



Kroneman uses his "combine tractor" for row crop work in the summer.

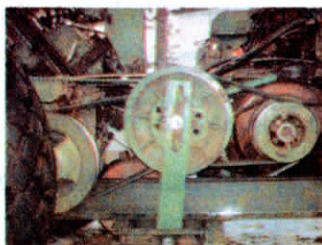
## CONVERTED DEERE 45 "TURNS ON A DIME, HAS PLENTY OF POWER"

### Combine "Tractor" Powers Snowblower

A home-built "tractor" fashioned out of a salvaged Deere 45 combine works great to power a 7-ft. snowblower and can also be used during the summer for light row crop work.

Elmer Kroneman, St. Ansgar, Iowa, built the snowblower tractor because he has neck problems and didn't want to have to continually look back to run a 3-pt. mounted blower. The blower on his home-built rig mounts in clear view ahead of the operator just ahead of the drive wheels, providing excellent traction. "It works better than I ever imagined. It turns on a dime, has plenty of power and it makes moving snow fun," says Kroneman.

He selected the Deere combine because it had variable speed drive, and because he was able to buy it cheap (\$150). He completely stripped it down to parts, removing both the drive axle and the rear axles, as well as the transmission and miscellaneous components. He narrowed up the drive axle 10 in. so he could use the tractor on both 30 and 38-in. rows during summer months and mounted both axles on a frame he built from scratch out of 6-in. channel iron. He discarded the original 4-cyl. engine and substituted a V-8 Chevy 283 engine. The engine is matched up to a clutch housing from a 410 Massey Ferguson combine (because the MF combine had been fitted with a Chevy engine) and kept the original Deere 3-gear, variable speed transmission. The radiator, steering column, and other miscellaneous parts, like pulleys and sprockets, were also saved from the Deere combine. He made



The snowblower tractor still has the original 3-gear variable speed transmission.

the live pto out of an axle from a 3/4-ton Chevy truck.

The engine belt-drives the transmission, a hydraulic pump, and a gearbox that drives a pto at 600 rpm's to power the blower. Hydraulics raise and lower the blower and also turn the directional chute and raise and lower it for precision control of blown snow.

Kroneman fitted the tractor with a Year-A-Round cab complete with heater. The factory-built blower itself is 80 in. wide. "It's fun and easy to operate. There's no power steering but because most of the weight's over the drive wheels, the rear steering wheels turn easily. And the variable speed drive works great for slowing down and speeding up as needed while blowing snow," says Kroneman, noting that he worked on the combine tractor in his spare time for nearly two years.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Elmer Kroneman, Rt. 2, Box 133, St. Ansgar, Iowa 50472 (ph 515 736-4636).



Kroneman first stripped down frame and then added back components as needed. Photo shows the "combine tractor" before the cab was mounted on it.



All controls on the home-built blower are hydraulic, giving Buchholz complete control of the directional spout.

## "I DON'T HAVE TO LOOK OVER MY SHOULDER ANYMORE"

### Old Case Combine Makes Great Snowblower

"I wanted a bi-directional tractor but I couldn't justify the cost, so I decided to build my own self-propelled snowblower out of an old 700 Case combine," says Milo Buchholz, Fingal, N. Dak., who used to blow snow with an IH400 tractor. "It worked fine but the snow always seemed to get blown into my face. The older I get, the harder it is to look behind and work the controls of the tractor."

Buchholz first stripped the combine down to the frame, discarding all grain cleaning components. He equipped the combine with the gearbox from an old Case silage chopper to pto-drive the snowblower. The 3-pt. was built out of the original Case header lift but Buchholz added a hydraulic cylinder that lets him tilt the blower to either scrape or skid over the ground. "That's important on gravel roads," he says.

In order to slow down the speed of the combine snowblower, Buchholz fitted the

machine with smaller dia. tires and rims from a 123 IH tractor. "They give it a nice slow speed for blowing but road gear speed is reduced to about half. You wouldn't want to drive too far with it but it's fine for around the farm and nearby township roads."

All controls on the blower are hydraulic giving Buchholz complete control of the directional spout. The cab was remounted on the stripped-down frame. "I made a heater out of the air conditioner and mounted it on the floor behind my feet. It's a problem now because it works better than I expected. It gets too hot. I wish I'd incorporated a temperature control."

Total out-of-pocket cost for the combine snowblower, not including the factory blower itself, was \$760.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Milo Buchholz, Rt. 1, Box 78, Fingal, N. Dak. 58031 (ph 701 924-8693).



The blower is mounted on the original header lift but Buchholz added a tilt cylinder that lets him tilt the blower to either scrape or skid over the ground.

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