Separate pieces of waterproof nylon material cover cover cab, hood, and exhaust pipe.

Custom-Fit Tarps For Farm Tractors

You can protect your tractor from rain, bird droppings, dust, etc. and keep it from fading in sunlight with new tractor covers that fit any tractor make or model, says Sunbelt Cover Co., Arlington, Ga.

Covers are made from a lightweight, tear-resistant nylon material that's waterproof. Separate pieces cover the cab, hood, and exhaust pipe. The cab cover and exhaust cover are joined to the hood cover by velcro strips. Bunge cords are used to secure the hood cover to the tractor.

Sunbelt also makes covers to fit hoppers on grain drills and planters and will custom-fit any other farm equipment including round balers, combines, welders, air compressors,

Company also makes covers to fit hoppers on grain drills and planters.

sprayers, irrigation motors, generators, trailers, lawn mowers, and even barbeque grills.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sunbelt Cover Co., Box 640, Arlington, Ga. 31713 (ph 800 654-7253 or 912 725-3209).

FOLLOWS 55-FT. LONG STEEL TRACK THAT CONNECTS TWO SILOS

"Mixer On Wheels" Makes Feeding Easy

"It saves labor and time and is trouble-free to operate with hardly any maintenance or breakdowns," says Lloyd DeGroot, Kaukauna, Wis., who along with wife Patti converted a 180-bu. Jamesway stationary auger mixer into a self-propelled mobile unit that follows a 55-ft. long steel track.

The track is bolted onto the floor of a feed alley that connects the DeGroots' free-stall barn with two stave silos spaced 60 ft. apart. The mixer's rubber tires simply run inside the track which guides the mixer under both silo chutes as well as an overhead feed storage bin. Once the mixer is full, feed is side discharged into an electric feed cart that unloads into outside feed bunks and tie stalls inside the barn.

"A local equipment dealer built a 10-1/2 ft. long, 4-ft. wide frame from 4-in. channel iron and welded it to the bottom of the mixer. DeGroot salvagd two rear end axles and a 10-ft. long drive shaft from a pair of junked-out Ford Pintos. He mounted a gearbox and electric motor (removed from an old elevator) in the middle of the frame. The motor and gearbox power the drive-shaft and one of the rear end axles. "If the drive shaft ever breaks down, I can reverse the motor and gearbox and drive the mixer from the other rear end axle," says DeGroot, who geared down the motor so the mixer travels at 2 1/2 to 3 mph.

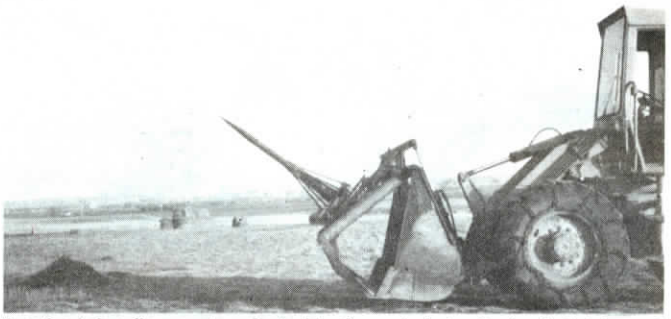
Track bolted onto floor guides mixer under silo chutes and overhead feed storage bin.

An electrician mounted a transformer in the feed room. An electric cord that trails from a wall-mounted steel guide bar powers the motor and is free to run the length of the track. "We've seen a 30% decrease in our electric bill since we set up our mobile mixer 1 1/2 years ago," notes DeGroot."

To make the track DeGroot bolted two lengths of angle iron spaced 8 in. apart onto the feed room floor.

Total cost of the conversion was about $500.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lloyd DeGroot, N. 1098 Co. Rd. GG, Kaukauna, Wis. 54130 (ph 414 766-4595).



Rotating bale spike mounts on back side of grapple fork, allowing fork to be used normally without removing spike.

DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH USE OF FORK

Rotating Bale Spike Mounts On Grapple Fork

"I've used it to unroll hundreds of hay and straw bales without a problem. It's like having two pieces of equipment mounted on the front-end loader at once," says Leroy Staffanson, Sidney, Mont., about his rotating bale spike that mounts on the back side of a grapple fork so that the fork can still be used normally without removing the spike.

"It doesn't interfere with use of the fork at all. I can grab a bale and transport it or turn it around with the grapple fork and then spear it with the spike for unrolling. Makes bale handling much more efficient than if the spike were mounted on a rear 3-pt.," says Staffanson, who uses the grapple fork-spike combo on an IH industrial loader tractor.

The bale spike is chain-driven by a hydraulic motor. It can unroll in either direction.

Staffanson is looking for a manufacturer for the new bale unroller.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leroy Staffanson, Rt. 1, Box 3076, Sidney, Mont. 59270.

"Drive-Over Gate" For ATV's

Dean Pierson, Copake, N.Y., came up with a simple "drive-over" gate for his 4-wheel ATV that automatically opens in either direction.

Pierson simply lets his front wheels push the gate down and drives over. After the ATV has crossed the gate, the gate automatically flips back up into place.

"It works great for checking cattle in my pastures," says Pierson, who has built three "drive-over" gates.

He built a frame for the gate out of 3/4-in. dia. pipe. A steel cable which runs through the pipe along the bottom edge of the gate and is anchored to two 10-ft. high gate posts on either side, acts as a hinge. A 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe mounts above the gate about 8 ft. off the ground. Three used car wheel rims are welded to the pipe and wrapped with cable. Two of the wheel rims are mounted between the wood posts and are tied to the gate's top corners. The other wheel rim is positioned outside one of the wood posts and has a 40-lb. counterweight tied to its cable. When the gate is in the closed position, the weight hangs about 6 in. off the ground.

"As the ATV's front tires push the gate down, the pipe and wheel rims rotate, raising the counterweight up," says Pierson. "After the ATV has crossed the gate, the counterweight drops, rewinding the cable on the other two rims to lift the gate back up to the vertical closed position. The key is that the cable on the outside wheel rim is wrapped in the opposite direction from the other wheel rims. I first tested my idea by making a 2-ft. high toy model from scrap lumber and twine. I used small pulleys so I could see how the cables should be wrapped.

"The wide circumference of the wheel

Pierson used three old car wheel rims to build gate that automatically opens and closes from either direction.

rims provides leverage that makes the gate easier to push down and causes it to go back up slowly. I used only one counterweight (a roller from a bulldozer track) because it happened to be perfectly balanced with the gate. However, on the other two gates I used two counterweights, a light one on top and a heavier one that rests on the ground. The light counterweight on top makes it easy to push the gate over, and the heavy counterweight keeps the momentum going once the gate is half way down. It also keeps the gate from being blown over by the wind or accidentally opened by a cow."

The pipe rotates inside a pair of home-made bearings mounted on the wood posts. "Same idea could be used to make drive-over gates for cars, pickups, tractors, etc."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dean Pierson, Weed Mine Rd., Copake, N.Y. 12516 (ph 518 329-4543).