

They Specialize In 3-Pt. And Loader Attachments

Kevin Ranette operates a steel fabrication and repair shop near Moyie Springs, Idaho. He recently sent FARM SHOW photos of several different attachments he builds to make farm work easier.

"We're a small company that manufactures and also custom-builds almost any kind of attachment there is, including 3-pt. mounted blades, landscape rakes, cultivators, middle busters, front-end loaders and more," says Ranette. "We manufacture all our attachments and products to the highest quality possible and make sure our customers are fully satisfied. All our products come with a 90-day warranty, and replacement parts are readily available.

"We also custom-build various attachments. Customers tell us what they want and how they want it, and we'll build it. For example, if you want a 6-ft. back blade with hydraulic angling or a tilting frame, we can do that."

Here are some of the company's most popular attachments.

Tractor landscape rakes – Ranette builds light to medium duty rakes as well as heavy-duty models. "We build everything in our shop except for the heavy-duty, hardened rake tines. All our rakes are made to stand up to extreme use. They feature 6 angle settings, parking stands and replaceable tines. They're available in widths from 4 to 8 ft, and we can custom-build any size in between. All rakes are available with standard or heavy-duty

tines."

Prices for their heavy-duty rakes range from \$325 for a 4-ft. model to \$500 for a 7-ft. "Standard rakes have mild steel tines and cost \$50 less than the same size heavy duty model," says Ranette.

Back blades – He says they build their back blades to stand up to a variety of chores. "The blades come with 6 different angle settings, 360 degree rotation, parking stands, replaceable cutting edges, and solid frames with reinforcements everywhere. Prices range from \$250 for a 4-ft. model up to \$600 for an 8-ft. All of our blades are compatible with hydraulic angling."

Front-end loaders – They can custom-build front-end loaders for almost any tractor, big or small. "Standard features include mechanical self leveling and a quick-tach loader frame and quick-tach bucket. Available attachments include pallet forks, snow blades, grapples and more."

Prices vary greatly from loader to loader. "On average our loaders sell anywhere from \$1,500 for a small standard model to \$5,000 for a big, top-of-the-line model loaded with features," says Ranette. "Contact us for a list of all our products."

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Ranette builds light to medium duty rakes as well as heavy duty models. His back blades come with 6 different angle settings and 360 degree rotation.

Russ Wilson built this ATV-mounted seed "spinner spreader" out of an old Gandy seed box. It holds about 45 lbs. of clover seed, which he uses to rejuvenate pastures.



ATV "Seed Spinner" Used On Pastures

Russ Wilson spreads a lot of seed to rejuvenate pastures with the aid of his cattle. Wilson practices mob grazing, counting on cow hoofs to press seed into the ground. So before he turns cattle out into a pasture that needs rejuvenation, he spreads seed.

"I had a spinner spreader on my trailer hitch, but it didn't have good control with small seed," says Wilson. "I had a bunch of old Gandy seed boxes that farmers had tossed, so I built a spinner spreader for one."

The Gandy box holds about 45 lbs. of clover seed. Wilson needed a good frame to support it and the spinner. He used a 38-in. long, 1 3/4-in. sq. piece of steel tubing for an upright leg. At the lower end it is bolted to tubing that slides into a front-end receiver hitch. At the top, the leg forms a T with a piece of 1 3/4-in. tubing that is the width of the Gandy Box. Gandy box brackets bolt to the T-bar. Straps attached from the ends of the T to the sides of the front rack provide added support.

"They snug the leg and box up to the front

rack," says Wilson. "It doesn't rattle or bang around at all."

Wilson picked up a DC motor for \$20 and a spinner plate for \$10. He mounted those to the end of a 13-in. long piece of 2-in. sq. tubing that is bolted to the upright at about the 18-in. point.

Seed is metered from the Gandy's metering system down clear plastic tubes and onto the spinner plate. A 1-in. long, 2-in. dia. pipe gathers the tubes above the plate.

"The bracket puts the spinner out in front of the leg for a better spread and above my fence jumper," says Wilson. "The bottom of the Gandy box has a sliding plate to adjust seed volume. I have just 2 switches, one for the metering system and one for the spinner, and both are wired direct to the power outlet on the side by side. I like to keep things simple."

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Mobile gasification plant consists of a 150 kW generator powered by a biomass gasification system, with everything tucked inside a 20-ft. long shipping container.

Mobile Gasification Plant Pays For Itself

The Powertainer 150 from All Power Labs (APL) is a 150 kW generator powered by a biomass gasification system, all tucked inside a 20-ft. long shipping container. Based on the Powertainer 100 designed to burn corncobs for the University of Minnesota Morris, the 150 kW unit will burn trees as they're cut, feeding electricity into power lines.

"As a result of the ongoing drought, California has 29 million dead trees standing, and by fall that number may triple," says Tom Price, director, Strategic Initiatives APL. "What to do with them is a tremendous challenge, and the state issued a grant that we won."

APL's solution is the Powertainer 150 with its fully automated biomass hopper, gasifier, gas filtering, engine, generator and electrical output control. It will be able to run on a wide range of fuel, yet meet California air standards.

The original Powertainer 100 consumed 220 lbs. of dry biomass per hour at a 100 kW load. The onboard hopper held about 400 cu. ft. of biomass, adequate for a 24-hr. run at full load.

APL has come a long way from the gasification kits featured in FARM SHOW several years ago (Vol. 34, No. 4).

As the product changed, so did APL. While they still operate the world's largest free web

source about gasification, they now sell very sophisticated, automated gasification units. The Gasifier kit, which makes gas from biomass, is now available for \$18,995. The 20 kW Power Pallet includes the gasification unit, engine and generator. It sells for \$26,995.

The Powertainer 150 takes gasification to a totally different level. The current unit uses a 6.7L Cummins turbo diesel, but proposed units will use a spark fired, turbo-charged, industrial GM V-8. Pricing is still being determined.

"We have one in production with 4 to follow next year," says Price. "The goal is by the middle of next year to be closing in on commercial production. A year from now, people will be able to start placing preorders."

APL's Powertainer is small enough that it can be moved as needed, set up and hooked into the nearest power line.

"We can move into a watershed, use up the fuel and move on," says Price. "The ability to scale power production up and down depending on available fuel is a real opportunity."

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