



“Tractor” Moves Quickly Between Farms

“My brothers and I own farmland in three different counties in central Kentucky and we needed another tractor that would be faster and more comfortable to drive than a conventional farm tractor,” says J.D. Crawley, Harrodsburg, Kent., about the “tractor” he built with his brothers, Ron and Royce. They also operate Crawley’s Auto & Machine Shop.

“We needed another tractor to rotary cut, disk harrow, and move round bales of hay. We built it using a GMC 1 1/2 ton truck and chassis. The rear end and transmission assembly are from an Oliver 70 row crop tractor with dual range transmission. We repowered the truck with a 1973 Cadillac engine and automatic transmission, giving our tractor 24 forward speeds and 6 in reverse. It has 105 horsepower and runs anywhere from 0 to 48 mph.

“In order to keep the automatic transmission running cool we installed a 20 gal. per minute oil cooler, with an electric fan, directly behind the cab.

“It’s also equipped with a mechanical constant speed governor taken off a Huber Warco backhoe. The hydraulic lift system is powered by a 6 gal. per minute pump, belt-driven off the engine crankshaft.

“In order to connect the tractor transmission assembly to the truck rails, we used 1-in. steel plate. We made a new



driveshaft from Oliver and Cadillac joints. We used the original Oliver tractor brakes on the tractor for turning. There are hydraulic brakes on the front which give us a third brake pedal.

“Our tractor burns approximately 2 1/4 gal. of fuel per hour pulling a 12-ft. disk harrow or an 8-ft. brush cutter.

“We painted the trucktor Oliver green with yellow trim. The front wheels are 750-20 GMC truck wheels and tires. The rear wheels are oversize 1200-38 Oliver tractor wheels and tires.

“This rig has performed exceptionally well for two years with no major problems. The approximate cost to build was \$2,500.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, J.D. Crawley, Crawley’s Machine Shop, 4858 Bohon Rd., Harrodsburg, Kent. 40330.

Rebuilt Older Model Dozer

When brothers Ron, Royce and J.D. Crawley went looking for a dozer to use in their farm operation, they couldn’t justify the cost of a new or used unit in operational condition. Instead, they bought a junked-out 1953 Oliver cleat-track dozer and put it back into operation.

“It had been sitting around unused for 20 years,” says J.D. Crawley, who also runs a custom machine shop. “Water and rust had ruined the engine beyond repair. It would have cost \$10,000 to replace the original engine, if you could have found one. However, everything else was in excellent condition so we repowered it using a 307 V-8 Chevy engine which we rebuilt using a high torque low rpm camshaft (to reduce fuel consumption and get maximum horsepower at low rpm) and oversize pistons.

“We installed a fiber, four finger non-slip clutch and left the original 4-speed truck transmission that came with the engine, which was taken from a 1978 GMC.

“The original engine governed out at 1,300 rpm’s. The 307 engine speed was 2,200 to 2,400 rpm’s but by using the 4-speed transmission between the 307 engine and the dozer transmission input shaft, we can select the speeds we need.



We still have the 4-speed dozer transmission to select work speeds.

“We installed a constant speed governor and an extra water pump stacked on top of the original to keep the engine running at approximately 180° under full load. We built a brush protector cab and painted it all safety yellow. Fuel consumption is approximately 3 gal. per hour.

“We’ve used this dozer for brush grubbing and road building on our farms for a year with no problems. Total out-of-pocket cost of the rebuilt rig was just \$3,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Crawley’s Auto & Machine Shop, 4858 Bohon Rd., Harrodsburg, Kent. 40330 (ph 606 865-4578 or 606 366-5272).

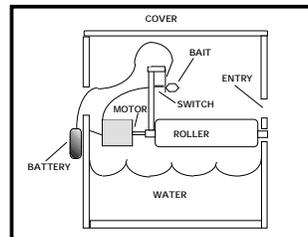
Battery-Powered Mouse Trap

A Texas inventor says his battery-powered mousetrap catches mice like no other trap ever put on the market.

It consists of a container filled with water. A roller, coupled to a small electric motor, is suspended over the water. A baited switch mounts over the roller. When the mouse or rat walks out on the roller and grabs the bait, it closes the switch, activating the motor. The rodent is rolled off into the water and drowns.

Keith Lamb of Gruver, Texas, says the trap keeps catching mice without resetting, and remains odor-free for days.

“Works great in kitchens, barns, warehouses, and anywhere else,” says Lamb,



who has applied for a patent and hopes to find a manufacturer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Keith Lamb, Box 340, Gruver, Texas 79040 (ph 806-733-2893).



“Wagon Cradle” Round Bale Hauler

Jerry Dick, Millville, Minn., came up with a low-cost round bale hauler by building a wooden “cradle” and mounting it on the bed of an old hoist-operated wagon.

The 10-ft. wide, 16-ft. long cradle, which is 2 ft. wider and 4 ft. longer than the wagon’s original deck, simply mounts on top of the original flatbed. It’ll hold six 6 by 5-ft. bales weighing 1,500 lbs. apiece.

Dick built it by laying four 4 by 4’s across the frame and then running six 4 by 4’s on top of them that run the length of the wagon. A pair of log chains and load binders secure the cradle to the wagon frame.

“It’s a fast, easy, and inexpensive way to haul and unload bales,” says Dick. “Without the cradle the wagon would hold only two bales. I dump bales on-the-go without even stopping. I just slow down a little and raise the hoist until the bales roll off. I use a front-end loader to mount the cradle in place and to take it off. It takes only about 5 minutes. When I’m done hauling bales I can use the wagon to haul firewood.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jerry Dick, Millville, Minn. 55957 (ph 507 798-2349).

“Quick-Tach” Bucket-Mounted Bale Spear

You’ve never seen a bale spear like this one-of-a-kind “quick-tach” double spear made by Bill Kurtz, St. Croix Falls, Wis.

It consists of two 4-ft. long spears welded to the bottom of a rectangular frame made from 4-in. channel iron. A pair of short steel hooks are welded to the top of the frame and fit inside slots cut into the back side of the bucket. An angle iron guide is welded to the left side of the frame.

To mount the spears Kurtz lines the left edge of the bucket up with the guide and tips the bucket forward onto the ground, then drives ahead and raises the bucket at the same time until the hooks go through the slots. He then tips the bucket back until the bottom of the frame rests against the bottom of the bucket. To remove the spears he simply tips the bucket forward and lowers it to the ground, then backs away.

“It works quick and I never have to get off the tractor,” says Kurtz. “I can switch



quickly between the bucket, for loading silage out of my bunk, to the spears for handling big bales.”

Kurtz used 1 1/2-in. wide, 5/8 in. thick flat iron to make the hooks and 2-in. dia. manure spreader axles to make the spears.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Kurtz, 2187 State Rd. 87, St. Croix Falls, Wis. 54024 (ph 715 483-3866).