

Pto-Powered Pressure Washer

The crew at a local Pressure Washer Warehouse came through when FARM SHOW reader Jake Iftner came looking for a pto-powered pressure washer.

"They came up with a combination of pressure washer, drive components and a stable platform that gets the job done," says Iftner. "I had a 3-pt. hitch frame from an old Oliver mower, and they added mostly off-the-shelf components."

"The biggest challenge was sizing the drive pulley on the pto shaft to the pressure washer," says Steve Barry at Pressure Washer Warehouse, Quincy, Ill. "It took a little trial and error, but now that we have it, it would be easy to do again."

Barry used a General brand pressure washer pump and set it up to operate at between 2,500 and 3,000 psi. They mounted it, a hose reel and a power transfer shaft in block bearings on a 3 by 4-ft. square platform. Only the power shaft had to be fabricated at a local machine shop.

"We used 1/4-in. steel on a framework of

2 by 3-in. channel iron," says Barry. "The channel iron was attached to an old 3-pt. yoke for a mower. Before the steel plate was welded in place, it looked a little like a bale spear."

Custom projects like this are not new to Barry. The family-owned business does a lot of fix and repair in addition to selling pressure washers, air compressors, parts, and supplies. They also operate their own pressure washing business for over-the-road transports as well as local customers. That work gives Barry a special appreciation of the importance of customer service.

"We actually got into sales and service because we couldn't find anyone to repair our pressure washing equipment within a 2-hr. drive," says Barry. "We've been in business for 2 years, and it has grown, mostly through word of mouth."

He hopes others will hear about and want a similar pto-powered pressure washer. The system ended up costing about \$2,000.

"The hard part is done, setting up the first



Jake Iftner's 3-pt. mounted, pto-powered pressure washer is made mostly from off-the-shelf components except for the power transfer shaft, which was fabricated at a local machine shop.

one," says Barry.

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"Poor Man's" Tile Trailer

"I built it for about \$1,500. Commercial rigs cost \$5,000 to \$6,000 so I saved a lot of money," says David Sager, Stirling, Ontario, about his home-built, tandem axle tile trailer. It has a tile ring 8 ft. in dia. and 10 ft. high.

The pull-type, 4-wheeled trailer is designed to hold a roll of drainage tile vertically for transport and then tip it back in the field to unroll into a trench. To load a roll, the operator removes a reel from the top end of the spool and then backs up and inserts the upright shaft through a 12-in. dia. pipe in the roll. In the field, a pair of hydraulic cylinders are used to tip the spool horizontally to the ground.

"I came up with the idea because my neighbor bought a 3-pt. mounted tile plow and I agreed to build the trailer for him,

as well as for my own use," says Sager. "I already had most of the parts that I needed."

He started with a pair of big, heavy tandem axles off an old trailer and built a frame out of 7-in. channel iron to mount on top of it. A local shop cut a turntable out of 3/4-in. thick steel plate and drilled holes in it to match the wheel hub and spindle off an old dump truck, which Sager then bolted on. He also welded spokes to a round 3/4-in. thick steel plate and to the 8-ft. dia. steel ring, which the shop also built.

"The turntable rotates on big, heavy bearings so it spins easily," says Sager.

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Home-built, tandem axle tile trailer is designed to hold a roll of drainage tile vertically for transport, then tip it back in the field to unroll.



Spraying starts automatically when vehicle drives over ramp. Disinfectant is sprayed through nozzles in the floor and 2-ft. tall side screens and reaches all around the wheels.

Drive-Over Disinfectant Ramp

To control disease on poultry and livestock farms, a British company with offices in Texas is doing a booming business with its wheel washing system. Ian Jolly of Agriwash says, "Our products are perfect for disinfecting large or small numbers of vehicles per day in a commercial or farm setting. We can install a unit that's 130 in. wide in 2 to 4 hrs. It has a 42-gal. tank and sells for \$16,499, plus shipping."

The Defender can be buried in the ground or driven over like a portable grain or material dump. The wash deck supports vehicles up to 10 tons per axle. Spraying starts automatically when a vehicle is detected driving onto the ramp. Disinfectant is sprayed through nozzles

in the floor and side screens about 2 ft. tall so it reaches all around the wheels of a vehicle and onto the undercarriage of a trailer. The misting spray provides maximum disinfectant coverage rather than a high pressure washing that completely cleans a vehicle. Nozzle configuration and fluid pressure can be modified to suit weather conditions and the types of vehicles using the systems.

Agriwash also offers a boot cleaning and disinfecting unit for poultry or livestock facilities and food processing plants.

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Electric Picker Works For Olives, Other Crops

As a California olive grower, May Chevallier immediately recognized the advantages of the ATRAX Electric 4 olive picker. Now, as a distributor for the Greek manufacturer, she is learning that the picker also works for other fruit and nut producers.

"It pays for itself right away," Chevallier says, explaining that labor costs are her biggest expense. She has had as many as 150 workers handpicking olives in her olive orchards. It takes each worker 45 minutes to harvest 20 lbs. of olives, which nets 1 liter of olive oil. The electric picker harvests 300 to 420 lbs. in an hour.

Powered by a 12-volt battery with a 45-ft. cable, the rake head with eight carbon fiber teeth shakes the branches and detaches olives from the branches.

There are other motorized pickers, Chevallier says, but the ATRAX electric 4 has several advantages.

"It has an articulating arm inside the rake head, and it's the rhythm of the shaking that does the trick," she explains. "The rake is light. The guys can go all day using it. It doesn't damage the branches or shoots that grow olives the next year."

She adds the ATRAX picker doesn't fling olives all over and picks clean with minimal leaf fall and tree damage. The 750-watt DC brushless motor has variable speeds. The olive picker sells for \$1,300 and comes with a year warranty.



Powered by a 12-volt battery, rake head uses 8 carbon fiber teeth to shake the branches, detaching olives.

Chevallier has used the olive picker for two seasons and has been able to save money and get by with fewer workers. For example, 12 people with the ATRAX picker harvested 3 tons of olives in one day. In the past, it took 24 hand pickers a few days to pick 3 tons.

The olive picker works for many tasks. Almond growers use it to harvest almonds left in the trees after they have been shaken for the main harvest. Pistachio growers use it on trees too young to be harvested by shaking. Peach growers thin blossoms.

The olive picker can be modified for different tasks. An extension lengthens the handle up to 16-ft. long. Silicone tubes can be slid on the tines to reduce bruising to harvest table olives.

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