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New-Style Tracked Tractor

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tractor will be to mount a 24-ton lime spreading box on the extended rear frame. He says the four-track conversion system is less expensive than mounting a spreader tank on a separate belted trailer and pulling it behind a rubber tired tractor. It also works better. "There's less compaction from the large tow tractor, and the center of gravity is over the center of the tractor instead of behind it on a trailer. Vehicle weight is evenly distributed on all 4 tracks. Tracks also drive easier than wheels which means less fuel consumption."

Another advantage of the 4-tracked design is that with articulated steering the

tractor has a short turning radius that makes it easier to maneuver in the field.

Kelderman removed the tractor's original dual wheels and built his own 6-ft. high drive wheels, bolting them on in place of the original wheels. He also built his own center idler wheel. He obtains the rubber track itself, as well as the rear rubber-tired idler wheel, from Caterpillar. "The 6-ft. high idler wheels are the same size as the tractor's original 20.8 by 42 tires so ground speed remains the same in any given gear," notes Kelderman.

Each set of tracks is fitted with an air bag suspension system to maintain even ground pressure along the entire length of the track.

Kelderman says that in the future a wide variety of equipment could be mounted on the tractor, such as a 4,000 to 6,000-gal. spray tank, liquid fertilizer tank, or liquid manure tank. It could also be used to pull tillage equipment.

In a year or two he hopes to have kits available which farmers can buy to "belt" existing tractors.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kelderman Mfg., Inc., 2686 Hwy. 92, Oska-loosa, Iowa 52577-9685 (ph 515 673-0468).

APPLIES AN ACCURATE SPRAY BAND BY RUNNING CLOSE TO THE GROUND

Hinging Spray Hoods For Row Crop Planters

"We wanted to band chemicals to cut costs but we didn't want to have to stop planting because of wind," say Floyd and Gordon Greimann, Sheffield, Iowa about their slick new design for hinging spray hoods that mount behind planter row units.

The banding hoods worked out so well the Greimanns have started manufacturing them for sale. "We've used the shields two seasons and they've worked excellent. We've sprayed in winds over 45 mph and the bands have held perfectly," says Floyd.

One key feature is that the hoods mount on hinges that allow them to run close to the ground yet hinge up backward without damage if they hit an obstacle. The closer the shield is to the ground, the more the spray pattern is protected from the wind.

The Greimanns also wanted an easy way to clean or change spray tips. Each tip can be removed by releasing two spring clips



Caddy's axle articulates around center pivot point and is controlled by two hydraulic cylinders. Axle automatically pivots implement to keep it on row or between rows.

CUTS HORSEPOWER NEEDS IN HALF

Guidance "Caddy" For 3-Pt. Equipment

First-of-its-kind equipment caddy turns mounted implements into pull-type units, reducing the need for high-horsepower tractors when using automatic guidance systems, according to Progressive Farm Products, Hudson, Ill. The innovative pull-behind rig is equipped with its own new-style built-in guidance system.

The two-wheeled "Auto Kaddy", which is fitted with a 3-pt. hitch at rear, simply hitches to the tractor drawbar and is powered by the tractor's hydraulic outlets. The caddy's axle articulates around a center pivot point and is pushed and pulled by a pair of hydraulic cylinders. When the implement drifts, the axle automatically pivots the implement to keep it on or between the rows. A set of "wands" under the axle follows the row, sending signals to an electric control box.

"It lets you use a tractor with only half as much horsepower as required for a 3-pt. mounted guidance system. It saves you the

cost of a bigger tractor and reduces soil compaction," says Rich Follmer, president. "Extra horsepower is required to lift heavy 12- and 16-row planters and cultivators when you use a conventional 3-pt. automatic guidance system. The problem is that you lose leverage when a 3-pt. guidance system is added between the tractor and implement.

"Without the caddy, it takes a 200 hp tractor to pull a 16-row cultivator with a guidance system. With the caddy, you need only a 90 hp tractor. Another advantage is that our pivot hitch design has much more side-to-side flexibility than a 3-pt. guidance system. Your tractor can be 30 in. off the row, but the Auto Kaddy will still keep the implement on the row."

Sells for \$9,300.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Progressive Farm Products, RR 1, Box 17, Hudson, Ill. 61748 (ph 309 454-1564).



Hinged hoods let you band chemicals without worrying about wind or obstacles on the ground.

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