



Bill Griffin removed the beaters and added a metal roof to convert this old silage wagon into a handy portable firewood hauler. "I park it next to my outdoor stove in winter and pull it away in the spring when we're done burning wood," he says.

## Silage Wagon Converted Into Portable Woodshed

When Bill Griffin, North Garden, Va., installed an outdoor wood burning stove to heat his house, he converted an old silage wagon into a portable covered firewood hauler.

"I came up with the idea for a portable woodshed because I didn't want a permanent structure next to my house. The 50-year-old self-unloading wagon was just the ticket," says Griffin. "I fill it up with about 4 cords of wood, park it next to the stove, and pull it away in the spring when we're done burning wood. I used mostly scrap materials to modify the wagon."

He started with an old Big Blue open top silage wagon that he bought cheap from a neighbor. The wagon was designed to unload out either the front or back. He removed the beaters from the front of 16 ft. box and built a 4-ft. high metal roof with slanted sides. The roof is nailed to a frame made from 2 by 4's.

He uses a conveyor to fill the wagon from the front, or backs up a dump truck and tosses wood in by hand.

"During the winter he parks the wagon in front of the stove and raises the tailgate, which provides shelter as he stokes the fire. "I take the wood out from the back until I can't reach it any more. Then I use the tractor



He fills wagon from the front and takes wood out from the back.

pto to operate the floor chain and move the entire pile of wood toward the rear. Once the wagon is about half empty, I refill it through the front. The wood has about a month to dry as it's moved from front to back. I fill the wagon about 6 times during the winter."

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Bottom-unloading hopper lets you load firewood into a pickup or trailer bed without worrying about damaging the vehicle. Hopper slowly empties as it's raised.

## Loader Hopper Handles Bulk Cargo

Iron Bull has an answer for loading firewood, mulch or other bulk materials fast and gentle. The company's bottom-unloading hopper can be lowered to a truck or trailer bed before opening. No more worrying about damaging the vehicle. Contents fall only a few feet, and the hopper slowly empties as it's raised.

"I was watching a customer use a conventional, self-dumping hopper to load firewood and thought how tricky it was to position the hopper just right so it didn't hit the customer's truck or trailer," recalls Joe Glick, Iron Bull. "I put some thought into it and came up with the EZ-Load."

The basic EZ-Load Hopper holds 2 cu. yds., equivalent to a face cord of firewood. The 48-in. wide, 40-in. deep and 42-in. tall open topped, steel box has 2 drop down doors in its underside. It can be mounted to a skid steer or front-end loader with its standard quick-tach plate or with optional

fork receivers.

"It's easy to load and unload," says Glick. "The manual release works like a retractable dog leash. It can be triggered from the operator's seat. Press the thumb latch and pull to dump."

The doors shut when the empty hopper is lowered to the ground. The release reel has a magnet attached to its side, making it easy to mount to any steel surface near the operator.

"We built it tough with 1/4-in. and 7-gauge steel," says Glick. "It has to be. Loaded with mixed hardwood, it can weigh as much as 2,800 lbs."

The EZ-Load Hopper starts at \$2,847 for the face cord capacity. Larger units are available.

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## They're Making A Modernized "G"-Style Tractor

Oggun Tractor has taken the old Allis Chalmers G and updated it with independent hydraulic drive, steering, and lift. The Oggun features an extended frame and new attachments, but it is the hydraulics that really add versatility.

"The independent hydraulic drive gives us zero-turn capability simply by stepping on one of the brake pedals," says Locky Catron. Oggun. "Simple hydraulic systems also allow us to use multiple vendors and no proprietary parts, to get the lowest cost, yet highest quality."

The Oggun is powered by a 19 hp. Honda gas engine with a diesel expected to be available in the summer of 2017. At 123 in., it weighs only 1,500 lbs. for reduced compaction. Front and back wheel spacing can be adjusted in 2-in. increments from 36 to 60 in.

Hydraulic braking means no brake linings or pads to wear out or be replaced. Any parts that need to be replaced or repaired can be sourced locally.

The goal of the company, which was started by 2 retired software creators, is to use Open Source Manufacturing (OSM) to provide small farmers with economical, efficient equipment. OSM uses a building block approach of off-the-shelf parts as a way to drive down costs. Equipment is designed to be simple, rugged and maintainable in the

field or local shop.

"The added length and the belly-hung implements make the Oggun different from the G," says Catron. "It is so important for cultivating. You can see the row and see what you are doing."

Belly-hung and rear-mounted implements available for the Oggun include plows, cultivators, a hiller bedder, a single-row planter, a grading blade and more. Implement prices range from \$225 for a rear cultivator or hiller-bedder to \$760 for a single-row planter. An add-on pto kit is available, as is a ROPS and seat belt, although they are not required for a tractor under 20 hp.

With its rear lift capability, implements from other manufacturers can also be used. "We made the 3-pt. hitch Cat. I versus Cat. 0, as Cat. I implements are easier to find," says Catron.

"We are offering the tractor at an introductory price of \$10,000 until March of 2017," says Catron. "The regular price will be \$12,500."

Although an assembly plant in Alabama will serve the U.S. market, the company is planning to establish additional plants around the world.

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Oggun Tractor has modernized the old Allis Chalmers G tractor with independent hydraulic drive, steering, and lift. "Independent hydraulic drive allows zero-turn capability simply by stepping on one of the brake pedals," says Locky Catron.



Front and back wheel spacing can be adjusted in 2-in. increments from 36 to 60 in. Tractor's extended frame allows the use of belly-hung implements.