



Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety

Information Sheet 4 Modified Hand Controls for a John Deere Gator

Glen Clarke, a farmer with a mid level spinal cord injury, is able to access all areas of the farm with the use of his modified, John Deere Gator with variable speed transmission. Glen has modified the previously foot operated Gator to be fully hand controlled by attaching handles to the brake and accelerator pedals.

Glen uses the Gator to get the cattle up to the yards, with the help of the dogs, he is also able to carry a spray rig in the back of the Gator, which he uses to spray weeds, additionally, Glen takes the garbage bins out to the road by tying them to the side.

The Gator has many advantages - it is easy to transfer into from a wheelchair; it doesn't require a great deal of upper body stability and balance; it has protection from the sun, and has a useful tray on the back for carrying.

The only negative is that the fuel gauge is under the seat – Glen has been known to run out of fuel, fortunately Glen has made modifications to his wife – she is now programmed to wonder ...'where the hell is he'... after a short while. The new models however have a fuel gauge on the dash.



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