Handy Articulated Tiller Cart

Sieber replaced walk-behind tiller's tines with wheels, and attached the power unit to a homemade cart.

When Paul Sieber built his "tiller cart" a couple decades ago, he had no idea how much his son, Del Sieber, would later appreciate it.

"Dad was an inventive person. He took old things and would find usefulness for them," Del explains.

When Paul bought a new tiller, he figured the old tiller would make a handy cart. He removed the tines, replaced them with wheels, and attached the power unit with a bolt to a cart that he made with an axle, angle iron, and plywood.

"The frame holds the bolt that connects to the tiller, and it articulates. As you turn the tiller, it pivots on the bolt," Del says, noting the cart is very stable.

It's also very handy with a basket and back shelf to haul tools and other items. That's become important for Del, who has a genetic bone condition.

"It became a way for me to get around a lot easier," he says, whether it's to the mailbox or the garden. He's used it for about 18 years, and when the old tiller engine died he replaced it with a 5 hp. engine. His wife made it more comfortable with a foam seat covered with vinyl.

Del doesn't go fast with it and it has no reverse, but it gets him where he needs to go. Using it also gives him good memories about his dad.

"I use it more than Dad did," Del says, and he plans to take good care of it in his memory.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Del Sieber, 1642B C.R. 500 E., Champaign, Ill. 61822 (ph 217 778-6283; dsieb@juno.com).

"As I turn the tiller, it pivots on a bolt," says Sieber.

Pvc conduit frame is covered with bird netting that's secured by twist ties.

Netting Saves Berries From Birds

We like the simple solution John Eckhardt came up with to protect his wife, Misty's, strawberries from birds. Eckhardt, who works in the wholesale electric supply business, used something he is familiar with - 3/4-in. pvc conduit.

He cut 6 legs (18 to 24-in.) for each of the three 6 by 10-ft. beds and used elbows to connect conduit on each end and in the middle. He added pvc T's to run conduit down the middle for one half and, because there isn't 4-way pvc, he butted the other conduit piece to the middle and secured it with a hose clamp.

"At first I put metal rods in the ground to slip the conduit over, but then I found I could just put the conduit in the ground about 4-in.," Eckhardt says.

The couple covered the frame with bird netting and used twist ties to secure it to the conduit. The ties along with the bricks and rocks holding down the ends of the netting are easy to remove when berries are picked.

Eckhardt used 4 1/2 pieces of 10-ft. conduit for each bed and spent less than $50 to make frames for the three beds.

"It worked good and kept the birds out of the strawberries," he says. The setup would work in raised beds or in a regular garden.

After the strawberries were harvested, he disconnected the middle conduit and zip-tied the pieces for each bed in separate bundles to store over the winter until spring.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Eckhardt, 606 S. Nance Ave, Minden, Neb. 68959 (ph 308 832-5071; john.eckha@gmail.com).

Fence Unroller Adjusts For 2 Or 4-WD Pickups

Ez Fenzer comes with a 2-ft. long, L-shaped "drop hitch" bracket that attaches to fencer and fits into pickup's receiver hitch.

"My new Ez Fenzer fence unroller/stretcher can be easily adjusted for use on both 2 and 4-WD pickups. It also works great on tractors and skid loaders," says Philip Runion, Live Oak, Fla.

The patented fencer is designed to handle 330 ft. of 48-in. tall rolls of woven or welded wire. It comes with a separate 2-ft. long, L-shaped "drop hitch" bracket that attaches to the fencer and fits into the pickup's receiver hitch. Made from 2-in. sq. tubing, the bracket has 2 sets of holes. It slips into a short length of tubing welded onto one side of the Ez Fenzer's frame and pins on with 2 bolts. The bracket has 2 sets of holes in it, allowing you to move the bracket up or down 2 in. depending on the height of the pickup's receiver hitch.

"Whether it's on a 2 or 4-WD pickup, the roll always stays about 2-in. off the ground to keep it from dragging," says Runion. "It lets you keep the roll as low to the ground as possible without dragging so you don't have to stretch the fence at an upward angle."

The Ez Fenzer also can be used with a 3-pt. adapter hitch for use on a tractor, or a 2-pt. hookup that quik taches to a skid loader. The MSRP price for the Ez Fenzer is $389. You can watch a video of it in action on the company website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Philip Runion, 9015 137th Road, Live Oak, Fla. 32060 (ph 386 515-2170; sales@ezfenzer.com; www.ezfenzer.com).

Bracket slips into a short length of tubing welded onto one side of Ez Fenzer's frame and pins on with 2 bolts.

"$5" Loader-Mounted Truss Lifter

"We call it our $5 telehandler. It was super easy to build," says Jack Agnew, Gum Spring, Va., about the "truss lifter" he and sons John and Cory built to help construct a new 55 by 105-ft. pole barn.

"Years ago when I served in the military I learned about something called field expediency," says Agnew. "The motto is, 'I've done so much with so little for so long that I can do anything with nothing in no time at all.'"

The men came up with the idea because they needed to raise 21-ft. long wooden beams about 20 ft. high, and then bolt them into corresponding notches cut into the building's posts. "The beams were made from 3-in. thick by 15-in. wide white oak wood, so they were way too heavy to lift by hand," says Jack.

He used 5-in. square white oak and 2 by 4's to build a pair of 10-ft. long vertical "extenders", which he notched at the bottom and top. The extenders slip over the back part of the 4-ft. long forks on his loader tractor, and are chained and padlocked to a steel backstop that came with the forks.

Agnew uses home-built loader-mounted truss lifter to raise wood beams up to 20 ft. high, then bolts them into notches cut into building's posts.

To help load the beam onto the extenders, he bolted notched wooden brackets 10 ft. up on a pair of tall wooden posts.

"I used the forks to pick up the beam on the ground and my sons set it on edge so I could place the beam into the post brackets," says Agnew. "Next I loaded the beam onto the extenders and slowly drove the tractor to a pair of the building's 19 1/2-ft. tall posts, where I raised the loader up and over the other side of the posts. My sons were there to fit the beam into the notches and bolt it on. One son stood on a tall ladder and the other on a homemade portable scaffold."

The 21-ft. beam weighs about 365 lbs., so Agnew had to be very careful while driving the tractor. "With the beam raised so high, the leverage on the loader is incredible. I made sure I always drove on level ground to avoid tipping over."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jack Agnew, 4605 Fox Chase Run, Gum Spring, Va. 23065 (ph 804 556-3377).