

Once it's tight enough, the hook catches on the wire, holding it in place.



Inexpensive Wire Tightener Never Kinks Wire

"I was very interested in the wire tightener you recently featured from Australia (Vol. 23, No. 4) since it's somewhat similar to our tightener which we developed independently here in the U.S.," says Dave Smith, Houston, Texas.

His wire tightener consists of a loop of heavy-gauge wire with a hook on one end. A handle is used to tighten it onto sagging wire. Once it's tight enough, the hook catches on the wire, holding it in place. If you need to tighten up the wire more later, you can just give it another crank.

Smith has located a manufacturer to make

the tighteners and recently put them on the market for 40 cents apiece, when bought in bags of 20. The handle sells for \$10.

"I don't think there's a better solution anywhere for fixing fence, especially at this price. Besides fixing fence you can also use the tighteners with wire as truck tie downs, to make temporary repair jobs, and for many other uses," says Smith.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Smith, 12613 Seattle Slew, Suite 2608, Houston, Tex. 77065 (ph/fax 281-890-6031; Web site: www.wiretighteners.com; E-mail: dsmith1@pdq.net).



New 3-pt. mounted boom is designed for Deere and Cat Challenger tractors equipped with tracks set 120 in. apart. It folds forward to a transport width of 15 ft.

Lightweight 90-Ft. Aluminum Spray Boom Reduces Compaction

A new 3-pt. mounted, 90-ft. aluminum spray boom designed for Deere and Cat Challenger tracked tractors caught the attention of visitors at the recent Farm Progress Show near Amana, Iowa.

"It weighs much less than steel spray booms of comparable size and enhances one of the main advantages of tracked tractors – reduced soil compaction. It weighs 2,300 to 2,500 lbs. compared to about 4,000 lbs. for a comparable steel spray boom," says manufacturer Frank Robison, Modern Metalcraft, Inc., Midland, Mich.

The boom is designed for Deere and Cat Challenger tractors equipped with tracks set 120 in. apart. It's designed to be used with Modern Metalcraft's stainless steel spray tanks, which mount on the side between the tractor and tracks. It folds forward to a transport width of 15 ft.

"It costs much less than a self-propelled sprayer and can do everything those sprayers do except work in tall-growing crops,"

says Robison. "The boom by itself sells for about \$13,000 compared to self-propelled sprayers which sell for \$80,000 to \$160,000. Nozzles, pumps, and spray controls are additional.

If you spray at least 2,500 acres and are paying \$4 per acre for a custom sprayer it'll pay for itself in only one year. It works best on tractors with tracks set 10 ft. apart because the stable ride keeps the boom ends from dipping into the ground. You can use the same tanks with both your planter and spray boom. It takes only about 10 minutes to hook up the boom.

"The boom is built in seven sections. All pivot points between the sections are equipped with roller bearings which greatly reduce wear."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Modern Metalcraft, Inc., 1257 E. Wackerly Rd., Midland, Mich. 48642 (ph 800 948-3182; fax 517 835-8431; E-mail: fjrobison@modernmetalcraft.com).



Heavy-duty bumper replaces pickup's original bumper. Hydraulic controls for hoist mount inside one end of bumper.

Pickup-Mounted "Bumper Hoist" Folds Down Out Of The Way

"Our new heavy-duty rear bumper quickly converts into a handy hoist that'll handle up to 850 lbs.," says Dave Zimmer, Schlager Mfg., Torrington, Wyo., who introduced the company's "bumper hoist" at the recent Husker Harvest Show near Grand Island, Neb.

The new bumper replaces the pickup's original bumper. It operates off a self-contained hydraulic system that consists of a pump with a built-in control valve and two hydraulic cylinders. The first cylinder raises the main mast up to a vertical position. The second one raises the lift arm. A pair of stands are used to support the back of the vehicle while a load is being raised.

Hydraulic controls mount inside one end of the bumper.

"It doesn't detract from the overall appearance of the vehicle and has a built-in receiver hitch. No tools are required to use it," says Zimmer. "It can lift up to 83 1/2 in. high. The vertical post on the hoist pivots a full 360 degrees. If you need more length the loading arm can be extended by removing a pin and sliding an inner steel tube to the desired length, then re-installing the pin."

Sells for under \$2,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Self-contained hydraulic system uses two hydraulic cylinders. One raises the main mast up to a vertical position; the second raises the lift arm.

Schlager Mfg., Rt. 1, Box 155C, Torrington, Wyo. 82240 (ph 888 889-1504 or 307 532-4451; fax 8994; E-mail: schlager@prairieweb.com; Website: www.schlager.net).

Rigid Lift Fingers Get Under Flattened Crops

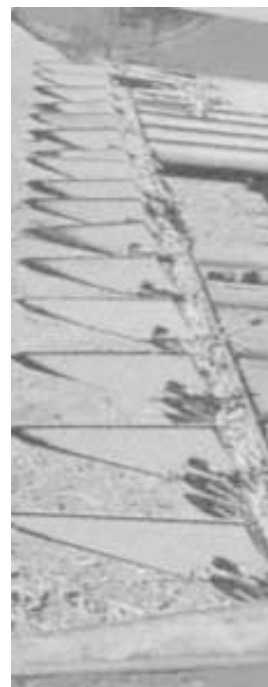
Any farmer knows that a downed crop can be a nightmare to harvest, and even the most valiant attempt can leave behind a field that looks like a lunatic with a berserk cutting machine has visited. Not only does it look like a mess, but significant losses occur because some of the crop simply evades the cutter bar.

Lift fingers were first invented years ago to help harvest downed crops, bolting to the guards on swathers or straight-cut headers to lift the crop up ahead of the cutter bar.

Rene Page of Legal, Alberta felt that the lift fingers on the market weren't quite good enough. He came up with a new design that is rigid and comes in three different sizes to fit any cutting machine. Because they are rigid, the lift fingers don't flex and ride up and over the crop. They also won't bend backward and do damage to the cutting unit, which can happen with some other fingers. There are no moving parts.

Page sells his lift fingers for \$15.99 (Canada) each. This factory-direct price includes freight in western Canada with pre-paid orders.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rene Page, New Concept Mfg. Ltd., Box 32, Vimy, Alberta, Canada T0G 2J0 (ph 780 961-3835 or 780 459-9788 (evenings); fax 780 460-7554).



New rigid lift fingers don't flex so they can't damage the cutting unit, which can happen with some other fingers.