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Foldable Irrigation Boom Can Save Time And Water

Briggs Irrigation says its foldable 4-wheel Chassis Boom is the first of its kind.

Their field boom measurements range from 154 ft. to 250 ft. with irrigated widths up to 350 ft. They're towable and operational from either end of the chassis, saving time, plus 4-wheel steering lets the boom follow the tractor when being towed. All models feature a turntable for desired angle placement or rotation around obstacles.

The equipment is steel and fully galvanized, ensuring a long lifespan.

Units are easy to operate and have a unique single-person folding and stacking capability for quick field-to-road transport. Variations feature semi-automatic locking catches, allowing a single person to manipulate even the largest booms, according to Adrian Colwill, Briggs Irrigation Technical Sales Director.

The Briggs boom can reduce water consumption by 20 percent compared to rain guns, plus apply water uniformly for more even crop growth. High flow rates deliver faster retraction, covering larger areas in less time. Combined with low-pressure operation, this reduces pumping costs and energy requirements, while putting less strain on the pipeline.

An adjustment for large or small droplets

can be made to reduce drift or minimize damage to delicate crops. The reduced impact from small droplets also diminishes soil capping and erosion.

"The droplet size from the nozzles on the boom can be easily controlled by selecting from a wide range of sprinkler brands, nozzle sizes, and pressure regulators," Colwill says. "The variety of sprinklers currently available means water can be applied as anything from a fine spray up to a heavy thunderstorm, and everything in between."

They can be operated with almost any make and size of hose reel and feature a self-leveling system to hold even the longest booms horizontally with the ground. An optional hydraulic feature can raise the boom to a working height of 3.1 m. for taller crops.

The Briggs Irrigation 4-Wheel chassis booms are available and in operation throughout the world.

Interested parties are encouraged to visit the company website for more information.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Adrian Colwill, Briggs Irrigation, Boyle Road, Corby, Northants, England NN17 5XU (ph 0044 (0) 1536 260338; adrian@briggsirrigation.co.uk; www.briggsirrigation.co.uk).

Modified Quick-Attach Plate Boosts Tractor's Versatility

The multi-purpose quick-attach plate on Paul Zawalick's compact tractor loader gives a big boost to versatility. With its hydraulic motor powered pto and its 3-pt. mounts, Zawalick can attach his 4-ft. wide rotary mower to trim brambles on the ground or 10 ft. in the air. It's equally handy for mounting a drag rake, lift boom, or other normally rear-mounted tools, pto powered or not.

"I welded a quick attach plate with 3-pt. mounts to my loader's quick attach plate and added a hydraulic motor driven pto to it," says Zawalick. "The hydraulic motor is powered by a pto driven hydraulic pumping station mounted on my rear 3-pt. hitch."

The 17-gpm hydraulic pump was designed to mount directly to the tractor's pto shaft. Instead, Zawalick mounted it along with a 20-gal. hydraulic oil reservoir to a frame made from 2-in. sq. steel tubing. He also added caster wheels to the framework's legs, making it easy to roll away for storage.

"The output on the tractor was too small for the hydraulic motor, so I added the auxiliary pump," says Zawalick. "It's about the same size as the motor."

Oil from the pump flows through a motor spool valve that lets it freewheel. The pump isn't dedicated to the front-mount pto. Zawalick uses quick connects at the motor for



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the hydraulic hoses that run back to the pump. They give him the option of using the pump for auxiliary hydraulic power as needed. Currently, its main use is for the mower.

"Having the mower on the loader makes it handy for controlling wild rose, a major problem around here," says Zawalick. "I can pick it up while running and set it right down over the roses. Being able to front mount tools like the mower or the drag is handy in tight areas."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul Zawalick, 545 Sylvester Rd., Florence, Mass. 01062 (ph 413-584-4162; J0236@comcast.net).



Translucent plexiglass roofing panels provide natural light.

