

Mobile Grain Cart Deer Stand

Mark Crampton can take his mobile deer stand to the deer with an ATV if he wants. The 4 by 8-ft. box with shooting slots sits on top of an old, gravity flow grain wagon. Small platforms on either end with ladders give him easy access.

"I wanted a deer stand I could move around my 300 acres without tearing it down and dragging it with me," says Crampton. "We had the old grain wagon sitting in a field, so I used it.

"I had some 6 by 6 posts that I set on top of the wagon with a forklift," says Crampton. "The first year I just had some plywood sides on it, but it was very cold. I decided to build an enclosed one."

To make it easier, he built the stand on the ground. He framed it in with 2 by 2s and covered them with plywood. He sloped the roof from 6 1/2 ft. on one long side to 6 ft. on the other. Shooting slots are 14 in. high and run the length of the stand on both sides. Crampton also left small 14-in. square slots on either end.

"A neighbor lifted it into place with his tractor and loader," he says. "I laid 2 by 6's against it and nailed them to both the base



Crampton mounted a 4 by 8-ft. plywood box on top of an old gravity flow grain wagon to make this mobile deer stand.

and the stand to secure it in place."

The first year he left the slots open. "I got my deer first thing, but my brother-in-law sat there all day and got pretty chilled," says Crampton. "The next year I covered the slots with Plexiglas hinged to drop down for shooting."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Crampton, 29760 108 St., Staples, Minn. 56479 (ph 218 894-0550; mc429760@gmail.com).

Giant Bag Cleans Up Leaves Fast

If you get frustrated by the small capacity of your riding mower's bagger attachment – especially when picking up leaves - you might like this 54 cu. ft. leaf bag that simply ties on over your bagger's blower housing and drags behind the mower as you chop leaves.

It sells for \$59.50 and is made from an abrasion-resistant poly fabric that keeps dust in but lets air pass through. A drawstring at the top holds it in place. When it's full, you just loosen the drawstring and dump it out.

Contact: <https://www.sensefabulous.com/products/leaf-bag>.



Big leaf bag ties on over blower housing on mower's bagging attachment, and drags behind as he chops leaves.

Heavy-Duty Choppers, Tillage Tools Work On Minimum Horsepower

D.H. Welding modifies heavy-duty horse-drawn stalk choppers, chisel plows and more for use with compact and smaller utility tractors. Unlike some small farm equipment, these are high quality and built to last.

"We started making equipment for horse farmers, but people would see our ads and ask if they wouldn't fit compact tractors, too," says Daniel Herschberger, D.H. Welding. "With our horse-drawn chisel plow, we recommend 2 horses per chisel. With the tractor-drawn or mounted unit, we recommend 15 hp. per tooth or 45 hp. for a 3-shank chisel plow."

Herschberger's chisel plow frame is fabricated with 3/16-in. thick, 4 by 4-in. square tubing. The fixed 1 1/4 by 2-in. shanks were specially selected for durability.

"We went with one of the heavier shanks I could find," says Herschberger. "We've been making them for 10 years and have yet to have one break. Spring reset shanks are an option, but for a standard unit, we wanted something affordable that works. The chisel plows are priced at \$1,850."

D.H. Welding's stalk choppers are equally heavy-duty and their rugged design attracts customers. Herschberger notes that most heavy-duty stalk choppers are available in 25 to 30-ft. widths, but are less common in 3 to 4-row models.

"We also make 2-row models upon request," he says. "We've done custom models as well, including a 6-ft. wide chopper for a skid steer. We had never done one, so I rented a skid steer and tried it out. It chewed down 3-in. diameter tree trunks and weeds taller than the cab."

Hoods are 3/16-in. mild steel, and end plates are 1/4-in. thick with a 1/4-in., ultra high weight poly liner inside it.

"A liner makes the stalk chopper a little heavier, but it also extends the life," says Herschberger. "Initially we went with AR400 abrasion resistant steel, but the poly liner is

almost as abrasion resistant. It is lighter and easier to install."

To add to durability, Herschberger opted for gearboxes designed for Deere harvesters that have been reconstructed with a power unit in place of the gearbox.

"It is really over-engineered for our 10 and 12-ft. choppers, but it is less expensive than the alternative C-1, a new \$2,000 gearbox that is not built as well," he says.

