



Kyle Pennings and his brother can till and add baled corn stalks at the same time with this home-built unroller that's mounted over a 3-pt. tiller.



Unroller was built by welding 2-in. steel fingers onto two 8-in. dia. rollers and building a frame to hold the bale.

## Handy Unroller Tills And Adds Compost To Bedded Pack

Kyle Pennings and his brother, Trevor, built an unroller to save time and fuel in their compost bedded dairy barn. Each day they use it to unroll about half a bale of cornstalks for bedding for 30 cows.

They designed the unroller to fit over a tiller so they can till and add corn stalks at the same time.

"We've been doing bed pack for a long time and went with compost bedding for cow comfort," Pennings says of their Ontario dairy operation. "Before, we had to run another tractor and run the bale through a bale chopper. Now we can do it all at once, and it's a one-person job."

The brothers used the chain guard from a

Butler silo unloader, welded 2-in. fingers of 1/4-in. flat bar on two 8-in. rollers, and built a square tubing/plywood frame to hold the bale. The unroller works off hydraulics, while the tiller is powered off the pto and 3-pt. hitch.

Between going through the unroller and the tiller on the second day, the cornstalks break down enough to compost, Pennings says.

"It only takes about 5 minutes to work up the pack by tilling and spreading at the same time," he notes.

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## Boat Jack Mounts On Grader Hitch

We love simple ideas, especially when they save backs and time. That was Maurice Helmka's goal when he purchased a \$25 boat trailer jack for the grader he uses to level his driveway.

"I back up the tractor, crank up the grader to the arms of the 3-pt. hitch and there's no lifting or back work involved," Helmka says.

The bracket for the jack tightens with bolts on the grader's hitch without drilling or welding, and the swing back design allows

the jack to be stored horizontally when not in use.

"Another trick is that I put the blade on 4x4s and the wheel of the jack on a wood platform when I store it, so it pivots back and forth easily to line up with the tractor's 3-pt. hitch," Helmka adds.

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Boat trailer jack mounted on grader hitch makes 3-pt. hookup easy.

## He Builds Bucket Auger Feeders

Filling calf feed bunks got easier for Rob Uhlenhake after he built a skid loader bucket with an auger and side chute.

The Iowa farmer buys 500-lb. beef calves and feeds them grain for about a week before switching to a TMR feed.

"We were feeding by hand with buckets and it took an hour. Now it takes about 15 minutes," he says, noting he based his design on a neighbor's sand shooter bucket.

Uhlenhake built a 72-in. wide bucket with a foot-long section of auger tubing protruding from one side. The skid loader's auxiliary hydraulics power an orbit motor to turn the 6-in. auger inside the bucket. The motor is protected inside steel housing that can easily be opened for maintenance and repairs.

"I can shut it on and off and can run the auger backward, so it doesn't dribble feed," he says.

Though he uses it to continuously auger into feed bunks, other producers turn the auger on and off as they fill buckets.

Since building the bucket for himself in 2010, Uhlenhake has built nearly 20 for others at \$2,200 apiece.

The bucket holds up to 1,000 lbs. of corn. He also uses it for medicated feeds and alfalfa pellets. It can also unload silage if fitted with a larger 10-in. auger.

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Home-built skid loader bucket is equipped with an auger and side chute that makes filling feed bunks an easy job.

## Side Dump Trailer Equipped With Two Steering Axles

This new-style trailer dumps off to the side for quick unloading of a variety of materials. Both axles steer for great maneuverability.

The 4 by 10-ft. trailer handles loads of up to 2,500 lbs. and empties out in just a few seconds. A pendant-operated hydraulic cylinder, powered by a self-contained electro/hydraulic motor and pump, acts as a scissors lift to tilt the deck. Any small tractor or 4-wheeler can be used to pull the trailer.

"It was designed for use in greenhouses and nurseries where there's often very little room to turn around. It's very difficult to back up a trailer with two steering axles, so we designed it to side dump," says Ray King, King's Industries, LLC, Hubbard, Oregon. "To unload the trailer, you just pull a couple

of pins and drop one side of the box down, and then use the cylinder to tilt. If you want you can fold the back side of the box down, too."

King says nurseries use the trailer when digging out and replacing older plants, and to change out the soil in potted plants. But not all of his customers are in the nursery or greenhouse business. "One customer used his trailer to fill in a ditch with gravel. He tilted the deck at a slight angle, then drove alongside the ditch and used a rake to pull the material down," says King.

Sells for \$6,800.

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Side dump trailer is built with a scissor lift for quick unloading. Both axles steer for great maneuverability.