

New Ways To Get Around At Farm Shows

FARM SHOW editors spend a lot of time at farm equipment shows across North America, looking for latest new products and ideas. Sometimes the best ideas we see come rolling down the aisles toward us.

Bill Gergen, Senior Editor

Herb and Christine Wilcox used a modified 1970 Dixon riding mower to get around the recent Ohio Farm Science Review near Columbus.



Dixon Riding Mower

Herb and Christine Wilcox of Dublin, Ohio, used their 1970 Dixon riding mower to get around the recent Ohio Farm Science Review near Columbus. To switch the mower to showgoing mode, Herb removes the mower deck, unbolts the hood, and then bolts a sheet of plywood onto the mower's frame. Then he bolts two padded car seats onto angle iron brackets fastened to the plywood.

The Honda engine came with only a 2-qt. plastic gas tank so Herb straps a 1-gal. metal gas can under the seats. He also made a bracket that supports an umbrella to provide shade and protection from rain.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Herb



They ride in two padded car seats that are bolted onto mower's frame.

Wilcox, 10931 Manley Rd., Dublin, Ohio 43017 (ph 614 889-9950).

"Double Decker" Wagon

Troy Fredrickson of Indianapolis, Ind., took his wife Michelle and four kids - all under six years old - to the Farm Progress Show near Lafayette, Ind. All the kids rode in the bottom half of a double decker wagon that Troy put together. The top deck is 2 ft. above the bottom deck and is used to store food, drinks, and other necessities.

Troy started with a commercial wagon. The top deck is supported by four wood legs that bolt to the sides of the wagon. There's an extended platform on back that can be used to hang lawn chairs or hold an umbrella.

The legs can be unbolted to put the top part into storage.

"It's a little heavy to pull. I plan to motorize the wagon and add dual wheels and lights to it. I also plan to build a smaller wagon that will hitch on behind this one, where we'll carry our youngest child as well as extra baggage," says Troy.



Troy Fredrickson's "double decker" wagon came in handy at the recent Farm Progress Show. His four kids rode in the bottom half of the wagon. Supplies were stored on the top half.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Troy Fredrickson, 1415 N. Gladstone Ave., Indianapolis, Ind. 46201 (ph 317 359-7962).

Jacobsen Garden Tractor

We spotted Bob Coffeen of Fond du Lac, Wis., at last year's Wisconsin Farm Progress Show. He was riding along - in the shade of an umbrella - on his 1962 Jacobsen Chief garden tractor. "I take it to a lot of antique shows. It saves a lot of walking," he says.

Coffeen welded a short length of exhaust tube to the back of the seat to serve as the umbrella holder. He also bolted a length of PVC tubing onto the side of the tractor to hold his walking cane. To improve the ride and also to get a better view of things, he raised the seat 6 in.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Coffeen, 871 S. Main St., Lot 21, Fond du Lac, Wis. 54935 (ph 920 921-5880).



Bob Coffeen rides in the shade of an umbrella on his Jacobsen garden tractor.



Yamaha ATV is fitted with a school bus seat on back that faces backward. Note handles at each side of seat, and foot rests for riders.

Add-On School Bus Seat For ATV's

With about 8,500 acres, Howell Farms of Diamondale, Mich., uses a lot of big equipment. Every year they attend the Farm Progress Show to check out new equipment and watch it working in the field. To help them see how the machines perform, they haul four Yamaha ATV's to the show - each one equipped with a school bus seat on back that faces backward. The add-on seat has room for two people, allowing the ATV to haul three people at a time. The seat mounts on top of the ATV's rear rack.

Several of the farm's employees attend the show, hauling the ATV's in an enclosed snowmobile trailer.

"The add-on seats make it easy for us to get around the various demonstration fields surrounding the show," says inventor Larry Seifert. "A big advantage is that the driver can run right beside the combine as it goes down the field and watch how well the header cuts, how the chopper is performing, etc. Today's big equipment goes so fast that you can't keep up with it if you walk.

"The two extra riders have foot rests and hold onto a handle at each side of the seat. It's a lot softer ride than if they sat on the ATV's front or rear racks. With the bus seat on, the driver is somewhat cramped. However, the seat is back far enough that he doesn't bang his head or shoulders on it. The only improvement would be to cut the seat down so that it wasn't so high. The bus seat can be quickly removed by taking out four bolts."

To make the conversion, Seifert cut off a



Howell Farms employees Chris Ankney and Brian Peirson rode on the add-on seat at the recent Farm Progress Show.

vertical rack designed to keep cargo from falling off the back side of the horizontal rack. He used existing holes under the rack to bolt the seat on. He used 2-in. wide, 1/4-in. thick flat stock to make a frame for each side of the seat. The footrest is removable from the frame and consists of a length of 1-in. dia. conduit, which in turn supports a section of stair tread material. A bar behind the stair tread material keeps the rider from getting his foot caught in the ATV's tires. To remove the seat the operator simply flips the seat up and removes four bolts.

To counter balance the weight of the two add-on riders, they mount 80 lbs. of weights on front of the ATV. The weights are held on by hose clamps.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Seifert, Howell Farms, Box 387, 9200 Bridge Hwy., Diamondale, Mich. 48821 (ph 517 646-6491).

Covered Wagon

Tim and Angie Moulder of Pittsboro, Ind., pulled their little boy in this home-built covered wagon at the Farm Progress Show. It keeps the kids out of the sun and wind and rain.

He welded together a steel frame and attached a wooden floor and sides to it. Four wooden side racks attach to stake pockets. The front rack can be removed and used as the back for a removable wooden bench seat that's mounted on the wagon floor. The Moulders 3-year-old son can sit on the bench seat while their 1-year-old son sits in a baby car seat behind him.

To make the covered top, Tim sewed together material that he bought at an Army surplus store. The material is supported by three lengths of bent metal rod that fit into stake pockets on the sides of the wagon. A length of bungee cord is sewed into each end of the fabric in order to keep it tight. A brake rod on one side of the wagon can be used to



Tim and Angie Moulder pulled their little boys in this home-built covered wagon.

keep the wagon from moving whenever it's parked on slopes.

The front part of the wagon has cup holders and is equipped with a large metal handle that allows the wagon to be pulled by an ATV or riding mower.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tim and Angie Moulder, 2528 E. 900 N., Pittsboro, Ind. 46167 (ph 317 892-4370).