



Tow-Behind Mowers

"It makes a super lawn mower," says George Vanhie, London, Ontario, who built a hitch from 1/2-in. pipe to pull two old 20-in. wide push mowers behind his 36-in. wide riding mower, giving him a total cutting width of 6 ft. 4 in.

"The hitch doubles my cutting width so I can mow in half the time," says Vanhie. "Each push mower is powered by its own 3 1/2 hp engine so it's no problem for my 8 hp riding mower to pull them. I can even mow up steep hills as long as there's traction. The nicest part is that no matter how rolling the lawn is, each mower follows the ground contour evenly. The push mowers are fastened to the hitch both at the front and rear so the rig backs up like a two-wheel trailer. If I need to cut grass in tight areas, I simply pull the pin

in the riding mower's drawbar to unhook both push mowers. If I need to do trim work, I simply unhook the mower that's still equipped with handles."

Caster wheels, removed from a discarded lawn mower, support the entire hitch. Short lengths of old manure spreader chain, which serve as hinges, allow the hitch's drawbar to float freely up and down.

"My only complaint is that when I turn real sharp corners, the inside trailing mower leaves a strip between it and the riding mower so I have to circle back around," notes Vanhie."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, George Vanhie, RR 7, London, Ontario, Canada N6A 4C2 (ph 519 453-6592).

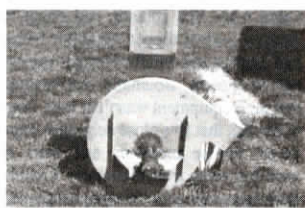


12-Ft. "Wind Reel" Widened To 24-Ft.

Faced with a drought and hail-ravaged wheat and barley crop, David Jorgensen, Valier, Mont., built his own 24-ft. air reel by widening an old 12-ft. Phillips "wind reel".

"The only way we could harvest our short crop was with an air reel," says Jorgensen. "But the two companies that build them were back ordered for a year or more. We managed to find an old Phillips wind reel that was built in the 1950's for a 12 or 14-ft. wide combine. The fan was in good shape, but the drive wouldn't turn the fan fast enough to deliver the air needed for a 24-ft. reel. We built a new drive taking power from the right side of the Deere header. We used jack shafts to boost fan speed to about 3,800 rpm.

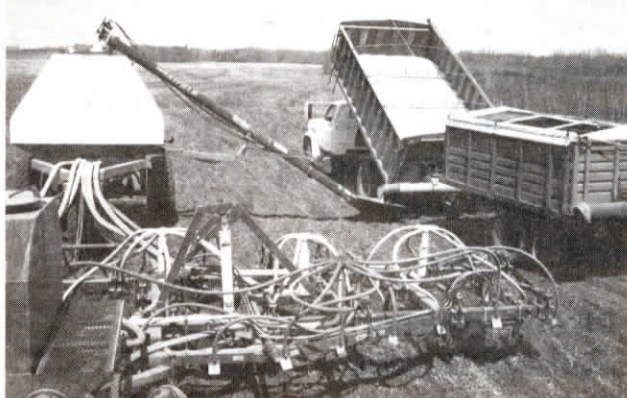
"We tried to extend the original air manifold and add more spouts, but the extra joints only weakened the manifold so we finally mounted a 7-in. auger tube across the entire length of the 24-ft. header and reinforced it with truss rods. We built new air spouts, 22 in. long and 2 in. in dia., from aluminized exhaust pipe. We made



spout nozzles from 14 ga. iron and welded them to the manifold. We also mounted a large sprocket on the drive shaft to speed up the fan, increasing the original shaft speed from 500 rpm to 3,800 rpm. This added a lot of extra strain on the header drive and shortened belt and chain life. The drive components to the header don't stand up to the extra strain very well. If we're unfortunate enough to have to use the air reel again this year, we'll use a separate engine to run the fan."

Jorgensen says he used "wind reel" cost \$250 and he spent another \$350 for materials.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Jorgensen, RR 3, Box 1004, Valier, Mt. 59486 (ph 406 279-3508).



Home-Built Air Seeder

A Saskatchewan farmer who built his own 200 bu. air seeder and entered it in a contest sponsored by Grainews magazine in Winnipeg, says he looked at all the air seeders on the market before building his own.

"Air seeders are really simple machines. It's hard to justify the money companies charge for them. I built mine for a total cost of \$8,500, making a few improvements over existing commercial machines," Don Voss told FARM SHOW.

He bought the fan and feed cup from a nearby manufacturer of air seeders, Eagle Air in Vonda, Sask. He belt drives the fan with an old Rockwell drive axle salvaged from a junked Gleaner C combine. The two back wheels drive the axle, which is operated in high gear, running the fan at between 2,000 and 4,000 rpm's. Because the fan is driven by a differential, the speed doesn't vary on corners like on some commercial units, according to Voss. The top of the tank measures 10 ft., 6 in. from the ground.

The 11-ga. sheet metal that forms the tank was bent and cut at a local steel fabricator. The tank is divided at about a 40:60 split so Voss can seed 95 acres at 80 lbs. of wheat per acre with one fill. The seeder has six 2 1/2-in. primary lines. Each manifold has six 1 1/4-in. outlets.

When used with his 35-shank cultivator, there's one extra hose that Voss uses as a visual monitor, tying it to the second outside shank. It seeds a thick, green row that he later uses to follow when spraying with his 70-ft. wide sprayer.

Voss has used the air seeder the past two seasons. "The first trip over I band fertilizer. The second trip over I seed the crop and blow in a bit of phosphate. The three 18.4 by 26 combine tires used on the seeder have enough flotation so they leave no visible mark in the field.

"One unique feature of my air seeder is the amount of clearance under the tank. There's about 30 in., which is enough to clear a rock if it's pulled up by the cultivator, which runs ahead of the air seeder. Most commercial air seeders can be badly damaged by rocks," says Voss, who seeds at speeds of about 5 mph with a Steiger 270 tractor. "One advantage of using the combine axle to drive the fan is that you can set it in medium or low gear for a faster fan speed in the seeder if you have to travel at slower speeds. Also, the seeder is very easy to pull. We tow it around the yard with a 14-hp. garden tractor."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Voss, Rt. 1, Spiritwood, Sask. S0J 2M0 Canada (ph 306 883-2719).

"High Reach" Door Opener

"I've got a standard size garage door, 10 ft. wide and 7 ft. high, on my machine shed which has 14-ft. high ceilings. I didn't want the horizontal portion of the track to use up valuable space right in the center of the building, so I lengthened the track vertically so the door would run up to the ceiling. It starts curving about 13 ft. up," says Mike Grace, Elberon, Iowa. "There was no way a conventionally-mounted door opener could be used so at first I lifted the door manually with a rope. To install an automatic opener, I bolted a bracket made from 1-in. box tubing to one corner of the door, and attached the end of the bracket to the door opener. I bolted the end of the opener's mounting bracket to the floor and the 1/2-hp electric motor to the wall. I built a sheet metal guard around the chain. The door opener can be radio controlled from any vehicle."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike Grace, RR 1, Elberon, Iowa 52225 (ph 319 444-2906).

