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“Top Link Hitch” Welded To Top Of Loader Bucket

“I didn’t want to remove the bucket on my front-end loader every time I needed to use a different piece of equipment. So I added a hitch on top of the bucket that doesn’t interfere with the normal use,” says Preston Williams, Victoria, Va.

“I’ve used my bucket hitch with a 3-pt. mounted round bale fork and an 8-ft. lift boom for several years, and it works great. I have a great view in front of me and am able to carry 2 bales at a time - one on front of the tractor and one behind.”

He welded a 6-in. length of 1 1/2-in. square tubing on top of the bucket to form a post, then bent a length of 2-in. strap iron to make a loop that bolts onto the implement’s top link. The bolt acts as a hinge and allows the loop to be flipped up and over the post.

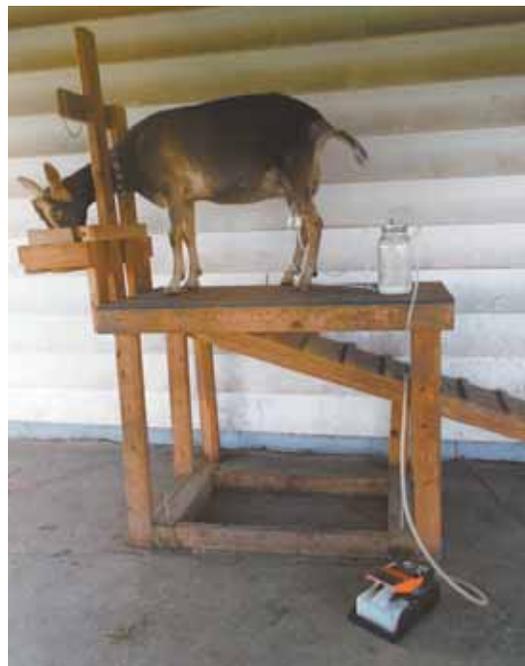
“The loop hangs loosely on the post, which allows all the implement’s weight to rest on top of the bucket. The bottom part of the implement rests against the bottom of the bucket,” says Williams. “I made sure to put a



Bolt acts as a hinge and allows loop to be flipped up and over post.

good, thick weld on the post so it can’t break off. I also drilled a hole near the top of the post to insert a bolt that keeps the loop from accidentally jumping off.”

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Homemade goat milker uses a foot-powered brake drum bleeder to create a vacuum that holds teat cups on and pulls milk into glass jar.

Foot-Powered Brake Bleeder Powers Milker

By Klaire Howerton

Using only a foot-powered brake drum bleeder and a 1/2-gal. glass jar, Jim Criger, Springfield, Mo., put together a milking machine that he uses to milk goats.

To make a jar system that would hold the milk and attach to the pump, he drilled 3 holes in the jar’s metal lid to accommodate 3 thread-on hose barb. Rubber seals on the top and bottom of the lid form an airtight seal around the hose barb. A 2-ft. length of thin plastic tubing leads from 2 of the hose barb to a pair of 35 ml plastic syringes that serve as teat cups. Another length of tubing leads

from the third hose barb to the brake bleeder.

Pushing up and down on the brake bleeder pedal creates a vacuum that holds the teat cups on and pulls the milk into the jar. Once the goat has been milked, the jar’s lid is removed and the milk poured into a stainless steel pail.

Criger says his homemade milker can milk 4 goats in half an hour.

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Lamb barrel feeder has five 4 by 6-in. holes cut into one side, about 1 ft. from the bottom.

Low-Cost “Barrel Feeder” For Lambs

Old 55-gal. barrels can be converted into portable lamb feeders that cost almost nothing to build, says Tom Neuberger, Canistota, S. Dak.

He removes the lid from a barrel and uses a torch to cut five 4 by 6-in. holes into one side, about 1 ft. from the bottom. “I cut a steel plate to size and place it against the barrel so I can draw lines for the holes. Then I cut them out,” says Neuberger.

He then places the barrels against a fence or building and dumps 5-gal. buckets of ground feed into them.

“Each barrel can feed up to 5 lambs at a

time,” says Neuberger. “I use the barrels on lambs from the time they’re weaned until their heads are too big to fit into the holes. The holes are too small for their mothers.”

“Placing the barrels against a fence or building makes it less likely the lambs can tip them over. However, as the lambs grow they can get their head stuck inside the hole and tip the barrel over as they struggle to get out. I make sure not to keep the barrels outside for too long so that doesn’t happen.”

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Add-on step slips into pickup’s receiver hitch. Lengths of square tubing support welded on sides of pickup.

He Added Steps To His Ford Pickup

John Herren made it easier to access the bed of his F-350 4-WD pickup by adding steps that look like they could have been part of the truck’s design.

“The top of the bed is 39 in. from the ground,” he says. “So I made steps to slip into the hitch so I can reach over the tailgate or climb in the bed with the gate down.”

He used 20-in. long pieces of 2 1/2-in. square tubing to reach the sides of the trucks and welded on 8 by 10-in. steps made of 1 1/2-in. tubing covered with aluminum deck

plating.

“The steps are easy to take off. You just pull a cotter pin to remove,” Herren says.

Since there is plenty of clearance, he leaves the steps on. People have commented that they look great, and Herren appreciates the convenience of being able to step up for easier access to his pickup bed.

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