

Back-Saving Ideas For Machinery Hookup

John Loyd didn't like having to struggle to hook up to his mower or shredder. So the Kerrville, Texas, farmer used two simple ideas to make it easier to hook up to both machines. "They're fairly simple ideas, but they sure save my back," he says.

The first idea involves a Deere 3-pt. mounted, 4-ft. wide tiller that attaches to his Kubota tractor. "It's a heavy machine, and I always struggled and sweated every time I had to attach or remove the tiller from the tractor. I had to either have someone help me or use a steel bar to leverage the machine into place," says Loyd.

"To solve the problem, I used lengths of chain to make a sling that lets me suspend the tiller from a beam in my machine shed. The chain attaches to metal hooks that I bolted onto both sides of the machine, as well

as on its 3-pt. hookup brackets. A turnbuckle in one leg of the chain allows me to level the tiller to match the plane of the tractor's 3-pt. lift arms. The tiller is suspended about 1 in. off the ground so it can swing, which makes it easy to hook up. Now I can attach or remove the tiller in minutes, all by myself. I just back up the tractor to the machine without having to get it completely in position. Once the tiller is hooked up to the tractor I raise it enough to take the slack off the chains and then remove them."

The second idea involved a 3-pt. mounted, 5-ft. wide crop shredder. The problem was, there was no way to move the heavy machine either sideways or backward or forward for hookup. To solve the problem, he put a short 18-in. length of pvc pipe under each side of the front part of the shredder, allowing him



Tiller hangs from shed roof on a chain sling (left). To move crop shredder around, Loyd puts a short piece of pvc pipe under each side of the front part of the shredder.

to easily move the shredder forward or backward and from side to side when connecting it to the tractor.

"Now I can hook up to the shredder without having to do any lifting," says Loyd. "The

pipes makes it easy to slide the machine from one side to the other or back and forth."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Loyd, 507 Fall Creek Rd., Kerrville, Texas 78028 (ph 830 792-4438).



Unit looks like front-mounted tractor weights but adds less than 150 lbs. to the front of the tractor. Drain plug is at the bottom left and recessed for protection (right).

Add-On "Live Hydraulics" For Older Model Tractors

This new front-mounted hydraulic system, recently introduced by Jackson Power Steering, is designed to give older tractors a "live hydraulics" system that's reliable, strong and trouble-free.

The unit is designed to look like front-mounted tractor weights but actually adds less than 150 lbs. to the front of the tractor. The unit holds a little over 5 gal. of hydraulic oil. A 9 gpm vane pump is embedded inside the reservoir.

Once installed, the tractor has hydraulic power whether or not the clutch is engaged. Most older model tractors have low or limited internal pump flow the hydraulics only work as long as the clutch is engaged.

"The 9gpm pump has enough flow to run most any combination of hydraulic applications, independent of the tractor's internal hydraulics. A side benefit is having the reservoir on the front of the tractor to give added weight to the front. The unit is as wide as the tractor hood and extends about 8 in. past the grill," says Jackson.

He offers a wide range of hydraulic valves and remotes to match the system, which can be used for log splitters, dump trailers, grain augers, stump grinders, and even add-on power steering.



Flex coupling mounts inside the grill.

Inventor Roland Jackson is starting out with Fords (9N, 8N, 2N, NAA, 600 Series, 800 Series and early 1000 Series). However, he will soon be adding other models since the hydraulics are the same. Only the mounting brackets are different.

The kit includes the reservoir, embedded pump, mounting brackets, crankshaft drive kit, and instructions. Sells for \$1,495 plus shipping.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jackson Power Steering, Rt. 2, Box 220, Jetmore, Kan. 67854 (ph 620 357-6546; sales@jacksonpowersteering.com).



ATV racks are made from 11 and 14-ga. powder-coated steel and hook up to the receiver or ball hitch.

Heavy Duty Racks For ATV's

"We think we offer the world's most versatile racks for ATV's. They're available in a variety of styles and are built rugged for heavy duty use," says Keith Mangrum, Fairview, Tenn., who operates a website called www.packratracks.com.

The ATV racks are made from 11 and 14-ga. powder coated steel and hook up to either the receiver hitch or ball hitch on any ATV. A wheel can be attached on back of the rack to support more weight. On many models the rack is hinged, allowing it to be folded up out of the way when not in use.

"I look at our rack as a wagon that you don't have to go and get, because it's always with you," says Mangrum. "All our racks are designed to go on back of the ATV, although we can custom build front racks to order. All racks mount directly to the ATV so there's no hitch, which makes backing up an easy job. The racks have a low profile so you can stack a lot of stuff on them. I recommend using a wheel when hauling loads over 100 lbs. The basic rack is rated at 200 lbs. when equipped with a wheel, but I've carried over 500 lbs. with no problem. I've even used our

rack to haul a freezer out of my basement, and to haul concrete statues and even a picnic table."

One rack called the "farmer's edition" can be used to haul hay, feed, fencing materials, etc. The bed is supported by a pair of wheels. Other racks are designed for duck hunters, woodsmen, campers, and dogs.

A new drop basket can be tied to the top of the rack to provide more payload for loose materials. "Hunters use the drop basket for hauling clothes, boots, and other gear into the woods. The drop basket can be turned to face the driver or the bed," says Mangrum.

The drop basket sells for \$156 plus S&H. Drop basket hangers sell for \$19.95.

Accessories include a ball attachment with bed support, deer hunter's tree stand hanger, canvas liner, barbed wire dispenser, deer hoist, 25-lb. counter weights, bed hitch pin, and 200-lb. wheel assembly.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Keith Mangrum, 7244 Bahne Rd., Fairview, Tenn. 37062 (ph 615 478-7288; kmangrum@packratracks.com; www.packratracks.com).



Most racks have hinges so they can be folded up and put out of the way. A wheel can be attached to the back of the rack to add up to 200 lbs of carrying capacity.

"Best Bargain In Farming"

Join thousands of your fellow FARM SHOW readers who've already ordered a copy (or copies) of our new "Encyclopedia of Made It Myself" ideas. At just \$9.95 apiece (plus \$2.95 S&H), it's the "best bargain in farming", as one subscriber told us. See order form on page 43.

