



Vaaler splitter is equipped with a steel push plate on back. Plate moves forward to split log against a wedge that mounts up front.

## Skid Loader-Mounted Log Splitter

One person can safely split wood all day and never touch it by hand using this new skid steer-mounted splitter.

The Vaaler splitter quick-taches to universal mounting brackets and operates off the loader's hydraulics.

A steel push plate on back moves forward to split the log against a wedge that mounts up front. The operator lowers the splitter over the log, then moves the push plate forward. An optional "chunk scoop" quick taches to the front of the splitter and allows you to load split chunks into a wagon or truck. The 45-in. wide scoop has a series of 30-in. long steel prongs spaced about 8 in. apart. The scoop tips up or down with the action of the push plate.

By reversing the push plate, the unit can also be used to trim tree branches. The back side of the push plate is fitted with another wedge that matches the front wedge, allowing you to trim 3 to 4-in. dia. branches on trees as high as your skid loader will reach.

"It's the safest splitter on the market because no one has to go near it," says inventor Owen Vaaler. "It lets you go to the wood and split it instead of having to bring the wood to the splitter. There's no need to



Optional "chunk scoop" quick-taches to front of splitter and allows you to load split chunks into a wagon or truck.

lift wood at all. As a result, one man can split as much wood in a day as two men can do with other splitters. We offer two models, which will split logs up to 24 or 30 in. in length. After you split the log once, you can use the splitter's nose to roll the chunk over and move it around to any position you want, then split it into smaller chunks."

The 24-in. model sells for \$950 plus S&H and the 30-in. model sells for \$1,050 plus S&H. The optional scoop sells for \$500 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vaaler Co., Box 117, Spring Grove, Minn. 55974 (ph 507 498-5577; Website: www.vaalermfg.com).

## Tailgate-Mounted "Pickup Ladder"

Getting in and out of a pickup bed can be hard on your knees and ankles. This new tailgate-mounted ladder makes it easy.

The "Qwik-2-Step" installs with four self-tapping lag screws and stores in a folded position on the back side of the tailgate. Made entirely of powder-coated steel, it comes with three telescoping leg sections that collapse into a small frame. A handhold attaches to one side.

When you're done using the ladder, you push all the sections back into the frame and use a locking pin to secure them. When you put the tailgate up, the vertical handhold is flush against the side of the pickup bed.

"Once you use this ladder, it's hard to do without it," says marketing manager Peter Plaxa.

Weights 37 lbs. Sells for \$109.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Qwikstep, Inc., Box 68, Silver Spring, Pa. 17575 (ph 717 684-8971; fax 717 684-9201; Website: www.qwik2step.com).

Tailgate steps store in a folded position on back of tailgate (above). Three sections fold out to make a ladder (right).



## One-Row "Precision" Planter For Small-Scale Truck Farming

Large-scale gardeners and small-scale truck farmers will want to take a look at this new one-row "precision planter" that mounts behind any garden tractor or ATV.

The ground-driven "Garden Pro" plants everything from the smallest seeds up to small-seeded sweet corn. It's equipped with a seed wheel that can be custom-designed for any seed. The wheel is turned by a gear, and seed spacing depends on the number of teeth in the gear. For example, a 6-tooth gear may result in 3 1/2-in. spacing while a 12-tooth gear may result in 2-in. spacing. Different plates are available. You can also change seed spacing by changing the number of "pockets" in the seed plate.

A pair of large steel discs are used to make a furrow. A depth control wheel mounts next to the discs. Seed is delivered out an "ejector blade" between the two discs. A small packer wheel on back firms soil over the seed.



Ground-driven planter can handle a variety of sizes by changing seed plates.

The planter can't be used to plant larger seeds such as melons, pumpkins, sunflowers, and some varieties of sweet corn.

Sells for \$659 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Starco Manufacturing, Inc., Box 476, Casper, Wyo. 82602 (ph 800 859-0399 or 307 234-5244; Website: www.miltongardenpro.com).



Ramps allow Richard Harmons and his sons to ride through fences that separate their three pastures.

## Four-Wheeler Ramps Save Ranchers Countless Hours

Checking cattle is a lot easier for the Harmons at Chester, Montana, since they installed four-wheeler ramps in the fences between their winter pastures.

Richard Harmon and his sons, Bill and Pat, have a combined herd of about 500 head of beef cows. From December through April, their cattle are all commingled and kept in three groups based on age and body condition. This makes feeding easier, but it also means a lot of opening and closing gates while checking cattle.

To save time, Pat put together ramps that allow them to ride through the fences that separate the three pastures. "A neighbor had built something similar. We borrowed from his design, but changed it a little so we could fold up the ramps when we were working with the cattle. We felt this would discourage them from trying to run through the gap in the fence," he says.

The ramps rise up to a height of about 16 in. They're made of long lengths of old grader blade, with combine rasp bars used as crossbars. Short lengths of heavy-walled steel pipe were used to make hinges.

He used heavy angle iron for the center frame and legs. "I got the used grader blades from the county and a local machinery dealer



Ramps are made out of grader blade, with combine rasp bars used as cross pieces.

had the old rasp bars," Harmon says.

He says the grader blades work well because they're made of high grade hardened steel.

"The rasp bars are ideal for cross members because the serrating on them gives better traction," he adds.

He says the ramps have been especially useful during calving season, when the cattle are checked every few hours around the clock.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pat Harmon, HCR 78 Box 255, Chester, Mont. 59522 (ph 406 759-5828; E-mail: pmharmon@mcn.net).