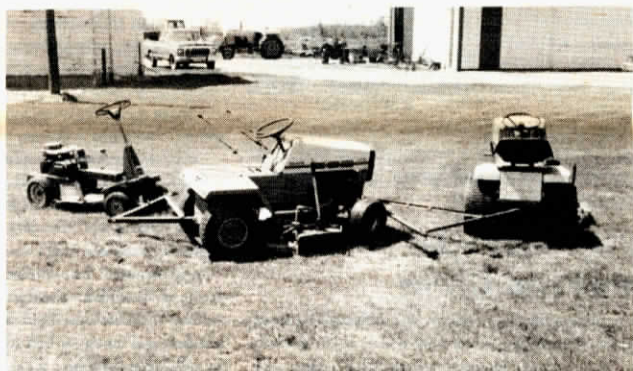


**“Made  
it  
Myself”**

Some of the best new products we hear about are “made it myself” innovations born in farmers’ workshops. If you’ve got a new invention or favorite gadget you’re proud of, we’d like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? (Send to: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, MN 55044).

*Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director*



**Three-In-One Lawn Mower**

Three old rider lawn mowers, tied together with L-shaped hitches, let Bob Benson, Burnettsville, Ind., cut an 80 in. wide swath across his 3/4 acre lawn for far less cost than a comparable size commercial mower.

Benson tied together a 1982 10 hp electric start Sears model with a 36 in. wide cut; a 1980 belt-driven Sears “Golden Black” with a 36 in. cut; and a 1980 5 hp, chain-driven Wards model with a 20 in. cut. He rides the 10 hp Sears model, which pulls the other two.

“The three mowers would cut nearly 90 in. wide, except that we overlap each one about 3 in.,” notes Benson. He figures he has about \$700 invested in the three mowers. “We had the lawn mowers and two of them were too old to have any trade-in value. Using them this way saved money and labor. What’s more, the independent floating action of each mower results in less scalping on our slightly uneven lawn than we’d get with a single, 80 in. wide mower.”

L-Shaped hitches, made of 1 in. angle

iron with braces for support, leave the trailing mowers offset and 3 ft. behind each other. There’s room for each mower to turn without hitting the rear wheels of the mower in front of it.

To make the trailing mowers pull as easily as possible, Benson removed their drive assembly belts or chains. Then, across the front of each, he welded a 3 ft. long bar onto the steering spindle.

Benson starts all three motors, kicks the rear two blades into gear, jumps on the front mower and away he goes.

“Once you learn how to drive the train of mowers, it’s easy. You have to learn how to judge where the rear mower will be when you turn corners. At the end of the lawn, I leave a strip where I turn. Then, when I come back around the next time, I split the strip.”

In corners and other tight places, he unhooks the pulling mower’s hitch pin and finishes with that mower.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Benson, Rt. 1, Box 71, Burnettsville, Ind. 47926 (ph 219 278-7282).



**Home-Built “Root Plow”  
Rips Out Tree Stumps**

“This homebuilt “root plow” tears out big brace roots and pushes out stumps, saving me the cost of \$75 an hour to hire a bulldozer,” says Dennis Roddinghaus, La Porte City, Iowa.

Roddinghaus, who built the “root plow” last year, used it to rip out about 100 tree stumps along an old fence line. “We cut the trees for firewood, leaving 4 ft. high stumps,” explains Roddinghaus. “Then we went in with the ‘root plow’.

We put it in the ground about 10 ft. from each stump, going about 3 ft. deep. After cutting roots on one side of the stump, we hydraulically raised the root plow, backed up, and plowed another side of the stump. After all 4 sides were cut, we centered the root plow on the stump and pushed it out.

“After using the root plow, we can remove it from the frame by pulling two 2 1/2 in. dia. pins. Then we mount a 12 ft. dozer blade in its place and use it to level the ground.”

Roddinghaus used \$50 worth of scrap metal, purchased at a local salvage yard, to build the root plow. The 3 1/2 ft. long cutting blade is 1 ft. wide at the bottom, tapering to a 1/2 in. wide cutting edge on top. Roddinghaus welded a 1/2 in. wide cutting blade from an old road grader, to the top edge. The root plow is welded to a 4 by 6 in. steel tube which attaches to a frame at the front of his 4-WD Massey Ferguson 1805 tractor. The operator drives forward to cut roots.

According to Roddinghaus, the root plow can cut the brace roots of any stump less than 18 in. in diameter. For larger stumps, he hires a bulldozer. The root plow weighs about 400 lbs. “Two people easily can tip it up and install the 2 pins in the frame,” notes Roddinghaus.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dennis Roddinghaus, 9702 S. Canfield Road, La Porte City, Iowa 50651 (ph 319 342-2453 or 319 342-3156).



**Swather “Bean Buggy”**

Old swathers make good “bean buggies” for spraying volunteer corn and tall-growing weeds in soybeans, according to Illinois farmer Alan Pegram.

“I removed all the hay equipment from an 1150 Case swather and cut off one dual wheel on each side of the machine. Then I attached a 3-in. sq. steel bar across the front and mounted a seat on either end for riders equipped with spray wands. A 30 gal. tank and an electric pump mount on the back. I had to move

the rear caster wheel to the right side of the unit to balance the machine after the hay head was removed.

“The wheels on the modified swather fit the skip rows in my soybeans. We spot spray weeds with Roundup. In addition to the up-front riders, the driver has a hand wand to spray any misses. The bar folds for transport or storage.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alan Pegram, Rt. 3, Lincoln, Ill. 62656 (ph 217 732-2390).