



“It has great visibility,” says Dale Rivinius about the cab he built for his 1988 Deere 332 garden tractor. It’s built out of tubular steel and sheet metal, with plexiglass windows.

“I Built My Own Tractor Cabs”

“I own and operate a mowing and lawn service and custom snow removal business. Last winter I decided to build a cab for my 1988 Deere 332 garden tractor and also for my 2001 Deere 425 garden tractor. They both turned out great,” says Dale Rivinius, Lemmon, S. Dak.

Both cabs are built out of tubular steel and sheet metal, with plexiglass windows. They’re insulated with foamboard and both cabs are heated. Rivinius built a cowl for each tractor that surrounds the engine compartment and circulates the heat back into the cab. The cabs have great visibility and there’s a sliding rear window to provide ventilation.

“My total cost for each tractor was about \$500 including labor,” says Rivinius. “I use these tractors all the time for snow removal, with a front-end loader on the 332 model and a dozer blade on the 425 model.

“Both cabs stay nice and warm inside. In fact, sometimes it can get so hot inside that I can hardly stand it.

“In the spring I remove both cabs from the tractors. It’s an easy job. The cab on the 332 comes off with four bolts, and on the 425 with six bolts.”

On the 425 model, the front window is hinged and can be flipped open for access to the engine.

To make the sliding rear window, Rivinius



He also built this cab for his 2001 Deere 425 garden tractor.

used a house window that just happened to exactly fit the cab opening. The window is split vertically so that one half is screen and the other half plexiglass.

“If I were to build another cab I’d use Lexan because it’s a lot stronger and isn’t as likely to crack or get scratches in it. However, it’s also more expensive,” notes Rivinius.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale Rivinius, Dale’s Tilling & Mowing Service, 305 4th Ave. E., Lemmon, S. Dak. 57638 (ph 701 376-7006 or 605 490-0713).

Pivoting “Chute Trays”

Kees and Tineke Kokke of Clyde, Alberta, shared some tricks of their trade with FARM SHOW recently. The couple operate a unique family business providing an “on site” custom cattle processing service.

The Kokkes designed a handy gadget on a pivoting arm that helps save a lot of time and labor at the cattle squeeze. It’s a 14-in. dia. round steel equipment tray that they use to hold syringes, eartags, eartagging guns, etc. They have six of the adjustable trays in all - one on each of their squeeze’s four corners, and two on gates near the headgate. All are within an arm’s reach at all times.

The circular shelves have a raised edge to keep things from falling off, and a rubber mat for added traction.

Tineke stands on one side of the squeeze, administering vaccine, while Kees stays on the other side of the chute, carrying out the branding and parasite treatment. The third person stands at the headgate doing implanting and eartagging and a fourth crew member “pushes” animals up the alley.

To cut down on environmental noise and stress to both human and animal, the Kokkes added a layer of rubber in the headgate of the squeeze. This cushions the animal when it hits the front of the squeeze, and eliminates the usual loud clanging. Hockey pucks be-

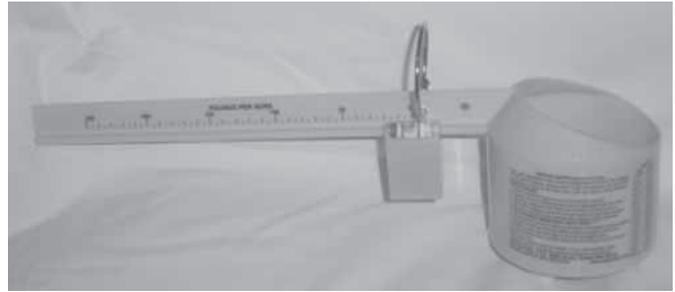


Mounted on a pivoting arm, the round steel equipment tray is used to hold syringes, eartags, eartagging guns, etc.

between the chute’s other moving parts fulfill a similar purpose.

The biggest part of the Kokkes’ fulltime business comes from a contract with Canada’s largest cattle auction facility, Nilsson Bros. Livestock. They do the after-auction processing for the company.

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Scale makes it easy to know precisely the amount of seed being applied per acre before finishing the entire field.

“Seed Meter” Rate Scale

All grain drills come with calibration charts but due to variances in seed size and texture, the final seeding rate often varies from the manufacturer’s seed chart rates.

“This costs farmers money through over or underseeding,” says David Berckes of Berckes Mfg. He has a new application rate scale that makes it easy to know precisely the amount of seed being applied per acre before finishing the entire field. He says other scales that have been on the market in the past were much more expensive, more com-

plicated, and less accurate.

The “Seeder Meter” is non-electric and measures pounds per acre of any seed. “It’s extremely accurate due to high sensitivity in the normal seeding range of 0 to 250 lbs. per acre,” says Berckes. He also makes a Fertilizer Density scale.

Sells for \$45 plus \$5 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Berckes, Berckes Mfg., 2731 190th St., Canby, Minn. 56220 (ph 800 2309-4964; berckes@frontiernet.net; www.agscale.com).



“The secret to the smooth cut is the hooked teeth on the auger,” says the manufacturer of this new bunker silage facer. Auger measures 86 in. wide.

Silage “Facer” Cuts Clean And Smooth

A smoother face on a bunker full of silage means less spoilage will occur. The SD1000 Bunker Silage Facer cuts clean and smooth with its heavy-duty, toothed auger grinding action across its 86-in. width.

“The secret to the smooth cut is the hooked teeth on the auger,” says Tim Johnson of Connaught Industries, manufacturer of the SD1000. “They have a cutting edge to them. The revolving face of the auger gives them a clean sweep across the face of the cut, instead of gouging in. It leaves a perfectly flat surface.”

Other features of the SD1000 include “side cutter” plates that allow an operator to clear silage along bunker walls or to make a clean split in a bunker face. The combination of a rear shield and belting ensure that silage is diverted down and not back on the operator. Heavy-duty series 60 chain, hardened sprock-

ets and the powerful 2000 series Charlyn hydraulic motor were all selected for long life, durability and ease of maintenance.

The facer also has welded adjustable leg plates that prevent teeth from striking cement or other floor surfaces. The 16-in. auger is made with 1/4-in. steel fluting, and the cutting teeth bolt on for easy replacement. An in-line check valve ensures a smooth shut off.

The \$4,400 SD1000 comes standard with a mount for skid steer loaders with a lift capacity of 1,500 lbs. or more. With its 6-ft. reach (extended frame), reaching the top of the bunker is not a problem. Other models are available for telehandlers and payloaders.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Connaught Industries, Inc., 1095 State Hwy 43 N, Rushford, Minn. 55971 (ph 507 864-2955; kendo@acegroup.cc; www.connaughtindustries.com).

Painted Rat Scares Others Away

There’s an old saying that if you have rat problems you should catch one, paint it white, and then turn it loose. The other rats will disappear.

I was recently reading an Amish magazine about a farmer who tried the idea. He and his boys trapped a rat in the barn and then

poured white paint over it before setting it free. A week or so later their dog started catching rats out in the fields around the homestead where they had never seen rats before. And, at the time his story was written, he had not seen any signs of rats around the barn for six weeks.

Mark Newhall