

## “World’s First” 1,500-Bu. Grain Cart

Grain carts just keep on getting bigger as showgoers found out at the recent National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky. Balzer Mfg. displayed a new 1,250 bu. grain cart and had photos on hand of a 1,500-bu. model equipped with three wheels on each side.

The 1,250-bu. model actually has a capacity of 1,000 bu. but adding an extension on one side boosts the capacity by 250 bu. It's equipped with tandem axles and floatation tires. The cart's 16-in. dia. unloading auger empties 1,000 bu. of dry corn in only about 2 1/2 minutes. A 12-in. recessed floor auger keeps the unloading auger full during unloading.

The cart is equipped with an Auto-Trail steerable axle system. Hydraulic cylinders keep the steerable axles parallel to each other and allow them to follow the tractor's direction. To straighten the axles for backing up, you simply activate the hydraulic lever in the tractor cab.

Model 1200 has a capacity of about 1,250 bu. without an extension; 1,500 bu. with it. The front and rear axles are steerable. It's priced at somewhere above \$40,000, says a company spokesman.

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When equipped with an extension, Balzer's 6-wheel grain cart holds 1,500 bu. of corn.

## Self-Propelled Sprayer Converted To Sweet Corn Harvester

Tom McKee, Ramsey, Ill., converted an old high clearance self-propelled sprayer chassis into a low-cost, efficient sweet corn harvester.

The machine's three wheels are spaced to go between the crop's 40-in. rows. Three people ride on the unit, with the middle one driving and the other two snapping off ears as they go down the row and tossing the ears back over their shoulders into a hopper. A hand-cranked conveyor belt is used to unload corn out the back of the hopper. A plastic tarp mounted over a metal frame serves as a roof.

"The three workers can harvest up to 200 dozen ears of corn in only 1 1/2 hours," says McKee, who grows fruits and vegetables for sale locally. "Because of the high clearance frame it can go through the field without knocking the stalks down. As a result, we can go through the field more than once in those years when the sweet corn doesn't mature evenly."

He started with an old 4-wheeled self-propelled sprayer. He stripped the sprayer down to the wheels and part of the frame and mounted a metal hopper on back. Power is supplied by a 2-cyl., 18 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine that mounts above a single front drive wheel. The engine uses belts and chains



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to drive a 3-speed transmission off a Chevy truck. A gear reduction box is used to slow down the speed. A torque converter clutch allows variable speeds.

The steering wheel is off an IH F-20 Farmall tractor and is connected by a length of chain to a gearbox off the same tractor. The chain turns a shaft that drives the gearbox, and from the gearbox another chain extends to the front wheel. A clutch and



Rig is powered by a 2-cyl., 18 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine that mounts above a single front drive wheel.

throttle mount near to the steering wheel. McKee, U.S. 51 S., Ramsey, Ill. 62080 (ph Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom 618 423-9376).

## Skid Steer-Mounted Grader, Backhoe Both Home-Built

"My home-built grader and backhoe work great and cost about half of commercial models," says Frank Jepps, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, who mounts the rigs on his Deere skid steer loader.

Jepps used 6-in. channel iron to build the grader frame. The front part of the grader rides on a pair of 15-in. castor wheels. The blade angles from side to side and also up and down. The grader's 7 1/2-ft. blade, as well as the two cylinders that angle the blade from side to side, is off a pickup-mounted snowplow. A pair of 30-in. cylinders are used to raise or lower the blade. The grader frame still has the original snowplow quick hitch that was used to hook it up to the pickup. Jepps made a second quick hitch that attaches with two pins to the skid loader, allowing him to quickly remove the blade and mount it back on the pickup.

"Skid loaders do a lot of hopping and skipping, but with the frame and blade out front supported by a pair of wheels, the bouncing is greatly reduced," says Jepps. "I use the blade as a snowplow during the winter and to back fill trenches during the summer. I already had the blade. My total cost was

just under \$600. Hydraulic hoses, valves and cylinders accounted for about 80 percent of the cost. I munted a valve body that slips into a quick-change slide holder on front of the skid loader where it's easy to reach. When I unhook the grader, I pull two quick release handles, lift the valve out of the slide and throw it on the grader, then back away."

The backhoe mounts on the skid loader via a 3-pt. quick hitch. The boom is made out of 1/4-in. thick sq. steel tubing while the 16-in. wide bucket is made out of 13-in. dia. "rat hole" tubing. The machine is equipped with five hydraulic cylinders. Two cylinders swing the bucket in or out and the others operate the boom. The seat is off an old tractor.

"It works beautifully and has more breakout power than commercial models that sell for up to \$10,000. I built it for \$4,000 not including my labor. Most of the cost was for hydraulic and valve controls," says Jepps. "I use it to dig deep trenches for sewer fields, septic tanks, and ditches."

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Backhoe mounts on skid loader via a 3-pt. quick hitch.