

Build a Better Mousetrap



2005 Better Mousetraps

Editor's note: Each year during the annual Iowa Maintenance Training Expo inventors from across Iowa demonstrate their innovations in the "Better Mousetrap" competition. In this issue of Technology News, we've published some of the 2005 winners.

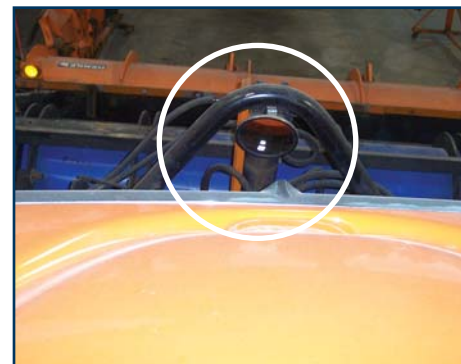
Plow mounting procedure change for Wausau down-pressure plow

For about \$20 worth of materials and an hour of labor, the Iowa DOT maintenance staff in Onawa have made mounting a plow quick and easy for the truck driver.

Glenn Hansen and Todd Cogdill made the plow's original equipment manufacturer transport and shipping strap longer. They also added a slotted hole on one end that allows the plow frame to be locked in a raised position when not on the truck. That way the plow is the correct height for the truck to drive up to it and connect.

They attached a nine-inch convex mirror to the plow frame and two small pieces of silver conspicuity tape to the plow ram and the truck mounting plate. The driver watches the mirror and uses the tape to line up the truck with the plow.

For more information, contact Glenn Hansen or Todd Cogdill at 712-423-2040. ■



A mirror and some silver tape make it easier for a driver to load a plow alone.

View from driver's seat

Skid loader attachment rack

Loading equipment is a snap with the skid loader attachment rack built by Iowa DOT maintenance staff in Tipton. The rack keeps skid loader attachments neatly organized, together in one location on the trailer, and tied securely.

Using about \$300 worth of steel tubing and other pieces of metal, the staff welded the rack so that it would support each attachment individually. Now the attachments stay with the skid loader and nothing gets lost.

For more information, contact Trent Sorgenfrey or Denny Petersen at 563-946-2391. ■



The attachment rack is attached to the same trailer that the skid loader rides.

Hydraulic hose organizer for batwing mower

This organizer prevents the hydraulic hoses from getting near the PTO drive line and pivot areas on a batwing mower. It also keeps hoses off the ground.

DOT mechanics in Onawa used 1" by 3" and 2" by 2" steel tubing and pipe to mount the organizer to the base of the mower tongue. The upper arm swings when the tractor turns and the hoses stay in place.

The materials cost about \$15 and the organizer took about an hour to build.

For more information, contact Glenn Hansen or Todd Cogdill at 712-423-2040. ■



Extend the life of hydraulic hoses with the organizer.