed the cage on the ground and then mounted it on the ladder," says Mauler. "Both the extra rungs and the cage are bolted on with 3/8-in. bolts. The cage is made from a heavy no. 9 ga. wire cattle panel that's 54 in. wide. The

panel weighs about 60 lbs."

He used a 1-ft. deep cement irrigation ditch on his farm to bend the panels. The ditch is about 1 ft. wide at the bottom and 3 ft. wide at the top. He centered each panel lengthwise over the ditch and then drove his tractor wide front-end tractor over it.

The cage is bolted to the ladder in 4 different places. To install the cage he stood the panel vertically on the ground next to the ladder, leaving just enough room to climb up the ladder. The next step was to climb up the ladder while holding onto a long 1 1/2-in. dia. rope with a hook on one end. He pulled the rope over the top rung and then brought it back down and hooked it onto the cage about 3 ft. down from the top. Then he climbed down onto the ground and started pulling on the rope with both hands, using the ladder's top rung as a pulley.

He used 24-in. long, 1-in. wide by 1/4-in. thick metal straps to do the job, pre-drilling holes in them to match existing holes in the ladder. "I sandwiched the panel wires between the straps and the ladder's side, then lined up the holes and bolted the straps on," says Mauler. "Before I could bolt the left side of the cage on, I had to use a fence stretcher to pull it in some," says Mauler.

Mauler says he's willing to provide more details on forming the cattle panel and installing it for anyone who's interested.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Mauler, 1320 S.B. Rd., Mitchell, Neb. 69357 (ph 308 623-2191).



New ice cutter comes with adjustable width runners and clamps to hold a chainsaw in place. Chainsaw is operated by a remote throttle.

Saw Holder Used To Cut Blocks Of Ice

William Miller of American Eagle Windmills says many Amish and other plain communities still use ice to refrigerate food. That's why the company came up with a new ice cutter with adjustable width runners and clamps to hold chain saws in place."

To use, a chain saw is locked in place with the remote throttle connection attached. Once the chain saw has been started, the operator can adjust the throttle and the pitch of the bar from the U-bar handle of the powder coated frame. Slush and ice chips are kicked ahead and away from the operator.

"The ice saw makes it easy to cut even-size blocks of ice," says Miller. "After making one pass, you drop one of the runners into the initial cut. Just adjust the width of the runners to adjust the width of the blocks being cut."

Miller says he and his family developed the

ice saw for their own use. "We knew what we were looking for," he says. "Last year we sent a dozen out to various Amish communities and had really good feedback. We had a lot bigger response than expected."

The ice saw accommodates a wide variety of chain saws, according to Miller. He notes that as long as it doesn't hit rock in the ice, the chain will stand up well.

"If using a chain for ice, it works best if you take the rakers off," he says. "However, never use it for wood without the rakers or you can get a kickback."

American Eagle Windmills' ice saw is priced at \$295 plus shipping.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, American Eagle Windmills, 13053 W. Ridge Rd., West Springfield, Penn. 16443 (ph 814 922-3180).

Best Buy "Icehouse"

John Miller, West Springfield, Penn.: "My icehouse from **Quality Sips** is definitely a best buy (ph 330 279-2345). I put it up 3 years ago to store ice for the icebox we use in our house. I still have ice I put in it that first winter.

"My 12 by 14-ft. icehouse came in a kit with expanded polystyrene blocks that are 16 in. thick. You just stack them in place using spray foam like mortar in between the blocks. Then when you're done, you make a V-shaped shallow gouge around the blocks at the joints and fill them with foam to seal the blocks tight. You can get the blocks as thick as you want from 10 in. to 24 in.

"The door is made with two 4 by 8-ft. sheets of treated plywood with EPS in between. The door is cut out of it and beveled enough so it can turn. The edges are memory foam. You almost feel suction when you open it.

"I had an older icehouse. The first year we were careful not to open it during the hot summer days so we didn't lose the ice. However, my new one maintains the ice so well we don't worry about it and open the door multiple times during the day. We use it as a walk-in cooler for cooling fresh milk and to keep drinking water cold. This past fall, I shot a deer on a warm day, dressed it out, skinned it and hung it in the icehouse.

"My icehouse is covered with metal siding. When I ordered the kit, which cost around \$2,500, I had the company notch the blocks for 2 by 4's set vertical and along the top and bottom of each side. The siding attaches to them.

"My icehouse takes care of 2 families. Seeing how good it works, my brother and sister and a neighbor have all bought them. I would recommend it for anyone who needs to store ice."

True Parallel Closing Linkage For Planters

Kris Schaffert came up with his new 4-Link Closer system for row crop planters to solve problems he was having with closing seed trenches on terraces, hills, washouts and other rough planting conditions.

Schaffert is the son of Paul Schaffert of Schaffert Mfg., premier manufacturer of precision planting add-ons.

The 4-Link Closer is a true parallel closing system for Deere, Kinze, Case IH, Great Plains and White planters. It has more travel than standard closing wheel systems and, when up and down movement occurs, the 4-Link Closer keeps the pitch of the

closing wheels from changing.

In contrast to standard closing wheel systems, which have a spring under the tail section, the spring is in between the parallel arms. This allows better mobility and puts less up pressure on your row units.

Can be fitted with a regular V-closing wheel kit, Schaffert's G2 fertilizer kit, and a dry fertilizer kit. Sells for around \$700 per row.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Schaffert Mfg. Co., 71495 Rd. 397, Indianola, Neb. 69034 (ph 800 382-2607 or 308 364-2607; www.schaffert.com).



Schaffert's 4-Link Closer system provides a true parallel linkage closing system for Deere, Kinze, Case IH, Great Plains and White planters.