



Home-built triple rake hitch lets Chudej hook three 9-ft. side-delivery rakes together to cover 27 ft. at a time. Hitch is made from heavy-wall oil field drill stem pipe.

Triple Hitch Rake Covers 27 Ft. At A Time

A home-built triple rake hitch lets Royce Chudej, Schulenburg, Texas, hook three 9-ft. side-delivery rakes together to cover up to 27 ft. at a time.

The hitch is made from 8-in. dia., heavy wall oil field drill stem pipe. What makes it work is a steering axle off an old combine that "walks" the rakes back and forth behind the tractor.

The front rake hooks up directly behind the tractor. The middle rake is towed by an old Massey Ferguson combine steering axle fitted with power steering. The rear rake simply hooks up with a pin to the back of the hitch that extends over the front two rakes. The middle and rear rakes move from side to side by steering the combine axle wheels using a hydraulic lever on the tractor. A 3-in. dia. cylinder acts on a telescoping pipe welded to the steering axle.

For transport, Chudej simply steers the middle and rear rakes behind the tractor so they follow directly behind the forward rake.

"I already had two of the rakes and was pulling them together, but I wanted to cover even more ground so I bought another used



Steering axle off an old combine "walks" the rakes back and forth behind tractor. A 3-in. dia. cylinder acts on a telescoping pipe welded to the axle.

rake for \$1,500 and built the hitch," says Chudej. "My wife does most of the raking. Pulling three rakes at a time makes the job much easier for her because she doesn't have to go as fast in order to keep ahead of the baler. With three rakes going she can make a good size windrow in no time. A big advantage of this hitch design is that there's no strain on any of the rake axles."

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Winter-Grazing Cattle On Corn Stalks

Minnesota farmer Donald Struxness is taking a new approach to feeding cattle this winter by keeping his herd of 100 cows in the field grazing on cornstalks.

He says the idea saves him from having to haul feed back to the feedlot and from having to haul manure out to fields.

To protect animals from winter winds, he put planter shelter belts along the fields and also made six portable 10 by 20-ft. wind-break panels. The panels are set in a 90° wedge shape pointing into the prevailing Northwest winds.

Stuxness also trenched lines to the field to provide water.

He sets out round hay bales in rows about

30 ft. apart among the corn stalks and uses a hot electric wire to graze the stalks and bales in strips. He just has to move the round bale feeders and electric wire a few feet each time so no tractor is needed. He also stacks small square bales next to the portable wind-breaks so he can feed them to cattle inside the shelters during bad weather.

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Shield slips onto both ends of DeCook's spray boom. He uses it every time he makes the first pass around the field when spraying Roundup onto his Roundup Ready beans.

Spray Shield Protects Crops Along Edges Of Bean Fields

"My homemade spray shield slips onto both ends of my spray boom to keep Roundup from damaging corn along the edges of bean fields," says Arvin De Cook, Sully, Iowa, who uses the shield every time he makes the first pass around the field when spraying Roundup onto his Roundup Ready beans.

He welded two lengths of 1 1/4-in. sq. tubing to each end of his 50-ft. pull-type sprayer. The spray shield is made from 1-in. sq. tubing with rubber bolted to the sides. The spray shield frame simply slips into the tubing that's welded to the boom.

The rubber shield is 5 ft. wide at back, 1 ft. wide at front, and 2 ft. wide on the end. A flap on top keeps spray from drifting upward. The bottom of the belt is about 10 in. off the ground.

"I've used it on several hundred acres with complete success," says De Cook. "It lets me rub the end of the boom almost right up against the corn without damaging it.

Roundup spray drift on corn can be a big problem - I've seen many corn fields with several rows of corn damaged. It can cost a lot of money. For example, just one row in a half-mile long field equals 1/3 of an acre. At a yield of 150 bu. per acre, that row would have produced 50 bu. of corn which, at \$2 per bu, is a \$100 yield loss. I plant all Roundup Ready soybeans and most of the fields are surrounded by corn so I have a lot to lose.

"To solve the problem some farmers don't spray a 5-ft. wide strip of soybeans next to their corn, but that results in weedy beans in that strip. After I'm done making the outside round I just slip the shield off the boom and hang it on brackets that I mounted on the side of the tractor."

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"Dual Doohickey" is designed to mount on the forks of any skid steer loader.

Skid Steer "Mini Wheel" Makes Duals Easy To Mount

"My skid steer attachment makes it easy to adjust the position of a dual wheel so that you can align the lug bolts with the wheel holes. It saves a lot of aggravation," says Einar Oftedal, Cottonwood, Minn.

The "Dual Doohickey", as Oftedal calls it, is designed to mount on the forks of any skid steer loader. It consists of a 2-ft. wide section of channel iron that supports an 8-in. dia. rubber wheel mounted on a vertical length of steel tubing. You slip the skid loader forks into the channel iron and use the tire to lift the dual wheel onto the vehicle's wheel hub. To line up the lug bolts with the wheel holes you simply rotate the dual wheel on the mini wheel. The skid loader forks are secured by inserting a steel pin through the channel iron and through a hole that you drill



Forks slip into 2-ft. wide section of channel iron that supports an 8-in. dia. rubber wheel. To line up the lug bolts with the wheel holes, you simply rotate the dual wheel on the mini wheel.

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