



Gene Suteau converted a 1980 Mack tandem axle semi truck into this 6-WD, tri-axle model. It has a 24-ft. long, 9-ft. wide box that can haul up to 60,000 lbs. at a time.

## Giant Manure Spreader Mounts On Mack Truck

"We have a custom manure hauling business and this rig lets us go fast both in the field and on the road. It also reduces compaction," says Gene Suteau, Onoway, Alberta, who converted a 1980 Mack tandem axle semi truck into a 6-WD, tri-axle model. It's equipped with a big 24-ft. long, 9-ft. wide box that hauls up to 32 cubic yards or 60,000 lbs. at a time.

The entire rig is 40 ft. long and rides on tires that stand 4 ft. high

Suteau already owned the semi tractor but he bought another identical truck for parts. He stretched the frame 3 1/2 ft., then added a third axle and mounted a second differential in front of the original one. He got the box off another truck, lengthening it by 2 ft. and making it 1 1/2 ft. taller.

A gearbox taken from a Massey big square baler is used to operate the box's apron chain. It's driven by an orbit motor that's powered by a hydraulic pump off the truck's engine. Two others orbit motors are used to operate the big 30-in. dia., drum-type beaters that he made himself.

"It has about twice as much capacity as a standard McKee 18-ft. truck-mounted manure spreader, which is one of the biggest on the market," says Suteau, who uses the rig to custom spread manure within a 300-mile radius. "The truck is powered by a 300

hp diesel engine and has a 15-speed transmission so I have plenty of power. The 6-WD lets me work right through wet conditions that would shut down other rigs. The spreader's eight big tires operate at only 35 psi, which results in very little compaction.

"I had been using four truck-mounted spreaders - a commercial McKee model and three others that I built on my own. As a result I needed a lot of extra help. Last year I was able to use just this one truck by myself which greatly reduced my overhead costs. My total cost was about \$40,000."

Suteau built his own oversize beaters in order to get away from twine-wrapping problems he was having with the beaters on commercial machines. "Conventional beaters are only about 4 in. in diameter, which allows twine to wrap up tightly around them. It can take hours to remove the twine, but with big beaters the twine wraps much more loosely so it takes me only about 5 minutes," he notes.

He uses a switch in the cab to operate an electric clutch that controls the hydraulic pump. A pair of levers are used to control the speed of the floor chains and to operate the endgate.

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## "Non-Powered" Treadle Gate Opens Automatically

You can open and shut this gate without ever getting out of your car or pickup. You don't even have to reach for a remote control.

The "Gogate" is activated by driving the left front tire of your vehicle onto a metal ramp, or treadle. The treadle houses a cylinder filled with ethylene glycol, or antifreeze. As the treadle is compressed, the fluid activates a latch on the gate, allowing it to snap open. The gate stays open for a pre-determined "hang time", then automatically closes and latches shut.

The "hang time" is adjusted by simply dialing a knob. Typically, with a car or pickup you want the gate to stay open for about 15 seconds, says the company. When the operator is pulling a trailer, a longer "hang time" is required. The gate can be left open for a maximum of two minutes. A manual



"Gogate" is activated by driving the left front tire of vehicle onto a metal ramp, or treadle.

gate release allows you to open the gate by hand when passing through on foot or horseback.

The 5-ft. high gate is available in 12, 14, and 16-ft. wide models. Custom widths and



Gary Fesmire merged an 8-row header with a 4-row to build his own 12-row model.

## "Made-It-Myself" 12-Row Corn Head

Gary Fesmire, Dyer, Tenn., bought a used Case-IH 4-row header and merged it with an 8-row model that he already owned to build a low-cost, 12-row model.

"I've used it to harvest more than 2,600 acres of corn with no problems," says Fesmire, who uses the header on his 1994 Case-IH 1688 combine.

He paid \$5,000 for the Case-IH 1043 4-row header. He added two row units to each side of the 8-row header. He stripped both headers down and used steel tubing to build a new frame. He bought a new 30-ft. long, 16-in. dia. cross auger and cut the flighting down to 14-in. diameter to fit the header. He also had to extend the driveshafts on both headers and add a new row divider at one end of the header. The drives and rollers are all original.

"The combine actually does a better job of threshing with the 12-row header than it did with the 8-row, even in 200-bu. corn," says Fesmire. "I do have to drive a little slower but that's not a problem."

"I paid \$1,600 for the cross auger, \$400 for the row divider, and \$300 for new steel so my total cost was less than \$10,000. A new 12-row header would have cost about \$53,000."

Fesmire says that at first he was concerned about the weight of the 12-row header, but it hasn't been a problem. "In fact, my header weighs about 700 lbs. less than a Case-IH 12-row header. I did add fluid in the rear tires for extra ballast."

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He used steel tubing to build a new frame for the header and bought a new cross auger.



Treadle houses a cylinder filled with fluid. As treadle is compressed, the fluid activates a latch on the gate, allowing it to snap open.

heights are also available. If you want to use the gate across your farm or ranch entryway, you can order the gate with a standard "Sunburst" design, or with your own custom farm or ranch design. A 12-ft. farm or ranch entry gate sells for \$4,995. A standard 12-ft.

gate sells for \$2,995.

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