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## Tractor Toolbox Makes Transporting Tools Easy

Farmers with John Deere tractors now have a more practical and effective way to transport tools across their yards and fields, thanks to Kooima Ag and the JohnBox.

The JohnBox provides a large, weather-proof storage space for tools and extra gear, including chains and messy grease guns, making it a practical upgrade for any farmer's equipment.

"Keep your tools organized and out of the cab, where they can roll around and break windows," says New Parts Development Lead Cole Brusven. "It can also be useful for picking and collecting rocks and other debris from a field."

Designed specifically for Deere tractors, the 95-lb JohnBox is a straightforward, easy-

to-install toolbox that integrates seamlessly with a tractor's front weights, leaving room for about four weights on each side. To install, it simply slides over the front weight bracket and locks securely with a pin.

"The heavy-duty slam-close latch is another useful feature," Brusven says. "It'll never open accidentally, even when working over a bumpy field."

The JohnBox is manufactured in northern Iowa and is available across North America. It retails for \$1,050 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kooima Ag, JohnBox, 2642 Rock Ridge Rd., Rock Valley, Iowa 51247 (ph 800-522-8874; www.kooimaag.com).

Blades run on a center-supported bearing built from a Chevrolet automotive hub assembly.



## Simple Shear For Clearing Small Trees

In a farm equipment market crowded with complex attachments and high-maintenance systems, GT Metal's Rolling Tree Shear stands out for its simplicity. Built in Nebraska, the implement is designed to do one job efficiently: remove small trees and stubborn second growth along fence lines and in pastures, without hydraulics, excessive maintenance or a steep learning curve.

"A friend came to me with the basic idea for the shear, but it wasn't perfected," says GT Metal owner Eugene Schendt. "Over about two years, I'd occasionally sit down and work on it to get the angles on the blades right so they'd cut nicely."

This practical trial-and-error approach resulted in a simple tree shear mounted on a universal skid steer plate. It uses two 22 1/2-in. high-carbon steel rolling blades. Based on the concept of a Noble V-plow cutter blade, the blades are designed to withstand rugged field conditions. If wear or bending occurs, operators can flip or replace the blades.

The sturdy frame is built from 3 by 3-in. square tubing, 3/16 in. thick. The front arms are made of 4 by 6-in. 1/2-in. angle iron.

The skid steer's weight and traction do

the work without hydraulics. For the best cutting results, Schendt recommends setting the machine's blades slightly into the ground, about 12 to 18 in. from the tree, then driving through the trunk in one smooth motion. It'll slice through a 4-in. tree in one pass, leaving little visible stump.

The blades run on a center-supported bearing built from a Chevrolet automotive hub assembly, so replacements are available through regular auto parts suppliers rather than a specialty dealer.

"To change a blade, just remove the five lug nuts, pull it off, and put the new one on, or flip the old one if it's only slightly bent," Schendt says.

At roughly 400 lbs, the unit is light enough to load and transfer between pickup trucks with minimal effort.

Schendt sells the Rolling Tree Shear for \$4,500 plus S&H anywhere in North America. He's actively seeking dealers to help with upcoming sales.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, GT Metal, Lawrence, Neb. 68957 (ph 402-469-2157; geneschendt@gmail.com; www.gt-metal.net).



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NEXAT uses a controlled-traffic plan system, meaning the wheels always follow the same path to minimize soil compaction.

## Implement Carrier Continues To Innovate

NEXAT marks a major shift in agricultural technology. Designed as a field implement carrier, it's engineered to perform all field operations, from seeding to harvesting. FARM SHOW first covered NEXAT in Vol. 46, No. 1.

The unique machine features a dual-engine drive system, with each engine powering a generator for four electric track motors. Together, the engines deliver a combined 550 hp, but some tasks, such as seeding or spraying, require only one engine. The carrier uses a controlled-traffic plan, meaning the wheels always follow the same path to minimize soil compaction.

NEXAT's founder and CEO, Klemens Kalverkamp, explains that all the unit's motors are the same. Rather than requiring one to two days to repair a gearbox failure, replacing an electrical motor can be done in just 4 hr.

The machine's cab pivots to the rear for optimal implement monitoring. It rotates 180 degrees for field operation and 90 degrees for road travel. This transport position reduces the overall width to just 12 ft. Speeds up to 40 km/h (25 mph) are possible. Cab noise is minimal due to the engines' placement. For

precision maneuvers, operators can control the equipment using a wireless remote.

NEXAT manufactures only the basic carrier and partners with specialist manufacturers to supply region-specific implements, except for its own combine attachment. This modular approach allows farmers to replace traditional tractors and combines with a single, versatile system.

Kalverkamp notes that farmers should need only one piece of equipment to handle all their field tasks, including seeding, planting, spraying, tillage and harvesting.

As the NEXAT begins its first full Canadian season in Manitoba, it joins nearly 20 prototypes in Europe and South America.

Looking ahead, the company plans to phase out the operator's cab, aiming for a fully autonomous model by 2028.

"The NEXAT is more than just machinery; it's a holistic farming system designed to increase profit, improve soil, and return CO<sub>2</sub> to the ground," Kalverkamp says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, NEXAT, GmbH, Meppener Str. 9-11, 49597 Rieste, Germany (ph +49 5493 54844-0; info@nexat.de; www.nexat.de).

## Weigh Newborn Calves The Easy Way

Accurate newborn calf weights are an often-overlooked component of successful cattle production, as they provide real-time data on future herd productivity. This information supports informed management decisions, including setting baselines for calculating daily liveweight gain, evaluating sires, and enabling precise vaccine and antibiotic dosing.

Unfortunately, weighing these slippery newborns is often cumbersome and awkward, and the task can be dangerous when overprotective mothers are keeping a close watch.

To address these challenges, Southern IL Scale developed a practical tool that makes this task easier and safer.

The Southern IL Scale calf scale is designed for easy mounting on the rear of a pickup truck, UTV, ATV or 4-wheeler, and it fits securely into a 2-in. receiver. Farmers simply lift the calf into the foam-covered cradle to obtain an accurate weight. The scale head indicator runs on four AA batteries and can be installed on a side-by-side, ATV, truck or UTV.

Constructed from 2-in. by 2-in., 14-ga. square tubing, the frame can hold and weigh animals up to 300 lbs.

"Calves will hang there fairly quiet as they're upright, making it easier to doctor, tag or vaccinate," says Mica Rist, Southern IL Scale operations manager. "Plus, the mother stays calmer as their baby isn't thrashing around on the ground. The cradle arms are wrapped in foam as well, so the calves don't hurt themselves."



Calf scale can be mounted on the rear of a pickup truck, UTV, ATV or 4-wheeler using a 2-in. receiver.

Manufactured in Noble, Ill., the Southern IL Scale calf scale is available throughout North America through multiple dealers and can be shipped anywhere. The cost is \$765 plus S&H via UPS.

"Our calf scale sets itself apart from competitors as the weight indicator can be used on many of our other systems," Rist says. "Farmers only need to buy one system, and the indicator can be swapped around to any of our other products, like our single-animal weight cages or platform scales."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Southern IL Scale Inc., 430 W. South Ave., Noble, Ill. 62868 (ph 800-441-1794; sales@southernilscale.com; www.southernilscale.com).