



Electric-powered "lift and go" platform mounts on pickup receiver hitch and can be used to haul everything from ATV's to garden tractors and other cargo.

Carry An ATV On Trailer Hitch

Using your pickup to haul heavy loads is easy with this new electric-powered "lift and go" platform that mounts in a receiver hitch. It can be used to haul everything from ATV's and garden tractors to rototillers, snowblowers, lawn mowers and more.

The platform attaches to a vertical lift post fitted with an electric screw actuator that raises and lowers the platform. The motor is activated by either a toggle switch control or an optional push button remote control. Nylon straps that attach to tie-down slots on the platform are used to secure the load.

To operate the unit, you lower the platform to the ground and load the object onto it, then use nylon straps to secure the load and raise the platform.

"It takes all the hassle out of using ramps and is also much safer to use," says Brian Wise, Hitch Things, Inc., Chambersburg, Pa. "In many cases it will also eliminate the need for a trailer."

Two models are available - one with 400-lb. capacity and the other 800 lbs. The 800-lb. capacity model sells for \$675. A variety of different platforms are available starting at \$170.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hitch Things, Inc., 600 East Paper Mill Rd., Chambersburg, Pa. 17201 (ph 877 734-3920 or 717 263-9982; fax 717 263-6916; E-mail: sales@hitchthings.com; Website: www.hitchthings.com).



Motorized laydown work cart looks like a massage table mounted on snowmobile treads.

Motorized Lay-Down Work Cart

Visitors to the recent Wisconsin Farm Progress Days Show were able to check out this new motorized laydown work cart that looks like a massage table mounted on snowmobile treads.

Made in Sweden, the Drangen work cart has foot controls to steer and adjust speed. The machine is powered by a 5 1/2 to 13 1/2 hp gas engine that mounts on back. Speed can vary from a slow creep to a walk. The frame can be adjusted from 3 to 8 ft. wide for different row widths, and crop clearance can be adjusted from 12 in. on up. Optional weeding brushes, a conveyor system, a trailing wagon, and a seated unit with toolbar for seeders and cultivators is available.

"It leaves both your hands free to pick, weed, or tend plants while the rest of your

body rests comfortably. As a result, you can do a lot of different jobs with it," says Bob Meyer, who works part time with the Healthy Profits Project at the University of Wisconsin, which owns one of the new carts. "One farmer uses the machine as a vacuum-type salad harvester. A vacuum sucks 'salad mixes' such as baby lettuces and specialty greens into a container and then the worker uses a hand blade to cut them up. A job that used to take four or five people an entire morning now takes one person only about two hours.

"Another farmer uses the machine as a water jet transporter. The idea is to use pressurized water to inject holes into the ground, then set transplants into the wet holes so that the roots can start growing right away.

"The engine is behind you so you don't



Engler put a 2,400-bu. bin at the end of his hog barn. To get hot air from the barn attic to the bin, he made a 16-in. sq. duct from plywood and connected it to the intake side of an aeration fan that he mounted inside the bin.

Solar Barn Roof Helps Dry Grain

Werner Engler says that as a small farmer, he couldn't justify a big-fuel guzzling grain dryer. But he still needed some way to dry small quantities of wheat and canola.

One day the Barrhead, Alberta, farmer took a look at the metal roof on his 32 by 100-ft. hog barn and decided there was plenty of heat there to dry grain if he could just collect it and funnel it into the bin.

Engler put a 2,400-bu. bin at the end of the barn. He installed an 8-ft. square heavy steel screen on a 2 by 4 in. frame on the bin floor and then extended the framework across the floor and covered it with plywood so the floor would be level. Then he ducted a 3 hp aeration fan into the space under the screen. To get hot air from the hog barn attic to the bin, he made a 16-in. square duct from plywood and connected it to the intake side of the aeration fan. He didn't modify the hog barn roof.

"Building it was not that difficult," he says.

"And it's not expensive to operate. I've never measured the air temperature coming off the roof but when it's sunny, it's warm enough to reduce moisture content 0.5 percent per day, so I could dry wheat from 18 percent to 15 percent moisture in six days."

Engler puts only about 2,000 bu. of grain into his drying bin at a time. "You have to be sure that once you turn the fan on, you don't turn it off until the grain is dry," he says. "It dries from the bottom up and you have to push the moisture all the way through the grain to dry the grain at the top."

Engler says he usually moves the grain from the drying bin into another bin for storage once it's dry, even if he doesn't have more grain to dry, since sometimes it wasn't dried evenly and stores better if it's mixed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Werner Engler, RR 1, Site 9, Box 1, Barrhead, Alberta T7N 1N2 Canada (ph 780 674-5866).

breathe fumes, and it's quiet enough to listen to a radio or talk as you work. Some farmers have outfitted the cart with a canopy that shelters them from the sun and rain.

The Drangen work cart is not sold by anyone in North America. It sells for about \$6,000 depending on options, exchange rate, and shipping costs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Drangen, Mats Andersson, MAPRO PROJEKT, Box 42, S-74721 Alunda, Sweden (ph 011 46 174-71610; E-mail: design20@telia.com).

One farm operation uses the machine as a vacuum-type lettuce harvester.



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