

Reader Letters



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boxes measure 20 in. long by 30 in. wide by 12 in. high and bolt on in place of the golf bag rack holder. Loosening two bolts can manually dump the box. Used golf



carts cost a lot less than ATV's or utility vehicles - the total investment for a used golf cart equipped with one of our boxes is usually less than \$2,000. Another advantage is that a golf cart is easy to get on and off and requires very little maintenance - just charge the battery and add gas and oil as needed. Our box fits most golf cart brands.

The steel box sells for \$199 plus S&H. The aluminum box sells for \$245 plus S&H. **(Larry Larson, Wabasso Products, 155 Hwy. No. 68, Box 179, Wabasso, Minn. 56293 (ph 800 658-2322 or 507 342-5696; fax 5443; E-mail: larry@wabpro.com; Website: www.wabpro.com).**

Over the years I've custom-built several different flatbeds for pickups in my shop. The one shown is mounted on a 1978 Chevrolet shortbed pickup and is 7 ft. long with a headache rack on front. It's made from 1/8-in. thick diamond steel plate and is mounted on 3-in. channel iron stringers. It has a built-in receiver hitch and a fifth wheel hitch at the center



that's covered by a hinged trap door which folds down flat. I sold this model for \$700. I think comparable commercial ones would sell for at least \$1,000. **(Steve Forseth, 1441 S. Second Rd. S.W., Fairfield, Montana 59436 ph 406 467-2074; E-mail: kforseth@3rivers.net).**

I've made several feed bins out of old hog feeders. I unbolt the feed panels



from below the funnel portion of the feeder. Then I install a wooden floor with

an opening at the middle where I put in a slide gate and spout. I used an old aluminum storm window frame to make the track for the slide gate. I also bolt steel legs onto the sides of the feeder and weld disc blades onto the bottoms for stability. I use the bins to fill baskets and 5-gal. buckets. The photo shows two feed bins, which each hold about 40 bu. I keep soybean meal in one and calf feed in the other. I even made an 80-bu. model by removing the funnel portion from one feeder and bolting it on top of another feeder.

I also make a hitch pin locking device that slides over the tractor drawbar and bolts onto it. I use it all the time when baling. There's a short pin on the baler



so it doesn't drag on hay in the windrow. The locking device keeps the pin from bouncing out and eliminates the need to use a clip. It consists of a steel bracket with a pair of slots on front and a sliding pin on back. I slide the pin back over the hitch pin and place a clamp over the back slot and around the drawbar to keep the pin in place. To unhook the baler, I remove the clamp and place it in the forward slot, then slide the pin forward.

Another idea that works well for me is using an old garage door opener and a remote control to open and close a 14-



ft. long gate next to my barn. The opener is mounted under the barn eaves where it stays dry. The opener's chain is attached to a pair of ropes, which run to a steel pipe that's secured to the top of the gate. I keep the remote control in my tractor. The chain pulls the ropes back and forth to open and close the gate. It saves me a lot of steps when hauling manure because I don't have to get on and off the tractor all the time. **(Dale Spoerl, 6505 S. Schnitzler Rd., Elizabeth, Ill. 61028 ph 815 598-3277).**

I operate a small welding and repair service and recently built a trailer for a friend to collect leaves and grass clippings from his 17-acre farmstead, which is heavily wooded. The trailer is towed behind a Deere riding mower. A leaf blower, powered by a 5 hp pull-start gas engine, attaches to the back of the tractor. An 8-in. dia. flex hose runs from the mower deck to the blower and then back to the trailer. The blower vacuums leaves and grass from the deck and blows them back into



I've had a lot of fun with my home-built, zero turn riding mower which has an up-front deck that can be replaced with a 4-wheeled "cargo caddy". My mower has features that make it work better than any commercial riding mower on the market. It's simple, compact, and very durable. The mulcher-type, rear discharge contoured deck is supported by hidden caster wheels and floats up and down over uneven terrain. However, regardless of the deck's angle, the drive belt to it stays exactly at the same tension at all

the trailer. The trailer dumps 90 degrees, which helps empty wet leaves.



I used sq. tubing to make a subframe for the trailer and mounted a 4 by 24-in. hydraulic cylinder on it. The cylinder is powered off the hydraulics that operate the snowplow attachment on front of the riding mower. The box measures 8 ft. long, 5 ft. wide, and 4 ft. high and has plywood sides so it's very lightweight. A metal screen across the tailgate allows exhaust air to escape yet still catches the leaf particles.

My friend had been raking or blowing leaves into piles and then shoving them into the trailer by hand. When raking



times. The deck has a recessed yoke in front that lets you cut up close to bushes and shrubs. The deck is secured by a pair of push rods.

The engine is on back and is covered by a hood that tilts forward for easy access. An automatic braking system stops both the machine and the mower deck whenever you release the gas pedal, which makes it very safe to use. **(Albert Browning, 179 Hwy. 865, Winnsboro, La. 71295 ph 318 435-4824)**

leaves by hand he hauled away about 50 loads of leaves every year. The mower deck and blower turn the leaves into dust and condense them so much that now he has to haul only about five or six loads. He's gone through leaves 6 to 8 in. deep with no problem, and when he was done the lawn looked like he had



ran over it with a vacuum cleaner. The only time he has to get off the mower is when he's ready to dump the load. He simply unhooks the hose and opens the tailgate.

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I'm trying to completely eliminate the use of chemicals on my farm, so I bought a commercial kit to build my own 3-pt. mounted, 6-row flame weed cultivator. The kit that I bought included the burners, burner mounting brackets, hoses, and controls. The company also offered an LP tank and a steel frame to support it, as well as the toolbar on which the burners mount but they wanted more than \$2,000 for those components. I

didn't want to pay that much so I made my own frame and toolbar and converted an old 100-gal. anhydrous ammonia tank. I cleaned out the tank and changed the fittings and valves. The burners can be adjusted up or down, from side to side, or tilted at different angles with a wrench. **(Victor Larson, 1163 W. Townline Rd., Freesoil, Mich. 49411 ph 231 464-5619)**