Made It Myself

(Continued from previous page)

Self-Propelled Mini Cement Mixer

"I've never seen anything else like it," says Clarence Strouse, Conroe, Texas, about his mini self-propelled cement mixer that he built from the ground up to make it easy for one man to handle most concrete work.

Strouse started a sideline business in 1976 making pre-cast concrete steps using a 4 cu. ft. stationary mixer. As demand for the steps grew, he knew he had to find a faster way to mix and pour the concrete. In 1981 he began building his mixer and he worked on it for the next five years. He's used it since 1986 with no troubles at all not only to make his steps but also for doing sidewalk, small slabs and other jobs.

"It works great because it's maneuverable so you can drive right up to wherever you need it. It's easy to load and operate and controls are right by the driver's seat so one man can handle it. Visibility is excellent," says Strouse.

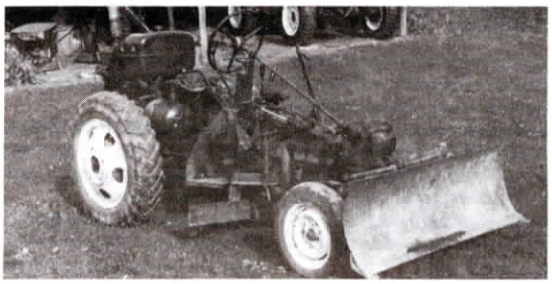
He hired a sheet metal shop to cut out and roll the mixer drum in three separate pieces which he welded together. The frame of the 4-WD machine is made out of 6-in. channel iron. The axles were taken off a 4-WD Chevy Blazer. Strouse made a hydraulic-driven gearbox to provide infinitely variable hydrostatic drive for close-in maneuvering at low speeds. He made another gearbox that drives the mixer drum via hydraulic motor.

A large poly loading hopper rides up and down a rail, pulled by a winch that's chain-driven by hydraulic motor. The load hopper drops down to ground level for easy filling with sand and cement and then raises hydraulically up above the mixer drum, dumping its load into the mixer hydraulically.

Machine is powered by a Wisconsin engine which drives a big hydraulic pump.

"We fabricated many of the parts from scratch using a lathe, cutting torch, welder, and other tools. Almost all components used were picked up out of salvage yards," says Strouse.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clarence Strouse, 77 Acorn Hills Rd., Conroe, Tex. 77302 (ph 713 572-1183).



"Road Grader" Garden Tractor

"My road grader garden tractor has two 4-ft. wide blades - a 17-in. high dozer blade in front and a 6-in. road grader blade in the middle. Both blades can be raised independently. Works great for leveling my driveway," says Wayne Bashore, Mifflintown, Penn., who used the rear drive axle from an old car and a 2-cylinder, 17 hp Wisconsin engine to build the tractor.

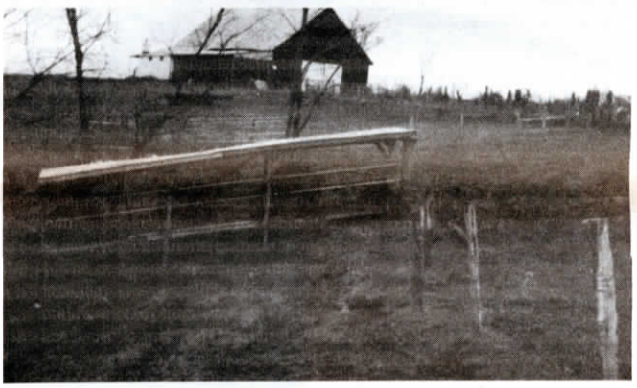
The front blade is used to scrape off bumps and the middle blade is used to smooth out the loose dirt. The middle blade can be tilted to either side by operating a lever.

"It does a beautiful job. The front blade also works great for piling dirt and for pushing brush up into piles that can be burned," says Bashore. "I cut up an old hot water heater to make the front blade. The middle blade is the cutting edge off an old road grader blade. Up-and-down movement of each blade is controlled by a hydraulic cylinder.

