

Made It Myself

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“Pump Handle” Bag Lift

Lifting bulk seed bags up high enough to dump into drills, air seeders or bulk seed handlers requires a high-lift boom with lots of lift capacity.

Marshall Litchfield, Macomb, Ill., came up with a unique “no hydraulics” bag lift that fits his forklift. He calls it his “pump handle” lift because of the shape of the pivoting lift arm, which connects by chain to the forklift mast.

When the mast is raised, the chain pulls down on the lift arm, raising the bag-carrying end of the arm.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marshall Litchfield, 15340 N. 700 Road, Macomb, Ill. 61455 (ph 309 254-3481).



Low-Cost Silage Pit Made From Big Square Bales

“I made a hay silage pit by using big square bales to form the outside walls. I call it my low-cost Ag Bagger,” says Scott Jennette, Bee Branch, Ark.

Jennette places a row of 4 by 8-ft. bales two high on each side (one high where the pit starts). He then drapes plastic down over the bales so that moisture from the silage won’t rot the hay. Then he dumps loads of silage into the pit, dozes it into a pile, and drives over it several times with a tractor. When the pit is full he folds the rest of the plastic over the top of the silage.

“I drive over the silage until it’s rock hard. Then I remove the bales and put them in my barn so I can feed them,” says Jennette. “I pack the silage so tight that when I remove the bales the side of the silage pile will stand straight up. I need to let the silage stand for at least one month before I remove the bales. It’s a low-cost way to make a silage pit only if you can feed the hay. If you have to buy the hay but can’t feed it, it wouldn’t be worth it.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Scott Jennette, Rt. 2, Box 146, Bee Branch, Ark. 72013 (ph 501 654-2572).

Stainless Steel Spade

After reading in FARM SHOW about the stainless steel shovel made by Richard Cox of Franklin, Ill. (Vol. 19, No. 4), David Wilson, who also lives in Franklin, contacted Cox to see if he would make him a stainless steel tile spade.

Cox notes that stainless shovels stay clean all the time with no rust. The key is making them out of heavy enough steel (he uses 1/8-in. thick plate).

What he does is to cut along the “frog” of the shovel or spade, and then shapes a new shovel body from the stainless. Since stainless can’t be cut with a torch, you have to use a plasma torch. It takes some skill to get the curvature right, but Cox says any



good metals man should be able to do it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Cox, Rt. 1, Box 52, Franklin, Ill. 62638 (ph 217 245-5692).

Moldboard Plow Converted To Deep Ripper

A Wisconsin farmer says he’s come up with an inexpensive way to make his own deep ripper. He turned his moldboard plow into a 3-pt. mounted, 30-in. wide ripper equipped with two 20-in. long steel shanks.

Doug Gratz, who farms near Readstown, already had the old Deere 4-bottom semi-mount plow. It was equipped with trip standards that “kick back” whenever they hit a rock. He removed the moldboards and cut off the beam about two thirds of the way back. He cut off the second and fourth shanks and used sections of the shanks to make “shovels” that weld at an angle to the bottom of the remaining two shanks.

“I saved a lot of money because a comparable deep ripper equipped with reset shanks sells for \$2,000 to \$3,000. I have a 110 hp tractor so I could only handle a two-shank model. I use it on 15 to 20 acres each fall on heavy, hard red clay. The ground works up nice the following spring. I had been using a single shank, 3-pt. commer-



cial model but I had problems with rocks. Now when I hit a rock I just back up and go around it.”

Gratz cut apart the plow’s lower lift arms, lowered them 6 in., and welded them back on to get a lower pull point. He cut off parts of the hitch and bolted them on vertically behind the lift arms. To reinforce the shanks he bolted a length of angle iron on top of plow’s main beam up to the hitch.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Doug Gratz, Rt. 1, Readstown, Wis. 54652 (ph 608 624-3370 or 624-3373).



Buick Engine Doubles Power Of Skid Steer Loader

When the original engine went out on his Case 1537 skid steer loader, David Buss of Clayton, Ill., decided to repower it with an inexpensive 1984 Buick V-6 car engine rather than rebuild or replace the loader’s original V-4 Wisconsin air-cooled engine.

Buss uses the skid steer primarily for cleaning in his hog operation so the extra power he got from the conversion comes in handy. He figures he has twice the power after the conversion.

To install the larger engine, he had to build a subframe out of heavy I-beam that

extends the back of the skid steer about a foot out from the original frame. He left the weight racks in place so it doesn’t really look much different. The radiator mounts at the back.

To match the engine up to the skid steer’s transmission, Buss left the flywheel open and mounted a universal joint and short driveshaft on it.

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