Running Board Stock Trailer

Mark Hammeke, Ellinwood, Kan., built a stock trailer that he and his father, Vernon, wouldn't trade for any stock trailer on the market.

Mark built the trailer over the course of a year as an FFA project with guidance from his vo-ag teacher and money from his father. But he did all the work himself, according to his father, who doesn't even know how to weld.

The key feature of the trailer is the running board that runs the length of the trailer. It lets the Hammekes reach over the top of the sides of the trailer to vaccinate animals or prod them in or out of the trailer. Mark says it's a design feature they wanted because most trailers only have fenders over the wheels to stand on, if that.

The trailer also features a sturdy middle cutting gate with a latch that can be released from inside or outside the trailer, letting them easily separate cattle inside the trailer. Another unusual feature of the trailer is the hitch which can be adjusted up or down to adapt to varying pickup or tractor hitch heights. Also, extra high 6½-ft. sides can hold even the biggest bull.

The trailer was built with 2 by 4-in. square tubing ¼-in. thick. The floor is made with 3/16-in. tread plate. Most of the metal used was scrap purchased from a nearby manufacturing facility.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Hammeke, Rt. 1, Ellinwood, Kan. 67526.

"Porta-Perch"

Minnesota farmer Gerald Jorgens, of Elbow Lake, built a versatile ladder that mounts on his skid steer loader, pickup or tractor providing the working height of a conventional ladder but with much more stability.

"I like the 'Porta-Perch' because it's sturdier and safer than a ladder leaning against a building or tree," says Jorgens, who uses it for a variety of chores, including painting and trimming trees.

When mounted on his tractor's 3-pt., the ladder has a maximum working height of 15½ ft. He can vary the height by adjusting the 3-pt. arms.

For attaching to his pickup, Jorgens mounts the ladder on a bracket fastened to the rear bumper. He anchors it with cable to a bracket extending across the front of the truck bed. The ladder folds back into the bed for transport.

To mount it on his skid steer loader, Jorgens simply slides the forks into the bottom framework of the ladder.

The 2-ft. wide, 9-step metal ladder has a working cage at the top. Jorgens is developing an extension ladder to use with the Porta-Perch.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerald Jorgens, Rt. 1, Elbow Lake, Minn. 56531 (ph 218 685-4627).

Self-Propelled Precision Cultivator

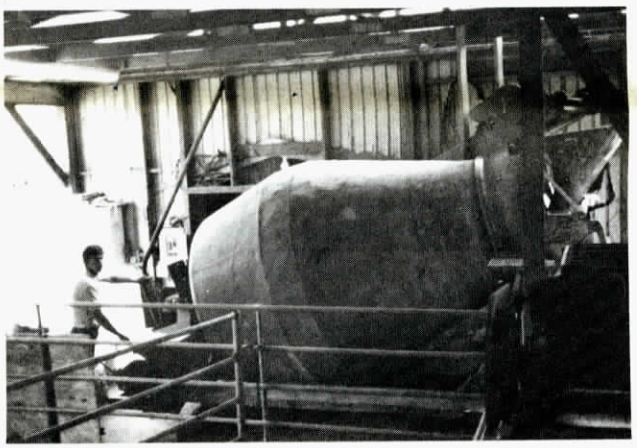
A precision cultivator is a must for nurseries, orchards, and vegetable farms, and Minnesota nurseryman Gordon Gudvangen, of Fertile, has perfected one, with the help of Bruce Steiger, Red Lake Falls, Minn., designer of the original Steiger tractor.

The self-propelled, rear engine Util-A-Trac is equipped with a 2-row Danish tine cultivator. The engine has a high and low range hydrostatic drive which makes it capable of very slow movement through the rows.

The rear location of the engine gives superior front implement visibility. The tractor has 3-pt. hitch locations at front and rear for quick and convenient attachment and detachment of equipment. Ground clearance is 27 in. (18 in. on a smaller model).

Powered by either gas or diesel engines, the Util-A-Trac comes in 58 h.p. or 23 h.p. size. Units have been sold in several states and the manufacturer is looking for dealerships.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gordon Gudvangen, Util-A-Trac, Rt. 1, Fertile, Minn. 56540 (ph 218 574-2237).



"Concrete" Feed Mixer

Steve Dornbierer, New Ringgold, Penn., turned a truck-mounted concrete mixer into a stationary feed mixer that'll handle nearly 2 tons of corn silage.

"We bought the used mixer from a concrete "redi-mix" company for $700, 7 to 10 times less than a comparable-size stationary feed mixer would have cost. It's simply a barrel with auger flighting on the inside. When it runs forward, the feed inside runs in a pile at the front of the barrel, mixing thoroughly. To empty the barrel, we simply run it in reverse.

"The mixer has its own 6-cyl. gasoline motor. It had about a 5-in. build-up of concrete on the inside. We got this out with some effort by standing on the barrel and hitting the outside with a heavy sledge hammer. Then, by reversing the machine, the larger chunks broke up and almost all the concrete came out the back end.

"We've been using the mixer for over three years with very few problems. It's built heavy for concrete so we think it should last a long time with feed.

"One disadvantage of using a concrete mixer over "store-bought" mixers is that material can't be added to the mixer with a front-end loader. We overcame this problem by running a conveyor into the mixer. We dump into a hopper at the end of the conveyor with a front-end loader."