

Made It Myself

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Photos courtesy Missouri Ruralist

Anhydrous Rig Converted Into Subtiller

By adding subtiller shanks and coulters to a "beefed up" double toolbar ammonia applicator, Jerry Gilmore, Kingdom City, Mo., has discovered a cheap way to subkill between corn rows.

Gilmore bought three 20-in. Yetter coulters, mounting them on the 3-pt. applicator's front toolbar; and three 24-in. shanks, mounting them on the rear toolbar. He figures his total cost for the subtiller at \$1,859.

Gilmore, who ridges or no-tills most of his corn, doesn't work the ground in the spring so it's often waterlogged and compacted. "Without spending a lot of money, I wanted something to loosen and aerate the soil," he says. "I already had the ammonia rig. I thought if I could make it stouter and just buy the shanks and coulters, I'd come out cheaper than buying a commercial subtiller."

Gilmore sub-tills between rows when corn is about 6 in. high - high enough that the tillage tool won't throw clods over it. "As I drive, I can see the ground lifting up, but the topsoil isn't disturbed," says Gilmore. "With the ground loosened, roots go deeper, rain soaks in, and there's a lot less runoff."

To "beef up" the rear 3 1/2 x 3 1/2 in. toolbar, Gilmore welded an identical bar on front. He also added a 1 1/2 x 7 in. channel bar on the bottom, making it a 7



x 5 in. toolbar.

Then, using 4 bolts, he clamped on each of the 24-in. long shanks. The 2 outside shanks are made by Strom Mfg.; the center shank, by Blu-Jet Mfg. The Strom shanks are equipped with pointed wings, 6 in. long and 3 in. wide; the Blu-Jet shank's point is shaped more like a foot. "I tried both types of shanks because I wasn't sure which type I'd like best," says Gilmore. "Both types work equally well."

For protection against rocks, the shanks are equipped with shearpins.

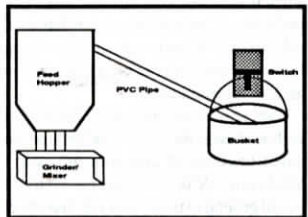
Contact: FARM SHOW Follow-up, Jerry Gilmore, Rt. 1, Box 36, Kingdom City, Mo., 65262 (ph 314 642-2364).

Automatic Auger Switch

Anyone who's ever overfilled a feed hopper, holding bin or other auger-filled bin will want to take a look at this automatic auger switch idea devised by Calvin Brubaker, West Alexandria, Ohio.

Although he could have used commercial pressure switches, the do-it-yourself shut-off was a cheap and quick solution. Brubaker simply runs a PVC pipe from just below the overflow point on the hopper to a small pail he hangs from the auger shut-off switch. When the pail fills up with grain flowing down through the pipe, the weight of it shuts off the switch. The size of the pail depends on the type of switch in use.

Brubaker, who has a farrow to finish hog operation, recently won an inventors



prize for his auger shut-off idea in a contest sponsored by National Hog Farmer Magazine.

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"Porta Pen" Contains Pigs As You Move Them

Last summer when Leo Vander Linden and his children exhibited hogs at the Iowa State Fair, they drew as much attention from their method of moving hogs to and from the show ring as in it.

The Vander Lindens, from Pella, Iowa, transport their exhibition swine from pen to pen, and between buildings, by means of a metal pen on wheels. They call it the "Porta Pen."

It's made of 3 ft. high by 4 ft. wide by 8 ft. long hog pen panels, with latched gates on each end. Four 4-in. hard rubber caster wheels, welded to the corners, allow the pen to move freely.

"At fairs you have pigs coming and going, and you can get them all mixed up. The Porta Pen works well for confining hogs while you move them, and it also comes in handy for exercising them. You don't have to worry about them getting off into the street. You just walk them along. You could move hogs right down main street if you wanted to," says Vander Linden.

His home-made Porta Pen is hinged on



Photo courtesy Iowa Farmer Today

all four corners and can be folded up like a trapezoid to any desired width, allowing it to be maneuvered through narrow aisles or gates.

Contact: FARM SHOW Follow-up, Leo Vander Linden, RR 3, Pella, Iowa 50219 (ph 515 628-1029).



Home-Built Loader Equipped With 4-Wheel Drive, 4-Wheel Steering

"It's easy to maneuver in tight places and it keeps going in tough conditions," says Frank Pexton, Douglas, Wyo., about the "4-wheel drive, 4-wheel steering" loader he built from a 1964 Chevrolet 2 ton, 2-WD truck.

According to Pexton, several farmers in his area have built similar loaders, except for one major difference - his is 4-wheel drive.

It didn't start out that way. Three years ago, Pexton had converted the Chevrolet truck to a 2-WD loader by stripping the truck's cab and box. In place of the box he mounted the loader, bolting it to brackets welded onto the truck frame.

Pexton then rotated the differential to reverse the truck's gears, so that the front axle drove "backward," or toward the loader, while the rear axle wasn't driven. He turned the steering wheel and seat around to face "backward," and enclosed them with a cab.

Last year, Pexton replaced both of the loader's axles with the front steering axles from 2 identical Oshkosh trucks

which were available for parts. With both axles steerable, Pexton now can turn in a 10 ft. circle, with the rear wheels following exactly in the front wheels' tracks.

He also installed a jackshaft lengthwise through the middle of the frame, with an arm on each end. One side of the jackshaft hooks to the tie rod of the front axle; the other side to the tie rod on the rear axle. A steering orbital motor, borrowed from an Allis-Chalmers tractor, activates a hydraulic cylinder that powers both steering axles at the same time.

The loader can be equipped with any of 3 hydraulically operated attachments - a bucket, bale unroller, or round bale fork lift. A rear-mounted hydraulic hitch allows Pexton to hook up, and unhook, to a round bale trailer without getting off the tractor. "I use the trailer a lot when gathering bales and transporting them from hay fields in the summer," adds Pexton.

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