Efficient guardrail cleaner

To eliminate much of the hand work of cleaning guardrails, the Iowa DOT maintenance crew in Dyersville built a guardrail cleaner and attached it to a skid loader. The cleaner is able to reach under a guardrail and push or pull material out of the way.

The guardrail cleaner is 44 inches long by 42 inches wide. It attaches to a skid loader with quick-tach plate:

- 5 feet of 3/8" x 2" flat steel
- 8 feet of 2" x 2" square tubing
- 4 feet of 3" x 5" x 1/2" angle

Including paint, the materials cost was approximately $125.

Using the cleaner cuts labor time to clean a section of guardrail by approximately 60 percent. Savings for using a skid loader rather than a backhoe is approximately $11 per hour.

For more information about the guardrail cleaner, contact Steve Benda, 563-875-7615.

Editor's note: The "guardrail cleaner" is one of several winning innovations from the "Better Mousetrap" competition at the Iowa Maintenance Training Expo in 2002. In each issue of Technology News we're highlighting one of the winners. For information about other winning "mousetraps," see CTRE's website: www.ctre.iastate.edu/ (see "Popular Links").