

"No Drip" Cattle Oiler

"We got tired of cattle oilers that constantly drip onto the ground," says Len Digney, Raymore, Sask., who built his own "no drip" cattle oiler that supplies oil to the oiler rope on demand.

Digney's oiler consists of a 3 to 4 gal. triangular tank hinge-mounted atop a post at a declining angle. The upper end of the tank fastens to the oiler rope coming up from a ground anchor. When cattle rub on the rope, the tank tips up to drip oil onto the

upper end of the rope. Once the animal stops rubbing, the tank settles back down, cutting off the flow of oil.

"Because there's no positive pressure of oil on the rope, oil doesn't drip when the oiler's not in use," says Digney, who makes the oiler rope from about 300 individual baler twines.

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Disc Brake Retractor

"It forces disc brake pads to retract from the rotor," says Leon Boeck, Easton, Minn., about his made-it-myself disc brake retractor for cars, trucks, motorhomes and farm equipment.

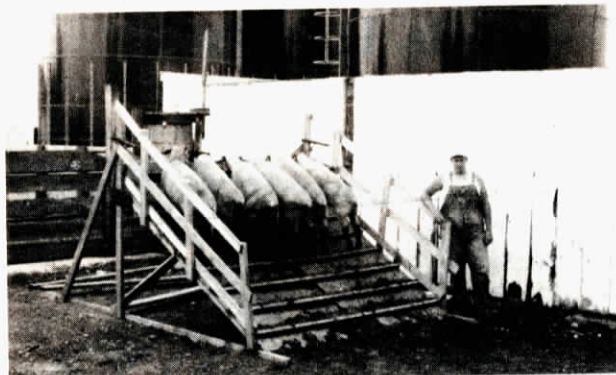
Boeck says the problem is that after the brakes are applied, and the pads press against the rotor to stop the vehicle, the only force that retracts the pads is the tendency of the piston seal to return to its original position. "In most cases, especially with vehicles that are not driven regularly, this force is not enough. The result is that unretracted pads drag on the rotor causing excessive pad, disc and tire wear, early wheel bearing failure, reduced fuel mileage, front wheel shimmy, and steering instability. Front wheel brake drag is particularly dangerous on icy roads. Some combines, and other self-propelled farm equipment, also have problems because they're only in use for part of

the year and the brakes stiffen up."

The retractor designed by Boeck provides direct mechanical means to retract the pads. It consists of a U-shaped metal bracket that fits over the back side of the brake piston housing. Holes are drilled and tapped in the back side of the inside brake pad, and the rods threaded into the holes and springs fitted over the rods. When the brake is applied, it compresses the springs against the brake housing. When the brake is released, the springs pull the pad back away from the rotor.

Boeck says the retractor will work on any disc brakes. He bought all the parts to make a set of retractors for less than \$5.00. He's looking for a manufacturer.

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"Feeder/Exerciser" Gets Show Animals In Blue Ribbon Shape

Exercising and getting in shape is all the rage nowadays, but physical fitness for livestock? Sounds crazy, but not to Roger Harris, Northwood, Iowa. The feeder/exerciser he designed for his 4-H sheep has helped bring in the grand championship blue ribbons.

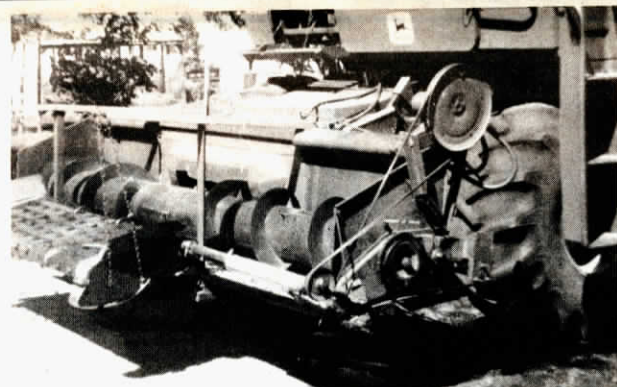
"Climbing the platform to get their feed helps lambs develop the muscles in their rear legs and stretch out their loins—features that judges look for when judging lambs," says Harris, age 15, who built the combination feeder/exerciser in his eighth grade shop class. His idea proved itself at last year's local county fair where he had the grand champion market lamb, plus the first place lambs in the 'group of five' class.

The feeder/exerciser consists of an 8-ft. square platform made out of two 4 by 8-ft. sheets of plywood. It's mounted at a 50° angle on a wooden frame built out of 2 by 4's. Steps across the platform, spaced 1-ft. apart and made out of 1 by 1's, keep lambs from sliding down the feeder. Harris made the platform angle adjustable but notes that he found that the one setting worked fine.

A feedbox, with room for eight, sits at the top of the ramp. Harris made its height adjustable so he can raise it higher as the lambs get bigger.

He notes that he has about \$125 invested in his project.

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Homemade Small Grain Head

If you need a head for combining windrowed small grain, or if you own a platform head but don't like the time-consuming bother of having to remove the sickle and guards to equip it with a windrow pickup attachment, you'll like this low-cost homemade head that David Dowling designed and built for his father Jack Dowling, of Lohrville, Iowa.

David started with a 12 ft. International bean head that he bought used for \$25. He removed the reel and cut out the center section of the back side. He then used 3 by 6 in. tube steel to build a welded-on frame for attaching the head to the Quick-Tach of his father's 6600 Deere combine.

"The auger runs by a chain, then back to a shaft coming from the side

of the header on the combine," explains David.

The windrow pickup is powered by the same hydraulic motor used on a bean head. "I use the same motor, switching it back and forth when harvesting oats and soybeans. Installing this motor, which only takes a few minutes, is the most time-consuming part of putting the homemade head on the combine," notes Jack. "I've used it two years now to harvest oats and it works great. It's narrow—the same width as the combine—and real easy to maneuver through gates or down the road."

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