



Self-powered cart holds four pickers laying on their stomachs.

“Lay-Down” Berry Picking Cart

This lay-down berry-picking cart turns one of the hardest jobs in agriculture into an almost relaxing experience.

Dale and Becky Conrady, Hettick, Ill., had the cart built by a local welding shop. It holds four pickers, laying on their stomachs. One of the middle riders steers the rig with his feet and has hand controls.

The cart is driven by a Cub Cadet garden tractor’s hydrostatic transmission. A drive shaft runs across the back of the cart. Chains run down to sprockets on each rear wheel.

Picking trays sit on platforms that hang down between the rows. Adjustable chin rests let pickers adjust the position of their head to keep from getting tired.

Conrady has three acres of berries and hires 20 people during the season to pick them. Workers have to “earn” the right to ride on the berry cart.

Next summer, Conrady plans to add a canopy to the top to protect workers from the sun.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale Conrady, Rt 2, Hettick, Ill. 62649 (ph 217 436-2510).



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Heavy-Duty Scale Handles Loads Up To 5,000 Lbs.

If you’ve balked at spending hundreds - or even thousands - of dollars to buy an expensive drive-over scale, you might want to take a look at this new heavy-duty hydraulic scale that weighs “hanging” loads of up to 5,000 lbs.

“It’s perfect for many jobs where accuracy to within 2 percent is adequate,” says Craig Libuse, Sherline marketing director, noting that the scale sells for \$250 and comes with a hook at each end. “For example, we recently had a rash of orders from tobacco states because the government started offering a premium for tobacco bales delivered within a particular weight range. This scale is perfect for weighing loads as they go onto trucks or trailers.”

With a hook at either end, the hydraulic scale can be suspended from a block and tackle, a front-end loader bucket, or even a forklift blade.

Libuse notes that the scale is not intended to weigh products that are sold by weight - only to get approximate weights for loads. It’s accurate to 2 percent at the mid-range and to 3 percent at the heaviest and lightest weights. A more accurate, but more expensive, version is available that’s accurate to within 1 percent.

Both 2,000-lb. and 5,000-lb. scales are available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



With a hook at either end, hydraulic scale can be suspended from a block and tackle, front-end loader bucket, or forklift blade.

Sherline Products, 3235 Executive Ridge, Vista, Calif. 92083 (ph 800 541-0735; fax 760 727-7857; E-mail: sherline@sherline.com; Web site: www.sherline.com).



An 8-ft. high shipping container serves as the center support for Robert Dunton’s 40 by 40-ft. shed. A 16-ft. wide metal roof extends out each side from top of container.

Storage Shed Built Around Used Shipping Container

Old rail cars or shipping containers make cheap storage sheds on farms. Illinois farmer Robert Dunton took the idea one step further by using a shipping container as the main support for a building that he put up around it.

“I bought the semi container from a local trucking company for \$500,” says Dunton. “They delivered it to our farm and then I hooked onto it with a tractor and pulled it to where I wanted it.”

The 8-ft. high shipping container serves as the center support for the 40 by 40-ft. shed. The container mounts on railroad ties, making the middle of the shed about 9 ft. high. A 16-ft. wide metal roof extends out

each side from the top of the container and slopes down to 7-ft. high sides.

To build the shed around the container, Dunton bolted 2 by 6’s along the top of the trailer on both sides. He tied 2 by 6 rafters into them.

“At first I used the container to store all our seed, moving it in and out with a hand-operated pallet mover. As our farm got bigger we started using forklifts to handle our seed. Now we use the container mainly to store miscellaneous equipment and parts.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Dunton, 26494 E. County Road 1900 N., Topeka, Ill. 61567 (ph 309 256-2875).



“Mini wagons” mount on flotation tires and carry loads up to 1,500 lbs. They’re available with metal or wood racks.

Wagon And Dump Cart For ATV’s

“Mini wagons” designed for ATV’s and garden tractors will fit through 4-ft. wide doors, says the manufacturer, Market Farm Equipment of Dashwood, Ontario.

The wagons mount on flotation tires and carry loads up to 1,500 lbs. They come with an adjustable reach frame that extends the wagon from 48 to 60 in. long. Optional metal and wood racks are available. For winter use the tires can be replaced by an optional set of skis. Available in red, green, orange or blue.

Sells for \$450 (Canadian); \$750 with optional deck racks.

Also available is a plastic dump cart with heavy duty steel undercarriage. It weighs only 85 lbs. A foot release latch allows both hands to be free for easy dumping, with no need to bend down. The cart rides on 15 by 6.00-G flotation tires. It can also be equipped with skis for winter use.

Available in red, green, orange or blue.

Sells for \$325 (Canadian).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Market Farm Equipment, Rt. 1, Dashwood, Ontario, Canada (ph 519 238-2301; fax 519 238-6044;

Website: www.marketfarmequipment.com).



Also available are plastic dump carts with heavy duty steel undercarriages.