Self-Propelled 24-Ft. Hydrostatic Swather

"I saved a lot of money and it works as good or better than any swather on the market," says Brian Yokimas, East Selkirk, Manitoba, who built his own self-propelled 24-ft. hydrostatic swather for less than $5,000.

Yokimas used the frame from a 1975 Canadian Cooperative Implements (CCI) swather. He built the header by welding together parts of three different CCI draper headers. He salvaged the hydraulic system from a Versatile 400 self-propelled swather. The 18.4 by 16.1 front tires, as well as the rear tires, are off a Versatile 4400 self-propelled swather. The swather is powered by an 80 hp Ford 6000 6-cylinder diesel engine.

"I chose the CCI draper header because it has a low cutting angle that evenly distributes grain heads throughout the swath for faster drying," says Yokimas. "Most newer commercial swathers tend to leave grain heads in the center of the swath where they can get moldy and rot. The diesel engine is really fuel efficient. It runs on only one gallon of fuel per hour compared to three or four gallons for many gas-powered swathers."

The header is powered by a series of engine-driven V-belts and right-angle gearboxes. The steering wheel is from the Versatile 4400 swather and the seat from an old Volvo tractor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brian Yokimas, Rt. 1, East Selkirk, Manitoba, Canada R0E 0M0

"Pile Driver" For Farm Fenceposts

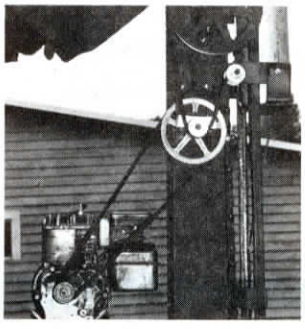
"I built this post driver because I'm 78 years old and needed an easier way to get posts into the ground," says Hans Claassen, Surrey, British Columbia, who built a "pile driver" to mount on his front-end loader, replacing the hand-held auger he used for years when fencing.

Claassen patterned his post pounder after a steam-engine driven pile driver he remembered seeing when he was just 12 years old. Powered by a 4-hp. Briggs & Stratton engine, it consists of a 250-lb. weight that's raised by a chain and then dropped onto the head of the post.

Everything's mounts on a 7-ft. length of 6 by 6-in. steel tubing. The engine belt-drives a pulley assembly. The final pulley is fitted with a 4-in. sprocket that drives a length of roller chain running between the top of the post driver and a sprocket at the bottom. Two "swivel taps" mount on the chain. They lift the weight up and then release it at the top.

The post pounder hangs from the lip of the loader bucket by a hook. Two 1 1/4-in. steel rods at the bottom of the pounder hold it in place while operating.

Claassen says it'll drive a 4-in. dia., 7-ft. post two feet into the ground in just 2 to 3 min. He likes being able to reach across a ditch to drive a post and it's easy to use on hillsides.



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hans Claassen, 8321 - 140th Street, Surrey, B.C. V3W 5K9 Canada.

Pivot Auger Services Two Bins

By C. F. Marley

Two modifications to a conventional auger helped Illinois farmer Dave White create an easy-to-use system for filling both his grain bins.

White got the idea when he bought a bin from a nearby farm and moved it to his place near Farmersville. He already had one bin in use and wanted to set up his existing auger to service both bins. He decided to modify the auger so it would pivot easily from bin to bin. Before he even moved the new bin to his farm, he used the auger like a compass to determine where it should be erected.

To create a sturdy pivot point, he buried a 30-gal. drum in the ground and filled it with concrete, setting a 2 1/2-in. dia. bolt in the center of it. The bolt attaches to the tongue at the bottom of the auger, allowing it to swing in a half circle.

To provide for sidewise movement of the auger, he added two extra sets of wheels to the conventional auger running gear. The wheels mount on either side positioned at a 90 degree angle to the existing wheels. Standard hand-cranked wheel jacks raise and lower the additional wheels. When in the down position, the auger rolls easily in an arc, swinging from bin to bin.

His final step was to set up a cleanout auger he had on hand so that it transfers grain from unloading trucks to the hopper on the auger. (Because of the pivot point under the auger, the hopper is too high off the ground to dump into directly.)

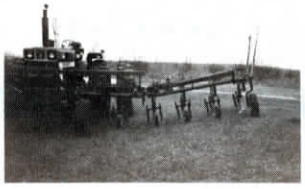
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave White, Farmersville, Ill. 62533 (ph 217 227-3659).

12-Row Front Cultivator With Floating "Wings"

A front-mounted 12-row cultivator with floating 3-row wings on either end has made working terraces a lot easier for Iowa farmer Rick Mount who farms near Farragut.

He built the fold-forward cultivator because he wanted to match the pattern of his vertical-fold Case/IH 900 planter which also has 3 flex rows on either end. "The vertical-fold planter is about $12,000 cheaper than a horizontal-fold model," he notes.

Rick modified a center flex 12-row IH cultivator to mount on the front of his tractor, bracing the center 6 rows so they can't flex and installing a heavy plate-steel hinge on each of the outer 3-rows. The double-duty hinges allow the wings to fold forward and also have a pivot pin that allows them to flex about 12 in. below the horizontal and 30 in. above as needed. He also had to modify the lift assembly on each wing to raise shanks out of the ground.



The cultivator is rigid-mounted to the front of the tractor. An add-on support bar runs above the center 6 rows to hold them rigid and also to provide support. A pair of turnbuckle braces, one on either side of tractor, also provide support. Wings fold forward by hand.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rick Mount, Rt. 1, Box 75, Farragut, Iowa 51639 (ph 712 387-5181).