"I patterned it after a 1939 Allis-Chalmers G tractor. I originally used it to pull my cultivator. With the cultivator right below me I could really see what I was doing."

The garden tractor has a hydrostatic transmission and mechanical steering with 12-in. wheels in front and 20-in. wheels in back.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wayne Bashore, Rt. 2, Box 201, Mifflintown, Penn. 17059 (ph 717 436-2204).



Rolling Hay Feeder Mounts On Hill

Kentucky farmer Paul Tomlinson uses gravity to load big round bales into his covered hay feeder.

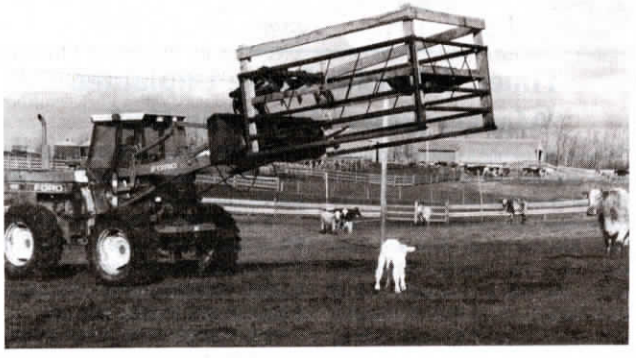
Tomlinson built the 30-ft. long bale feeder on the side of a hill to make it easier to get bales into it. The feeder is 6 ft. high, 5 ft. across and made out of 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe, oak boards, and cedar posts. Four pipes and two 1 by 6 oak boards run length of feeder under bales. The floor is a foot off ground so hay can fall through, allowing cows to pull it out to eat it.

"I wanted to eliminate the waste I've experienced with other types of bale feeders. The roof protects hay from rain and calves can't get inside to sleep on the hay, like I've seen with round metal feeders. Also, because it's mostly built out of wood, I think it will last much longer than metal feeders which usually rust out in a few years," says Tomlinson.

He transports bales to the feeder with a tractor and then rolls them into the upper end of the feeder by hand. There's a notched crossbar running across the top rails at each support post down the length of the feeder. They act as stops so bales don't get up too much speed rolling down the feeder. All Tomlinson has to do is raise the crossbar in front of the bale to let it roll on down to the next crossbar until he gets it where he wants it. Small logs hanging from the roof of the feeder act as drags to slow them down.

"My only real cost was for oak 2 by 4's which I used as framing. I plan to add wider extensions onto the sides of the roof to provide even more shelter to the hay," says Tomlinson.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul E. Tomlinson, Box 217A, Rt. 2, Williamstown, Kent. 41097.



Portable Pen Makes Calving Easier

Calving season went much smoother this year for Alberta cattleman John Breadon thanks to his cattle catching cage which makes it easy for him to put a temporary pen around any animal.

Carried on his front end loader by grabber forks, the "calf nabber" pen puts little stress on the animal since it no longer has to be chased to a central cattle handling facility or caught with a rope.

If a cow is having trouble calving, the "calf nabber" can be used as an "instant maternity pen" where pullers can be used without her running away in fear. Sick cows can also be treated quickly without the stress of being moved and, most importantly, young calves can be worked on with little fuss or commotion to the rest of the herd.

Breadon used his invention on more than 100 calves this year for ear tagging and to give shots. If the mother cow is too mean or too overprotective, the cage serves as a safety shield to keep Breadon out of harm's way as he works on the calf.

"With a bad cow, you almost need someone watching her and then you're still trying to hold the calf and get out all your medicine and tools," Breadon says, noting that now he can easily handle problem situations alone.

The cage is 8 by 10-ft. in size and made from 2 3/8-in. steel tubing. Sides are 5 ft. high and there's a canvas sling built into one end with holes in it where he can set a calf to work on it. Breadon can also use the calf nabber as a bale feeder, which is what he originally built it for.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Breadon, Highridge, Alberta.