Paul Row came up with an inexpensive way to move snow by adapting an old 42-in. wide snowblower to his Nissan forklift. A cordless drill, controlled from the cab, is used to rotate the chute back and forth.

Forklift-Mounted Snowblower

"I doubt if there's anything on the market like it. I couldn't be happier with how it turned out," says Paul Row, Springfield, Ontario, who adapted an old 42-in. wide snowblower to his Nissan forklift.

The 1990's Sears single stage blower was originally designed to be belt-driven by a big riding mower. He used steel tubing to make a mounting frame for it, equipped it with a pair of fork slots, and welded it onto the blower.

The hydraulic hoses used to "side shift" the pallet forks on the forklift were redirected to operate a hydraulic motor that Row mounted on the blower, just under the forks. A cordless drill controlled from the cab is used to rotate the chute back and forth.

At 42 in. wide, the blower was narrower than the forklift and Row didn't want to drive the forklift wheels over deep snow, so he welded wings and skid shoes onto both sides of the blower making it 48 in. wide.

The side shift hydraulics couldn't operate the hydraulic motor fast enough to blow snow out as far as he wanted, so he added two sets of pulleys and belts onto the blower to increase auger speed from 200 to 1,000 rpm's.

"Using a forklift this way is an inexpensive way to move snow. With chains on the tires, it has a lot of traction," says Row. "I came up with the idea because my wife Cathy and I operate a rural business building custom furniture and interiors for high end restaurants, mostly in Toronto. We use the forklift around our shop to move things and to load and unload trucks. We needed to clear snow off our driveway and yard, but I have no need for a tractor.

Row can tilt the snowblower up or down, or raise it 6 ft. high to remove the top of big snow drifts.

"If I want I can tilt the snowblower up or down, or raise it 6 ft. high to remove the top of a snowdrift or a big pile of snow. Being able to lift the snowblower high also works great in our shop, because we can service the machine without having to lay on the floor."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul Row, 14063 Putnam Road, Springfield, Ontario Canada N0L 2J0 (ph 519 808-1315; info@creativebuild.ca).

Hog Rooting Fixer comes with 3-pt. connectors for mounting a 60-in. reverse tine tiller to break up clods. A rear-mounted blade spreads them out.

Tool Designed To Fix Wild Hog Damage

When wild hogs root up a field or pasture, you can repair the damage fast with the Hog Rooting Fixer. The 3-pt. mounted unit consists of a rotary tiller to break up clods and a rear blade to spread them out.

"We are getting a lot of interest, especially from farmers in Texas," says Bernie Sopel, Fabrication S Houle, Inc.

The 850-lb. Fixer is 84 in. wide. It requires a 40 to 60 hp. tractor, and has 3-pt. connectors for mounting a 60-in. reverse tine tiller.

The rear section with blade connects to the front frame via a parallelogram system. Its 3-in. dia., 6-in. stroke hydraulic cylinder allows lifting and leveling independent of the 3-pt. linkage on the tractor.

The Hog Rooting Fixer is priced at $4,500 without a rotary tiller.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fabrication S Houle, Inc., 300 Industrial Blvd., St-Germain-de-Grantham, Quebec Canada J0C 1K0 (ph 819 395-4380; toll free 888 404-4380; info@shoule.com; www.shoule.com).

Do-It-Yourself Drain Tile Tools

You can fix your field drainage tile yourself using digital locators, push rod transmitters, and push rod cameras from Accurate Laser Systems (ALS). The high-tech tools make it easy to fix broken tile lines or add new tile to existing systems.

"A large number of our customers are farmers doing their own repairs or adding drainage," says Bill Rawn, ALS. "A farmer or contractor can come in, find an exit for an old tile line, and trace the entire system, mapping it as they go. Using a camera on a push rod, they can identify where existing laterals are and identify where new laterals can be brought in."

As the old line's path and laterals are identified, new entry points can be created when the push rods reach their limit. This allows the tile layer to build a complete picture of existing drainage across the field with minimal disruption.

"Our 600-ft. Jameson transmitter push rod is a 7/16-in., fiberglass rod, coated with high-density poly, with an 18 ga. copper line down its center," says Rawn. "The brass fittings at either end bounce the signal back and forth across the length of the rod. Using the Gen-Eye Hot Spot Pipe Locator, an operator can simply follow the line from above ground, recording the lay and the depth as he goes. Using a GPS handheld device, he can map it as he goes or flag it and map it later."

ALS sells cameras on 200-ft. push rods. Rawn recommends teaming a camera push rod up with a transmitter push rod to reinforce it. "Attaching the two gives the camera push rod a little more backbone as it encounters dirt and debris in the bottom of the tile line," he says.

"The WI-FI camera sends a signal to your phone or iPad," says Rawn. "You can record video, take still pictures, and send them out from the field. The other benefit of the WI-FI connection is the person running the locator is looking at what is right below his feet."

Do-it-yourself drain tile tools include digital locators, push rod transmitters, and push rod cameras.

He notes that some tile lines still in use can be 100 years old or more. He says it's only fitting that the newest technology can help ensure that the old technology continues to function as intended.

The Geneye Hot Spot Locator and Transmitter sells for $2,800. A Jameson 600-ft. locatable push rod is priced at $2,200, and the Gen-Eye Pod with 200-ft. push rod and WI-FI camera sells for $6,600.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Accurate Laser Systems, 2285 N. Tobey Dr., Indianapolis, Ind. 46219 (ph 317 873-5611; brawn@acuratelasersystems.com; www.accuratelasersystems.com).

Flexible row sensors (yellow) mounted on front of this self-propelled sprayer steer the machine between rows, keeping it on course and preventing crop damage.

Flexible Row Sensors Auto-Steer Implements

A new generation of pinpoint steering accuracy from a Minnesota company eliminates many of the problems associated with traditional GPS systems that triangulate off satellites, towers, and equipment antennas.

Tactile Row Guidance (PSR TAC) from Reichhardt Electronics operates much like a traditional blind-navigation cane used by a visually impaired person. On a self-propelled sprayer or applicator, for example, 2 durable synthetic sensors hang between rows of growing crops on each side of the machine. As the sensor bends when striking growing crops in the row, a digital signal is sent to the steering system keeping the machine on course. The system also works on combines where sensors are mounted between two snouts on four rows for harvesting row crops.

Reichhardt's Carol Paquin says the PSR TAC system guides a sprayer, tractor or combine exactly where the rows are, not where a traditional GPS system thinks they might be. It works on 20, 22 or 30-in. rows. Paquin says the system allows equipment to follow rows on contours, around corners or in whatever configuration they're planted, regardless if a GPS system was used for planting. In field spraying or fertilizer applications, the machine stays between the rows to reduce crop damage.

Paquin says the PSR TAC allows the operator to focus on application or harvesting activity while reducing fatigue and equipment errors due to inattentiveness or accidental mis-steering.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Reichhardt Electronic Innovations, 12 First Street South, Sabin, Minn. 56580 (ph 218 677-1001; www.reichhardt.com).