



Barker uses old 60-ft. wide, 5-section Noble cultivators to make portable windbreaks that can be easily moved. Corrugated tin sheets bolt onto cultivator frame.



He moves the windbreak between harvested grain sorghum and milo fields where his cattle graze.

Field Cultivator Converted To Portable Windbreak

Gary Barker, Pratt, Kansas, built a portable windbreak on the frame of a 60-ft. wide, 5-section Noble Crustbuster field cultivator. He uses it in harvested grain sorghum and milo fields where his cattle graze temporarily, and tows it behind his tractor from field to field. The tractor stays hitched to the windbreak at all times to keep high winds from tipping the windbreak over.

"It rides on wheels and folds up to only about 15 ft. wide as we drive it down the road from one field to another," says Barker.

The cultivator came with a 14-ft. wide center section and a 23-ft. wide wing on each side, which fold behind the center when in transport. Barker unbolted all the cultivator shanks and then bolted a metal framework on top of the cultivator frame to make it 8 ft. tall. He then cut the corrugated tin sheets in pieces about 8 ft. high and bolted them on. There's an 8-in. wide gap between the sections where they hinge together. Barker filled the gaps in with lengths of rubber inner tubing.

He installed hinges on the bottom part of

the cultivator frame and used metal pins to attach the tin sections to them. "When I want to drive on the road I pull out the pins and then fold the bottom tin sections up out of the way. When I get to the next field I fold them back down again. They end up just a couple inches off the ground."

Barker parks the windbreak out in the open for a week or two at a time before moving it to the next field. "If the wind shifts directions, we can easily start the tractor and reposition it," explains Barker.

Barker also converted another 60-ft. field cultivator into a windbreak, and has a couple others that he may convert in the future. "My dad was a shortline dealer years ago and sold hundreds of these cultivators, until farmers started using heavier cultivators that could dig deeper," notes Barker.

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Bale Unroller Mounts On Bale Spear

Ed Brouwer couldn't justify the cost of a commercial round bale unroller, so the Osoyoos, B.C., rancher came up with a low-cost solution by mounting a pair of rear wheels off a garden tractor onto his loader tractor. The wheels are attached to short lengths of pipe, which fit onto a pair of 2-ft. long stabilizer bars on the loader's bale spear.

The 16-in. high wheels, spaced 4 ft. apart and about 30 in. off the ground, spin freely. Each wheel is attached to a short steel pipe that slips over the stabilizer bar. Brouwer welded a rectangular metal bracket onto the end of each pipe and welded an axle rod across each. Once the wheels were in position, he drilled a small hole at the outer edge and, using a washer and cotter pin, locked in the wheels.

To unroll a bale, he just drives forward and

pushes the wheels against the bale. The bale spear easily clears the top of the bale.

"It's a simple, low-cost system with almost nothing to go wrong," says Brouwer, who runs a horse rescue and equine retirement center. "The biggest advantage is that I can use the bale spear to move bales around and then use the unroller to unroll them. If I want to use the tractor to unroll another bale, I tilt the bale spear down and back away. The wheels just fall off the stabilizer bars," says Brouwer.

"It only took about a half hour to build. In fact, it took longer to paint the unroller than to build it."

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Two-wheeled unroller fits onto a pair of 2-ft. long stabilizer bars on loader-mounted bale spear.

4-Wheeler "Sled" Made From Pickup Bed Liner

This pull-type sled made from an old plastic pickup bed liner is inexpensive and almost indestructible, according to inventor Cory Setcoski, McMillan, Mich.

The sled measures 6 ft. long by 2 ft. wide and has 1 1/2-ft. high sides. Setcoski pulls it behind his 4-wheeler and uses it to haul firewood as well as hunting and fishing gear.

"It's big enough to haul a cord of firewood weighing 1,500 lbs. over snow that's up to 12 in. deep," says Setcoski. "It looks somewhat similar to the Jet Sled sold at many sporting goods stores. However, the Jet Sled sells for \$100 or more and isn't nearly as durable as my sled."

He got the pickup liner from a neighbor who had planned to toss it. He cut a 55-gal. plastic barrel in half lengthwise to make 2 halves, then bolted them side by side on front of the liner so that it will ride smoothly on top of the snow without bogging down. He drilled a 2-in. dia. hole where the barrel halves overlap and inserted a heavy duty tow strap. One end of the strap attaches to

the 4-wheeler's hitch, and the other end to a big V-shaped length of angle iron that's the width of the sled. As the sled is pulled, the angle iron pulls against its entire front end to spread the load out and keep the tow strap from pulling through the hole.

"It worked out better than I thought it would and looks good. It still has the pickup fender wells on it, but that just adds character," says Setcoski. "I painted the barrels black to match the color of the bedliner. When bolting the barrels onto the sled, I added big washers to keep the bolt heads from pulling through. I also bolted a 2 by 6 'stopper' on back of the liner to keep material from sliding off as I drive.

"I use it primarily to haul firewood out of our woods in early winter, before the snow gets too deep and we can't drive our 4-wheeler without getting stuck. I could pull the sled behind a snowmobile, but a snowmobile would be even more likely to get stuck while pulling a big load."

Setcoski lives on a lake and says the sled



Setcoski cut a 55-gal. plastic barrel in half lengthwise to make 2 halves, then bolted them on front of plastic pickup bed liner.

comes in handy for ice fishing. "I use the sled to haul our fold-up ice fishing shack onto the lake and also to haul other stuff back and forth," he notes.

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