

one to the angle iron just above the side rail. "I mounted the winch to the side rail about midway on the trailer's length," says Bagwell. "The cable runs through the 2 pulleys and hooks to the eyebolt on the endgate."



"It works like a dream. For someone who can't lift a heavy endgate, it may be just what they need."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eldon Bagwell, 23502 Trails End, Hindsville, Ark. 72738 (ph 479 789-5713).



When an animal goes down, it can be rolled onto the Sled 'n Sling and then pulled with a chain like a sled. Or it can be lifted like a sling and moved with a loader.

Cattle Sling Moves Downed Or Injured Animals

Double D Family Mat Shop sells woven rubber mats for cattle barns and feedlots (Vol. 36, No. 6). Their latest new product is the Sled 'n Sling for transporting downed cattle.

Dale Goetz came up with the basic design at the request of a research center. The 6 by 8-ft. piece of 1/2-in. thick rubber sheet is supported by metal rods, D-rings, and stainless steel bolts. When an animal goes down, it can be rolled onto the rubber sheet and then pulled with a chain like a sled. Or it can be lifted like a sling and moved with a loader.

"It's for farmers, feedlot owners, sales barn owners, vets - anywhere animals need to be moved humanely," says Amber Hutchison,

chief operations manager for the Park, Kan., family business.

Using it as a sled is ideal for an animal that is only injured and still moving. A halter on the animal and a rope tied around the hocks helps protect animals as they're moved from further injury.

The Sled 'n Sling sells for \$580 through the Double D website, which includes photos of ways it can be used.

When not needed the 220-lb. mat can be stored by hanging it over a fence.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Double D Family Mat Shop, Inc., Dale and Dena Goetz, 6606 E. Road 100 S., Park, Kansas 67751 (ph 888 377-2879; www.slednsling.com).

Never Go Flat
Farmers with rubber-tired irrigation systems know rubber tires are subject to vandalism, slow leaks and blowouts that are expensive to repair. And if an irrigator's tire is flat, crops can be flooded with too much water. A service company in the Texas Panhandle has found a solution.

Armored Tire owner Warren Merrell has developed a three-part polymer that is injected into a pneumatic tire through a 3/8-in. dia. hole. It makes the tire virtually indestructible. As the product is injected, the vent hole or two lets the air out. The holes are plugged and the tire is ready for use. Merrell says the compound remains flexible and isn't affected by Texas heat or Kansas cold. The formula has been lab-tested, driven for miles and miles, field-tested for a year and has been successfully used for 3 years. One test included cutting away the rubber tire around the compound. The polymer did just fine on its own. Merrell predicts the tires will work for at least 10 years.

Merrell grew up on a farm in the Texas panhandle and has a lot of first-hand experience with flat tires on irrigation systems. He started working on the problem in the early 2000's, and after a decade of R&D, started his own company. He serves customers in Texas, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska.

Merrell has tried his product on other tires on his family farm and learned that each tire type and application requires different formulas. He's confident that he and his chemists will be able to figure out how to adapt his product for those uses. For now he's determined to solve problems on irrigation system tires, and he's happy that his customers are happy. Merrell says "my long-term vision is that someday all farm tires will be indestructible".