



Hydraulic-operated, 18-ft. sicklebar works great for cutting off tall-growing weeds above Davis's edible bean crops two to three weeks before harvest.

### 3-Pt. Sicklebar Cuts Off Weeds Above Bean Crop

An 18-ft. wide sicklebar mounted on a tractor 3-pt. hitch works great to cut off tall-growing weeds above edible bean crops two to three weeks before harvest.

"Weeds are bad news in edible beans because the green stuff smears beans and discolors them, which leads to dockage by the canning companies," says Robert Davis, Savannah, N.Y. "By cutting off the top of the weeds above the beans, less weed fodder gets into the combine," says Davis. "I use the sicklebar because I often can't spray again before harvest and because I don't want to spend more money on herbicides. Pigweeds are a particular problem because a lot of herbicides that we can use don't kill pigweeds very well. I run the sicklebar about 3 ft. off the ground. I use a 9-row, 20-in. skip row planting system which works great for entering fields late in the season."

Davis bought a used sicklebar and knives for \$250. The knives are driven back and forth by a Gandy orbit motor connected to a combine sieve eccentric arm and the tie rod end off a Deere 4020 tractor. He already had



Knives are driven back and forth by a Gandy orbit motor.

an A-shaped steel frame that's used to support the sicklebar. The A-frame mounts on the tractor 3-pt.

He says his total cost was about \$300.

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The 500-gal. LP tank is supported by axles at each end that came off a field cultivator.

### Lawn Roller Made From LP Tank

A converted LP gas tank makes a good roller for yards and driveways, says Nelson Thorp, Thorp Seed Company, Clinton, Ill.

The 500-gal. tank can be filled with varying amounts of water depending on the kind of rolling job that needs to be done. The rounded-off ends of the tank help taper off the ground without leaving a ridge of soil on either end of the tank like a flat roller might.

The axles in the ends of the tank came off a field cultivator. They're welded into either

end of the tank and fit into wagon hubs mounted on the frame.

Pipe fittings installed in the tank are used to fill and drain the tank. The plug on one end is high, and the other end is low.

Thorp stresses how important it is to take precautions before welding on an LP tank. He recommends filling it with water first.

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A length of 1 1/2-in. dia. PVC pipe clamps on about 8 in. behind the cutterbar.

### PVC Pipe Holds Beans On Platform, Keeps Rocks Out

In an effort to keep small rocks out of his Deere 6620 combine, Jim Oakes, Zearing, Iowa, clamped a length of 1 1/2-in. dia. PVC pipe about 8 in. behind the cutterbar.

"It does a good job keeping rocks out, but I was even more impressed at how it keeps short-stemmed soybeans from falling forward off the platform," says Oakes.

He wrapped 3-in. wide metal clamps at intervals around the pipe and bolted them onto the platform's frame just behind the guards.

"I mounted the pipe about five years ago after I switched from planting soybeans to drilling them," says Oakes. "Drilling leaves the ground flat and without any ridges which makes it more likely that rocks will be picked up by the combine. However, I soon noticed that the real value of the pipe is that it keeps short-stemmed soybeans from falling off the platform. The stems fall over the pipe and



Oakes wrapped 3-in. wide metal clamps at intervals around pipe and bolted them onto platform's frame just behind guards.

get trapped by it. At first I used a 2-in. dia. pipe, but it was too rigid and didn't allow the header to flex. I got the pipe from a plumber. My total cost was less than \$30."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Oakes, 72065 120th St., Zearing, Iowa 50278 (ph 515 487-7684).



Steel plate (outlined in white in photo), bolts onto header frame positioned about 4 in. off ground. It simply bends stalks forward so they point away from tires.

### Header-Mounted "Stalk Squashers" Save Combine Tires

Jim Oakes, Zearing, Iowa, got tired of watching corn stalks wear down the tires on his Deere 6620 combine. He decided to protect them by mounting a pair of "stalk squashers" on back of the header.

"I use them on my 4-row narrow corn head. I couldn't be happier with them," says Oakes.

He used heavy gauge steel to make the squashers, bolting a 6 by 12-in. steel plate to a larger plate which he bolted onto the header frame.

"It solved my tire problems," says Oakes, who made the modification two years ago. "I have a 4-row narrow header and 30-in.

rows, so the drive tires run right over the row. I mounted the plates after I ruined a combine drive tire and it cost \$800 to replace. The stalks tore chunks right out of the tires. The steel plates ride about 4 inches off the ground and simply bend the stalks forward so that they point away from the tires.

"I think the tires made today are softer because they aren't cured as long. They have no chance to age and get tougher."

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