The flails are an old style Brady Cut design made from a special steel and sent out for hardening after the mounting hole is cut. Herschberger says they create more vacuum than side flails pulling leaves and stalks up and into the chopper.

"The increased vacuum reduces the amount of dirt getting mixed in and keeps the chopper up off the ground," says Herschberger. "This also reduces the likelihood of hitting rocks."

With a 10-ft. stalk chopper, he recommends a 90 hp. forecart for use with horses and 10 to 15 hp. per ft. of width for tractor-pulled units. Herschberger prices the 10-ft. chopper at \$9,800. He charged \$3,800 for the 6-ft. skid loader mounted design.

Herschberger also makes a line of 85 and 110-bushel manure spreaders, which are his biggest sellers. A more unique piece of equipment is his Model 250 Woodsman Saw. The 3-pt. mount, pto-powered buzz saw is ideal for the small woodland owner cutting firewood. Set a piece of wood on the 40-in. spring-loaded table and push it forward into the saw. Release the pressure, and it springs back into place between the saw and the operator.

The saw blade is chrome-nickel treated to hold a better cutting edge and hand hammered to eliminate surface distortion or deflection. The 20-in. blade offers a 12-in. depth of cut. It is priced at \$1,850.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, D.H. Welding, 459 Valley Rd., Quarryville, Penn. 17566 (ph 717 806-0129).



Pto-operated RamPack silage bagger uses dual plungers to fill plastic forage bags, instead of a rotor or auger. A flywheel and plunger reduce the power needed.



Plunger Packer Fills All Ag Bags

The revolutionary silage bagger featured in FARM SHOW (Vol. 41, No. 3) is now market ready. The RamPack was developed over an 11-year period by Mike Koelker, Dyersville, Iowa, and field-tested in 2017. With 2 1/2 years of fine-tuning by Strobel Manufacturing, the RamPack is now being sold in limited numbers in Iowa and nearby states.

"We want to work closely with the users for the first year to be sure the RamPack is as bulletproof as possible," says Mike Schippers, Strobel Manufacturing. "We've designed it to be user friendly and easy to operate. There are no computers, just a simple and efficient mechanical system."

Strobel has stayed close to Koelker's original concept for a multi-purpose bagger to handle silage, haylage, forage grain and dry hay. Rotary or auger-fill machines need a large horsepower tractor. The RamPack uses old school technology of a rotating flywheel with dual clutches and plunger. It offers a 50 percent savings in fuel and reduces the power needed to 80 hp. It also packs the maximum tonnage per linear foot into the bag.

"We enhanced the design, replacing auger fighting with a horizontal belt for better material flow and less impact on the forage," says Schippers. "We have no fingers or augers to distort dry matter by pressing or squeezing the nutrients out. As one nutritionist told us, the silage is perfect, just the way it came out of the chopper."

Other refinements included reinforcing the gearbox and the driveshaft to the plunger with double pillow-block bearings on either end.

"We wanted to take out any chance of

malfunction and reduce possible wear," says Schippers. "We also went to mechanical brakes instead of hydraulic, eliminating inconsistent hydraulic oil flow that happens with changing temperatures."

One thing that didn't change is the rugged nature of the design. The RamPack weighs 16,000 lbs., 11,500 of which are steel. Every bit of the machine is American made.

"We wanted a machine that was totally reliable and dependable," says Schippers. "This summer we finalized our design with 2 prototypes, running every type of forage material and moisture content available through them."

The final price will depend on the options selected by the buyer, notes Schippers. "It will be competitive with other baggers, if toward the upper end, but it offers a lot more in economy, low horsepower and ease of operation. It takes 5 min. to set up and the same to tear down. No need to drag a bag underneath."

Options will include a bag-lift crane on the rear and a hopper insert allowing a grain cart to dump directly. The company also plans to offer a rear discharge in addition to the current side discharge.

"We accommodate all side-dump wagons now, but custom operators want to be able to use rear discharge semis and wagons as well," notes Schippers. We want to further enhance usability for the custom bagger."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Strobel Manufacturing, 105 S. Green St., P.O. Box 237, Clarks, Neb. 68628 (ph 308 548-2254; sales@strobelmfg.com; strobelmfg.com).



D.H. Welding modifies horse-drawn stalk choppers (left) and chisel plows for use with compact and small utility tractors.