



Hitch allows Spoerl to pull a 9-ft. Deere 670 and New Holland 258 rake together.

Junked “Hydra Swing” Mower Makes Great Dual Rake Hitch

“It lets me rake twice as fast as with a single rake yet cost almost nothing to build,” says Dale Spoerl, Elizabeth, Ill., who converted an old Hesston 1010 “Hydra Swing” pull-type mower-conditioner into a dual rake hitch.

The home-built hitch is used to pull two rakes - a 9-ft. Deere 670 and a New Holland 258 equipped with dolly wheels. The rear rake can be pulled on either side in the field or at the center for transport.

Spoerl stripped the mower down to the frame, leaving intact the bridge hitch and the hydraulic cylinder that’s used to swing it from side to side. He reworked the front end of the frame so it would clear the front rake.

“It lets me rake 24 ft. at a time without having to spend a lot of money on a new commercial V-rake,” says Spoerl. “I use my International H tractor to pull it and can rake 100 acres on one tank of gas. I can make either single or double windrows by simply changing the position of the rear rake.

“I paid \$100 for the mower. I already had the New Holland rake and paid \$900 for the Deere rake.”



“Swing” mower’s bridge hitch and the hydraulic cylinder on it were left intact.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale Spoerl, 6505 S. Schnitzler Rd., Elizabeth, Ill. 61028 (ph 815 598-3277).

Simple New Way To Tell Grain Level In Bins

“It’s the best and easiest way ever designed to monitor the level of grain inside a bin,” says inventor Bill Baker of Agtron Enterprises, Inc., about his new “Bin Tape” - a pressure-activated tape that’ll measure the exact level of grain, fertilizer or any other granular material.

Bin Tape consists simply of a 3-in. wide fabric strip with an electric circuit inside. It simply hangs from the top of a bin down to the floor (or as far down as you’d like to measure). Pressure from grain on the Bin Tape sends an electric signal to a monitor outside the bin.

Baker says the tape works off electric conductivity. “Unlike other devices that measure the level of grain inside a bin, there are no moving parts. Nothing to wear out. And it gives you an accurate reading of wherever grain is inside the bin. Most devices just tell you when the bin is full. This tells you exactly how much grain is in the bin at all times,” notes Baker.

The tape is easy to use. It simply hangs in the center of the bin from a grommet on the upper end. A wire runs to a monitor outside the bin.

Baker is test marketing the Bin Tape this summer. If all goes well, he hopes to put it on the market next year. He also manufactures an innovative line of air seeder monitors that are on the market.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Baker, Agtron Enterprises Inc., Box 1160,



Bin tape is 3 in. wide and can be made to any length.

Saskatoon, Sask. S7K3N2 Canada (ph 800 667-0640 or 306-934-0640; Web Site: www.agtron.com).

Disk-Mounted “Wavy Coulters” Used To Dry Out Wet Ground

“They do a much better job of drying out wet soils than the straight coulters on a conventional disk, allowing us to plant no-till beans earlier than we ever could before,” says Dean Buzzard, St. Elmo, Ill., who mounted 20-in. dia., 1 7/8-in. wavy no-till coulters on his 34 1/2-ft. wide Deere disk. The coulters are normally used on no-till planters and drills.

Buzzard gives most of the credit for the idea to Alen Ragle of Loogootee, Ill.

He bought the Deere 235 disk used at a sale and purchased new wavy coulters from Nichols Blades of Bloomington, Ill. The wavy coulters are designed to mount on round shafts. However, the disk was equipped with a square shaft so he had the manufacturer cut square holes in a set of coulters to match the disk’s shaft. Buzzard spaced the wavy coulters 9 in. apart, offset on two gangs.

“They do a great job of airing out the soil,” says Buzzard. “We use it 24 hours before planting no-till beans. We use a 275 hp Deere 9100 4-WD tractor to pull it at about 8 mph and run it at an angle through the field. We don’t use it on corn ground because we plant corn conventionally. In the past we tried using a conventional disk to dry out the soil. However, we found that we had to make two passes, which packed the soil. Also, the straight coulters tore the ground up so bad that we had to come back later with a field cultivator to break up clods and slabs.

“We made a second unit out of a Deere 330 disk. We find that Deere disks work best because they have square frames instead of angled ones.

“We paid about \$4,000 for each disk and \$25 apiece for the coulters. We used 85 of them on each disk so our total cost was less than \$7,000.”

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dean Buzzard, Rt. 2, Box 227, St. Elmo, Ill. 62458 (ph 618 829-5554) or Alen Ragle, RR, Loogootee, Ill. 62857 (ph 618 349-6196).



Wavy coulters mounted on his 24 1/2-ft. disk dry out wet soils, allowing Buzzard to plant no-till beans earlier than he ever could before.



Spaced 9 in. apart and offset on two gangs, the 20-in. dia., 1 7/8-in. coulters were modified at the factory to mount on the disk’s square shaft.

Truck-Mounted Scaffold Is Mobile, Safe

Here’s one of the slickest ways we’ve seen to make painting, construction and other projects around the farm as safe and easy as they can be.

Feste Enterprises’ prototype “Truck-Mounted Scaffolding” allows you to reach up to 21 ft. high.

Mounted in a 16-ft. long truck bed, the built-in ladder and frame of the scaffolding is made out of 1 by 2-in. tubing. It has a 6 by 8-ft. platform made from 3/4-in. plywood and a top railing made out of 1-in. sq. tubing.

The two legs are fitted with a 12-in. dia. steel wheel off an old IH combine pickup.

The scaffolding pins to the front of the truck box with six pins so it pivots up and down as the truck box is raised and lowered.

A boat winch attached to the scaffolding and box is used to level it. A safety chain on the scaffolding and “stops” fitted to the hydraulic hoist underneath the box ensure complete safety for workers, says inventor Clarence Feste.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Feste Enterprises, 1884 50th Avenue, Balaton, Minn. 56115 (ph 507 658-3591 or 836-8426).



When mounted on a 16-ft. long truck bed, the scaffold reaches up to 21 ft. high.