Solar-Heated Lap Pool

John Krueger built a lap pool heated by solar panels for his wife. The enclosed 8 by 16-ft. pool has two small pumps with outlets at one end that provide a current his wife can swim against as her preferred exercise.

"We had an in-ground 16 by 32-ft., 8-ft. deep pool, but we needed to replace the liner," says Krueger. "I decided to downsize it to a quarter its size and only 4 ft. deep."

The lap pool effect is provided by two swimming pool circulation pumps. A 3/4-hp. pump pushes water through one of three 2-in. pipes at one end of the pool. A 1-hp. pump pushes water through the other pipes.

"The one pump is on a timer for filtration," explains Krueger. "The other one just sits there until a current is needed."

Krueger fabricated the enclosure using pvc pipes for framing and metal siding for the exterior. Four translucent plexiglass roofing panels provide natural light.

"The enclosure and the solar panel heated water give my wife an extra 2 to 3 mos. of swimming in our area," says Krueger.

Krueger got the four 4 by 8-ft. panels from an area nursery. Each panel is about 5 in. deep with a network of copper tubes over a black floor. Water circulates from the pool into the bottom of the panels, through the pipes, and back into the pool. Two 1/6-hp. pumps push water into the panels. When they shut off, water drains out of the panels and back into the pool.

Krueger fixed the pool up for his wife but notes that grandkids and their friends enjoy it also. He enjoys it as well.

"It's nice to just back up against the pumps and let the water run against you," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Krueger, 1112 County St. 2984, Blanchard, Okla. 73010 (ph 405-392-4796).



Gate valves can be used in repurposed totes for feed.

Hopper Gate Valve Also Works On Totes

Repurposing totes for feed storage is easy, but getting the feed out a little at a time is tougher. A recent American Pastured Poultry Producers Association (APPPA) member forum focused on totes for feed, and one member mentioned Hog Slat Gate Valves from Hog Slat, Inc., as a possible solution. It even includes a hanger for bucket handles.

We could see the gate valve worked great on the hopper bin on the company website. Would it work on a flat-sided tote? We checked with company engineer James Adermann.

"They would work fine on the flat surface," says Adermann. "The Gate Valve is designed with a flat back to be attached. When bolted to a bin, it pulls the bin surface flat."

The APPPA forum discussed multiple homemade modifications, including one featured in FARM SHOW (Vol. 46, No. 3).

Installation looks to be easy. The product comes with a template with adhesive backing. Stick it on the surface and drill holes and cut as directed for the Gate Valve hardware. All that's needed for installation is a drill, a reciprocating saw, a metal punch and a screwdriver. Remove the template and attach the hardware with bolts. Accessories even include strips of caulk for watertight seals.

Prices start at \$138 plus shipping on the company website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hog Slat, Inc., P.O. Box 300, Newton Grove, N.C. 28366 (ph 866-464-7528; www.hogslat.com/hog-slat-feed-bin-hopper-valve).

Dandy-Lion No Drift Applicator For Lawns

There's no spray drift with a Dandy-Lion Killer chemical applicator. Instead of spraying, the simple system uses gravity and a drip system to apply weed-killing chemicals, says Bryan Gefroh, general manager for F/S Manufacturing.

"The rigid plastic roller is covered with industrial carpet," he explains. "Above the roller is a manifold system with a PVC pipe with small holes every couple of inches. Open the valve (on the tank), and the liquid goes through the piping and streams down on the carpet. The wet carpet then rolls over and presses the chemical on the plants."

F/S Manufacturing has built the Dandy-Lion Killer for more than 20 years. It comes in three models: a 36-in. push model and 4-ft and 6-ft. pull-behind models. The 4-ft. pull-behind is the most popular model and retails for \$639.



Liquid goes through the piping and streams down on the carpet. The wet carpet then rolls over and presses the chemical on the plants.

The applicators are available through the company's dealer network on its website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, F/S Manufacturing, 1102 Center Street, West Fargo, N.D. 58078 (ph 800-333-2314, sales@fsmfg.com; www.fsmfg.com).