



**Dennis Gingrich used the lid off an old Weber barbecue grill to make a handy utility box for his riding mower.**

## Utility Box Made From Grill Cover

Dennis Gingrich, Gering, Neb., converted the lid of an old barbecue grill into a handy utility box that's mounted on back of his Sears riding mower.

"I use this 18 hp. tractor for a lot of different jobs other than mowing," says Gingrich. "Our farm has a windbreak of 70-year-old cedar trees that my dad planted, and I'm gradually clearing brush and dead tree limbs away so I can mow under the trees. I throw a chain around a bunch of cut-off limbs, and this little tractor drags them away without complaint.

"One day I headed for the job site while trying to balance a chainsaw on the tractor's floorboard, a hedge clippers on my lap, and

a gas can between my knees. It was obvious that I needed a better way to haul stuff.

"Then I spotted the lid off an old Weber barbecue grill, and noticed the angle on front of the lid matched the angle of the apron on back of the tractor. I drilled matching holes in the apron and grill lid, then attached the lid to the tractor by bolting on a couple of reinforcing steel straps. I also bolted a metal brace on back of the tractor, above the hitch, for support."

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## Sheds Built From Salvaged Barns And Bins



**The Ziegler's drive-through grain bin is equipped with a garage door on one side and a cut-out door on the other side.**

When Jack Ziegler and his son Colton were offered an old pole barn and several grain bins for free, they started thinking of ways to use them. They decided to turn them into several different buildings, including a portable "hoop shed", a drive-through grain bin equipped with a garage door, a firewood storage bin, a firewood "carport", and a pair of dog houses, one fitted with a large glass wall on front.

"A neighbor's pole barn blew down in a wind storm so we salvaged the tin and wood," says Jack. "The wind was so strong that it pulled the barn's 6-in. square poles right out of the ground and laid the building upside down. We tore the barn apart and saved all the wood and tin, as well as the bolts and screws.

"We also got 6 grain bins free from a neighbor who was tearing down his farm building site. Two 20-ft. dia. bins, two 18 ft., and two 14 ft."

They bolted together several bin rings to build the 15-ft. wide by 24-ft. long portable hoop shed, which they use to store small vehicles such as their Polaris Ranger and several lawn mowers. The shed, which has an open front and a full wall with an aluminum door on back, rides on a pair of skids made from 6-in. square pole barn poles. They used 2 by 4's and steel to build 2-ft. high walls and bolted the bin rings onto them to form

the roof. A roof-mounted solar panel powers a night light.

A 20-ft. bin was turned into a drive-through garage shed that's equipped with a hand-operated garage door on one side and a cut-out door on the other side. The shed is used to store motorcycles and snowmobiles. Another 20-ft. bin is equipped with only a garage door.

"We bought one garage door cheap on Craigslist and were given the other one," says Jack. "One door is insulated and the other is fiberglass. Both doors were installed inside 2 by 4 frames, and their overhead tracks are supported by 2 by 4 frames suspended from the bin's roof.

"We used a metal cutting saw to cut out the door openings. But first we sank a pair of steel posts in the ground inside the bin, and bolted horizontal 2 by 6s onto them to support the bin's wall."

The cut-out doors are equipped with rebar handles and rubber rollers on the inside to latch the door.

They store firewood in one hoop building, which has an aluminum door at one end, with an attached metal screen to protect it from falling wood. "We fill 3/4 of the building with firewood and park the log splitter in the remaining space," says Jack.

They also store firewood in several bins, placing the wood on pallets and installing roof ventilators to help dry the wood.



**Garage door sets inside a 2 by 4 wood frame, with the overhead track supported by another wood frame.**

## Ford N-Series Oil Filter Adapter

A new adapter from Maple Springs Farm lets Ford N-Series owners use spin-on filters. The simple, no-tools filter change eliminates the hassle and mess of the original cartridge style oil filter found on Ford 8N/9N and 2N tractors. It also slashes filter cost and provides better filtration.

"Our adapter orients the filter vertically," explains Eric Rego, Maple Springs Farm. "When a vertically-oriented filter is spun off, oil is retained in the filter, making for an almost mess-free change. By filling the new filter before installing it, it is primed, and oil pressure builds faster on start-up."

Rego emphasizes that Ford N owners will be able to purchase filters with known efficiency. Many cartridge filter manufacturers do not publish efficiency data. Ford N's use bypass filtration intended to slowly scrub the oil to remove fine wear particles. This makes a high level of efficiency very important. Modern, synthetic media, spin-on filters lend themselves well to a bypass system.

At \$4 to \$6 each, recommended spin-on filters are also significantly less expensive than the traditional cartridge filters. Depending on the source, they can cost from \$8 to \$16 each.

"The cost of the \$39.98 adapter can be recouped just from savings over several oil changes," says Rego. "Our adapter uses 3/4-



**Adapter orients filter vertically, allowing Ford N-Series owners to use no-hassle spin-on filters.**

in. 16 threads commonly used with spin-on automotive filters. This makes replacement filters readily available from virtually any auto parts store or big box store."

Maple Spring Farms (Vol. 42, No. 6) carries a wide variety of Ford, Oliver, Case, Troybilt, Cummins and Cummins repower parts, service tools and more.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Maple Springs Farm, 1828 Cty. Rd. PB, Verona, Wis. 53593 (ph 608 658-2072; irego@tds.net; www.msfparts.com).



**Metal lift box is raised and lowered by an electric winch and operated by a handheld control.**

## "Lift Box" Helps Reach Shop's Upper Level Storage

"Storing extra wheels and tires in upper level storage area in our shop was always a two person job with the skid steer fork lift. So I made a metal lift box with an electric winch that's easy for one man to use," says Al Herneke of Cannon Falls, Minn.

The 42-in. square floor of the lift box is made of welded steel bar grate supported by angle iron framing and four 6-in. square metal feet. The same material is used on three sides, with the fourth left open for loading and unloading. A safety chain across the opening keeps the items from falling out.

To lift the box, Herneke built a sturdy metal U-shaped frame out of 1 1/2-in. tube steel. It's welded securely to the top of two side panels and extends 2 ft. above the top of the box. The box is raised and lowered by an electric winch that's mounted on a metal beam between two rafters about 6 ft. in from the side wall of the shop. The lift cable attaches to an eye hook in the center of the box frame with a swivel that allows the box to rotate while it's raised. The winch is raised, lowered and stopped by a hand-held control on the winch power cable.

"The setup isn't anything fancy, but it sure works great to lift wheels, tires and anything else that's heavy to our upper level storage," Herneke says. "With the hand-held control I can lift and rotate the box when it's just off the floor and do the same when it's raised to the storage area."

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**Bin rings were bolted together to build a 15 by 24-ft. portable hoop shed that rides on barn pole skids (above). Roof ventilators installed on firewood storage bins to help dry the wood.**



"We bought the ventilators at a lumber yard closing sale for \$2 apiece," says Jack. "We cut a hole out of the middle of a 55-gal. drum lid and bolt the ventilator onto it, then bolt the lid to the bin's roof. If the bin has no cap, we just cut an opening in the roof and bolt the ventilator on."

The men used 2 by 4's from the pole barn, and grain bin sheet metal, to build their firewood "carport". "The roof keeps the wood dry, and the open sides let air circulate," says Jack. "If we want, we can quickly remove the sheet metal to speed up the drying process."

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