



The Wolf implement carrier has a ripper-hipper (with its own gauge wheels) mounted on front 3-pt., and a 6-row planter on the rear.



The Wolfs plant at 4.5 to 5 mph with their "one pass" implement carrier which allows a once-over till-plant-spray operation.

GANG 3 PT EQUIPMENT FOR "ONE PASS" OPERATION

By Harold Johnson, Editorial Director

You'll Like These New Cost-Saving Implement Carriers

"It's boosting yields and lowering our production costs," says Arkansas farmer Fowler Wolf, of Fisher, who teamed up with son Craig and cousin Steve Carpenter, who farms near Waldenburg, to design a "double assist" implement carrier that lets them gang 3 pt. tillage, planting and spraying equipment for "one pass" operation.

The Wolfs and Carpenter "brainstormed" the concept, consulted with Kenneth Rennie, a neighboring farmer and mechanical engineer, then hired Bob Dennis, owner of Dennis Mfg., in Waldenburg, to custom build two implement carriers -- one for the Wolfs and one for Carpenter.

The carriers are identical and similarly equipped, with an 8 row planter on the rear 3 pt, and a home-built combination "ripper-hipper" on the carrier's front pto. It features a double disc "hipper" with an 8-shank ripper attached to it in front, and a single disc hipper attached behind to put on the "finishing touch" in dressing and shaping 30 in. wide beds ahead of the planter. The coupled-up "ripper-hipper" attaches to the carrier via the center hipper's 3 pt., rides on its gauge wheels, and is raised and lowered with a 24 in. (4 in. dia.) cylinder.

The 8 row planter attached to the carrier's rear 3 pt. is equipped with a front-mounted "bed knocker" and a monitor. It's raised and lowered with a 16 in. cylinder. Insecticide is carried in the planter

boxes and band-applied herbicide is carried in a 1,000 gal. tank mounted on top the implement carrier directly above its four 9:00 by 20 heavy-duty, army surplus land leveler wheels.

The Wolfs and Carpenter each used their implement carriers last year and again this year to plant about 1,000 acres of corn and soybeans. "It really works great and is a tremendous cost-saver," says Carpenter. "I used to make as many as seven trips over the field to prepare the seedbed and plant the crop. With this new rig, I do it all in one pass. What's more, I use the same 3 pt. tillage and planting equipment I was using before so my only investment was in the custom-built carrier. I can use it as double assist for combination tilling and planting, or it can be used as a single assist for special tillage or other operations. The carrier is extremely versatile and could be used with row crop equipment up to 12 rows, and with 3 pt. or pull type cultivators and drills for once-over planting of small grain and other crops."

The Wolfs previously planted corn and soybeans using three men and three tractors to prepare the seedbed and plant the crop. Now, thanks to their new implement carrier, they do it all in one pass with one machine, one man and one tractor. "We're not exactly sure what accounted for the estimated 10 bushel yield increase we got last year with the once-over till-plant operation but we think it

was due primarily to reduced soil compaction and the fact that, with the planter never more than a few feet behind the ripper-hipper, seed is always planted in moist, freshly-tilled soil," Wolf point out. "We pull the rig with an 8630 Deere which moves it along at 4.5 to 5 mph. That's fine for planting corn but we could use more horsepower to get more speed for planting beans."

The carrier's two horizontal main frames, made of 4 by 6 in. tubing, are suspended about 5.5 ft. above ground level. "About 70% of all the weight is

carried by the carrier, and about 30% by the tractor," says Carpenter. "The complete rig turns short enough on the ends with 8 row equipment to come back in line for the next pass."

If you're interested in a custom-built "double assist" implement carrier patterned after the one designed by farmers Wolf and Carpenter, the cost is right at \$5,500.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup; Dennis' Mfg.; Bob Dennis, Owner; Drawer D, Waldenburg, Ark.72475 (ph 501 579-2266).

Tandem Implement Connector

Gregory Manufacturing, of Lewiston, N.C., has purchased manufacturing and marketing rights for a farmer-invented Tandem Implement Connector (TIC) that allows you to pull up to three pieces of equipment in tandem, completing the till-plant-spray operation in one pass.

Although designed primarily for 3 pt. equipment, it can also be used with pull type equipment, or a combination of the two, says Charles Gregory Jr. He adds that the TIC's four rear wheels are adjustable for spacing to accommodate row-crop planters (or comparable width drills) up to 12 rows wide.

Two controls in the tractor cab operate the Gregory TIC. One controls the tillage tools up front; the other operates the planter or drill at the rear.

Between the TIC's front and rear hitches, you can attach up to a 1,000 gal. tank that rolls entirely on the carrier's four wheels for herbicide or fertilizer application. The tank can be replaced with a bin for bulk storage of corn, soybeans, or wheat during the planting operation. "If you use a tank with a divider, you can apply liquid fertilizer and herbicide from the same tank, without having to have any tanks on the tractor," Gregory notes.

The heavy-built rig is slated to retail for right at \$12,500, he told FARM SHOW.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gregory Manufacturing Co., P.O. Box 269., Lewiston, N.C. 27849 (ph 919 348-2531).



The new Gregory TIC allows one tractor to pull up to 3 pieces of equipment, completing the entire operation in one pass.