Self-Loading "Roll-Back" Trailer

"It doesn't have a ramp and is made out of aluminum which reduces its weight by 1,500 lbs. compared to other comparable-sized steel trailers. As a result I can use a 1/2-ton pickup to pull a load that would normally require a 3/4-ton pickup," says Frank Faulring, North Collins, N.Y., about his "roll-back" fifth wheel aluminum trailer. It's equipped with tandem axle wheels that automatically roll forward toward the front of the trailer, forcing the back end down to the ground for loading and unloading.

The main frame of the 18-ft. long, 7 1/2-ft. wide trailer is made of aluminum and it has a pressure-treated wood deck. It weighs only 2,100 lbs. and has a gross vehicle weight capacity of 7,000 lbs.

The trailer is equipped with a pair of 3,500-lb. torque flex axles. They roll back and forth together on a frame, pulled along by a 1-in. dia. screw that runs the length of the trailer. The screw is operated by a 12-volt electric motor at the front of the trailer. A pair of 5-in. aluminum I-beams run the length of the trailer and form a track for the wheels. Four rollers ride against the underside of the track and four other rollers ride against both sides of it to keep the wheels in line.

To move the wheels forward for loading, Faulring releases a lock over the axles that holds the wheels in place, then hits a two-way switch mounted next to the electric motor. As the wheels move forward the back of the trailer drops down. To compensate for the raising and lowering of the trailer hitch, Faulring built a telescoping hitch that's equipped with a 30-in. long, 2 1/2-in. dia. hydraulic cylinder. The cylinder works as a shock absorber, slowing the rate of travel as the hitch expands during the lowering of the rear end of the trailer. When the trailer is raised back into travel position, the shock system works in reverse to slow the rate of hitch retraction Once the load is on, he moves the wheels back to their normal position and locks them into place.

"It works great," says Faulring. "I built it because state gross vehicle weight (GVW) laws are being enforced more strictly in our state. We used to be able to license a pickup at 10 to 20% over its GVW with no problems, but not any more so I can't haul as much in my pickup any more. By using my lightweight trailer I can haul up to 7,000 lbs.

"I spent about $3,500 to build it. It's like a lot of things that I build - at first I didn't think that I could justify the cost, but now that it's built I use it all the time."

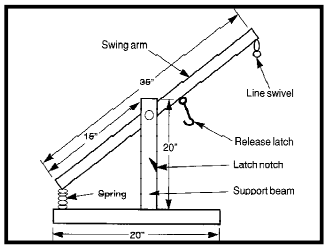
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Frank W. Faulring, 4841 Genesee Road, North Collins, N.Y. 14111 (ph 716 337-3682).

Automatic Ice Fishing Pole

Anyone who goes ice fishing will like this automatic fish pole that does all the work for you.

Canadian Gary Murray knows all about ice fishing. "I often get bites when pouring coffee so the fish gets away. No more. My fish pole sets the hook and the fish plays itself. The support beam is a 1 by 1/8-in. flat bar. The swing arm is made out of 1/2 by 1/8-in. flat bar. The base is 20 by 20 by 1/8-in. steel plate.

"A sturdy spring provides action. You can make the release latch from sheet metal or welding rod. Drill a hole in the end of the swinging arm, insert your swivel and line, and you're set for a day's fishing."



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Murray, Box 4000, Abbotsford, BC Canada V2S 4P3.

"Calf Caddy" Handy For Bringing In Calves

"Since we built it three years ago, we've used it to bring in 150 calves from pasture. It makes working calves a one-man job," says Bob Sallee about a handy two-wheel "calf caddy" he built to pull behind his ATV.

The Coffeyville, Kan., Limousin rancher built the frame of the cart out of 1 in. sq. tubing, which helped keep weight to less than 75 lbs. Two 10 in. wheels off a lawnmower mount on a 3 1/2-ft. axle. A 2-ft. leaf spring off a car welds to each side of the frame and axle to smooth out bumps when transporting calves over rough terrain.

The 2-ft. wide calf cradle consists of two strips of rubber belting 4-in. wide. Two rubber tarp straps hook over the calf's back to hold it in place.

The cart has a 6 1/2-ft. removable mast with manual winch for weighing calves in the pasture. A weighing sling, fitted with garden hose-covered chains and hooks in each end, has several holes for the hooks in order to adjust balance on the weigh bar.

Sallee normally uses the cart with his Honda 4-WD ATV to bring in 80 to 90-lb. calves, but says it'll handle calves up to 120 lbs. Out-of-pocket expenses were about $40.

For easier calf-catching in pastures, Sallee also made a calf hook patterned after old-style chicken hooks. It consists of a 6-ft. length of 3/8-in. dia. rod with a hook on one end and the other inserted into a pitchfork handle.

"You can reach out 7 ft. or so from the ATV, hook a calf by a rear foot, pull it to you and have it in the cradle on the cart in no time," he says. "It makes catching calves a lot easier and a lot safer, too, since you can stay farther away from the occasional ornery cow."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Sallee, R.R. 1, Box 296-A, Coffeyville, Kan. 67337 (ph 316 251-3463).

"Silo Blowers" Keep Apple Orchard Clean

"We cut fungicide use by one-half, thanks to these blower units that help clean leaves and downed apples off the ground in our orchard," says John Van Diepen who used silo blower units to make two big tractor-pulled leaf blowers.

"We repositioned the outlets on two Dion silo blowers from their original vertical position to a horizontal position so they blow at ground level," says Van Diepen who had to cut off the mounting brackets on the blowers to rotate them.

Van Diepen uses a Landini 6560 60 hp tractor to pull each unit at 5 to 6 mph for windrowing apples and leaves.

A flail mower then chops the windrows. The result is a reduction in the source of apple scab as well as some harmful insects that would normally overwinter in the debris.

As an add-on to the silo blower units, Van Diepen made a wind machine that sucks warmer air from aloft and blows it around young trees to keep them from freezing in the spring.

It consists of a 23-ft. long, 3 by 2-ft. rectangular sheet metal tube that attaches to a mounting bracket on the back of the blower. It sucks down air from 25 ft. above ground, where it's 3 to 4° warmer, and blows it around trees.

It operates at 1,900 rpm's pulled at 2 to 3 mph.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Warwick Orchards & Nursery, R.R. 8, Watford, Ontario, Canada NOM 2SO (ph 519 849-6730; fax 6731).