



Donald Hileman spent just \$750 to convert a 1972 Montgomery Ward riding mower into this handy loader tractor.



After removing the mower deck, Hileman used its drive belt to operate a new hydraulic pump that powers the loader.

Built-From-Scratch Garden Tractor Loader

Donald Hileman needed a loader tractor for occasional light work around his farm yard. He couldn't justify buying new equipment so he built his own out of a 1972 Montgomery Ward riding mower that had already given him more than 40 years of service. His total cost was just \$750.

The tractor's 16 hp Briggs and Stratton engine still worked fine, but Hileman replaced hoses and made minor repairs as he overhauled the tractor. After he removed the mower deck he used its drive belt to run the new hydraulic pump for the loader.

"I built the loader from scratch. I bought 2 by 3 tubing and a half sheet of 1/8-in. flat steel for the bucket," Hileman says.

He chose material to keep the 3-ft. wide bucket as light as possible and added a gusset inside the bucket and a 2-in. wide skid of 3/16-in. flat steel on the bottom for support. He used an old snowplow blade to make a cutting edge.

"There was no room for a hydraulic tank, so the uprights for the loader hold hydraulic fluid for the 2-in. lift cylinders and the 1 1/2-in. bucket cylinders," Hileman says.

To counterbalance the extra weight up front, he filled the back tires with used antifreeze and put on wheel weights. So far that has been enough weight, but he also mounted a 6-in. heavy-walled pipe on back that could be filled with concrete.

With a new coat of green paint, Hileman is pleased with the look and capability of his mini tractor/loader. He's done work in his own yard, loaded gravel, and helped a relative move dirt to level an area for a deck.

"I leave the loader on all the time, but I can pull four pins and with quick connectors

it comes off easy," he says.

Hileman removed the loader recently to install power steering, using parts from an old Deere combine. He realized how helpful it would be after he loaded gravel.

"I should have done the power steering first," he admits. "But I'm happy the way it turned out."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donald Hileman, 13869 Veterans Memorial Hwy., Reedsville, W. Va. 26547 (ph 304 864-0841).

Small Tractor Used To Move Big Carports

With a few chains, pieces of 2-in. pipe, a tractor with a front-end loader, and a bush-hog mower, Phil McIntyre has moved several carports in the Montgomery, Texas, area.

He came up with the idea when he needed to move his own 18 by 40-ft. carport. With a metal roof and 2-in. sq. tubing frame it was a fairly heavy structure.

"We thought about just dragging it on its skids," McIntyre says, but he feared the jerking motion would damage the building. He and his cousin, Carl Romero, decided to get under the carport instead with a 50 hp Massey Ferguson tractor.

He ran a chain from the skid rail on one side over the bucket (while in the down position) to the skid rail on the other side. He ran another chain over the bushhog in back.

To stabilize the frame and keep the sides the same distance apart, he used two joints of 2-in. metal pipes that fit between the skids at the ends of the carport. For each end he hooked a chain around one skid, ran it through the pipe and secured the chain to the skid on the other side.

He got on the tractor and lifted the bucket and bush hog to raise the carport about 4 in. off the ground. He backed up with the



Phil McIntyre used his 50 hp loader tractor and bush hog mower to move this 18 by 40-ft. carport. Chains and pipes were used to stabilize carport's side rails. Then, with chains draped over loader and bush hog, he raised carport off the ground and backed up with the structure around him.

structure around him and took his time. He made a couple slow turns to place the carport about 150 ft. away.

While McIntyre had helpers holding ropes attached to the outside of the carport as a safety precaution, he says he could have moved the building all alone.

"This was all done with stuff we had on the farm. It would have been expensive to get someone to move it or tear down and then rebuild it," he says.

When word got out about his moving method, he got a few calls.

"I've moved carports for three other

people," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Phil McIntyre, 11278 Majestic Dr., Montgomery, Texas 77316 (ph 936 447-6602; philmcintyre@yahoo.com).

Backhoe Mounted On Combine/Truck Frame

Roger Lindbeck lives in the Minnesota north country where he has a timber lot and hobby farm. Although his tractor, loader and blade are sufficient for many jobs around his place, Lindbeck needed a backhoe and wasn't about to shell out big dollars to buy one.

"My neighbor Willard Pearson stripped down an old self-propelled Case combine and used it as the chassis for a home-made loader tractor. He had the loader facing the rear when I bought it from him. I removed the loader, did some rebuilding and put together a frame to support an old Ware backhoe. The assembly mounts to the rear of the old combine frame, which rides on 26-in. wheels and holds the combine transmission. The front of the frame is mated with the engine and steering wheels from a 1 1/2-ton Ford truck. The 6-cyl. Ford engine has plenty of power to run the backhoe and drive it down

the road at a good clip," Lindbeck says.

Lindbeck's hybrid machine, which might be called a 'truckbinehoe', was just what he needed to dismantle pesky beaver dams, repair road culverts, uproot tree stumps and load rocks. To run the backhoe Lindbeck shifts the combine rear end into neutral. A 540 rpm spline stub shaft out of the Ford's 3-speed transmission drives the hydraulic pump. He says the hydraulics have plenty of power to handle the 16-ft. backhoe arm and 24-in. bucket, which was originally made for a 450 Caterpillar. Outriggers balance the frame and keep it stable for heavy lifting.

Lindbeck put an orbit motor and power steering on his rig so it's easier to handle driving on the road. "People really look twice when they see this on the road because it looks like a backhoe heading backwards. If he works in extremely wet conditions he



An old backhoe mounted on back of a stripped-down Case combine does heavy duty work for Roger Lindbeck. It also uses the engine and steering wheels from a 1 1/2-ton Ford truck.

has a set of duals from another old combine that he can mount on the rear wheels.

Lindbeck says "It's a tight machine and if something happens to the engine and the drive train, the backhoe can be removed and it's still worth something. It sure does the

work I need it for, and for a lot less money than buying a used backhoe."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Lindbeck, 8203 Johnson Road, Cook, Minn. 55723 (ph 218 666-2197).