

Handy Two-Way Hitch

"Over the years I've seen many ideas for ball hitch mounts on tractors, but never one that solves the problem of where to store the ball hitch unit. My two-way ball hitch is always right where I need it - on the drawbar itself," says David Edwards, Val Alstyn, Texas.

The "Hitch Keeper", as Edwards calls it, slides over the tractor drawbar in the hitch position as well as the storage position. In both cases it's held in place by an ordinary hitch pin.

To switch to the ball hitch, Edwards simply removes the hitch pin and slides the rectangular-tubed main body off the drawbar, then rotates it 180 degrees and slides it back

onto the drawbar and reinserts the pin.

With the hitch in storage position, the ball hitch is out of the way and the tractor's drawbar hole is completely accessible.

"It makes it easy to switch off between hay wagons and road trailers whenever I'm in the field picking up square bales behind my tractor," says Edwards. "Since the ball extends several inches beyond the drawbar when towing, it also helps reduce clearance problems on tight turns.

"My dad donated his time, some iron, and the use of his welder to help make my idea come to life. I was so proud of it that I even painted it. Now it's the only shiny piece of



"Since the ball extends several inches beyond the drawbar when towing, it also helps reduce clearance problems on tight turns," says Edwards, who uses the hitch to switch between hay wagons and road trailers.

equipment I own," he notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Edwards, 183 Bucksnot Rd., Van Alstyn, Texas 75495 (ph 903 364-2915 or 972 569-3655; email: dedwards183@aol.com; website: www.hay4horse.com).



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Hand-held unit threshes the grain and deposits it in a glass jar for moisture testing.



Hand-Held Combine

There's no need to make a test run with a combine to see if a field's ready to harvest, thanks to a new hand-held harvester that cuts and threshes a clean grain sample in minutes.

"The idea for the Micro Harvester came to me when I was selling combines," says Francis Gode, Le Catelet, France. "I used to go to farms for the first use of a new combine. We were often wasting our time going from field to field because the grain was not ready for harvest."

Gode worked with several French research institutes to build a miniature harvester that could be hand-held and battery-powered. The self-contained unit cuts and threshes the grain, depositing it in a glass jar for moisture testing.

The device was developed in 2004. Gode

says it's the only cordless harvester of its type. The machine has three separate functions. The operator lowers the stripper mouth over the grain heads to pick the grains. The grain is then threshed with the miniature concaves, and finally blowers separate the grain from the trash. Clean grain falls into an attached jar.

Gode is looking for distributors or resellers in North America. Currently he is selling it for 415 Euros, which is \$534.23 (U.S.) or \$662.87 (Can.).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Francis Gode, R Gode & Sons, 15 bis rue Augereau, 02420 Le Catelet, France (ph 0033 323 662 005; email: gode.catelet@wanadoo.fr; website: www.gode.fr).

Walk-Behind Self-Propelled Sprayer

"It's really easy to maneuver. All I have to do is stand behind and guide it," says Gene Cafourek, Stewartville, Minn., about his home-built, walk-behind, self-propelled sprayer. "It works great for getting into tight areas that are hard to reach with a trailing sprayer behind a garden tractor or ATV."

The rig rides on a pair of 26-in. high motorcycle wheels and is equipped with a 15-gal. poly tank, a 30-ft. long hose and hand gun, a 12-volt air compressor, a 1-gal. foam tank, and foam markers. Power is provided by a 4 hp Briggs & Stratton engine equipped with gear reduction. The engine belt-drives a pair of 8-in. dia. wheels that friction-drive the 26-in. wheels. Pulling a lever at the back of the machine puts tension on an idler pulley that engages a drive belt. With the engine at a fast idle it goes about 3 mph. A pair of small caster wheels under the unit, one on front and one on back, provide stability.

The rig has a 40-in. boom equipped with a hollow plastic shield that extends to within 6 in. of the ground. A single floodjet nozzle mounts inside the shield and covers a 40-in. pattern. For spraying larger areas, there are two nozzles outside the shield that cover a 6 1/2-ft. swath. Boom height is adjustable. A long rubber hose at each end of the boom is used to lay down a foam mark, which is dis-



Rig has a 40-in. boom with a hollow plastic shield that extends within 6 in. of the ground. A single floodjet nozzle mounts inside the shield and covers a 40-in. pattern. Two nozzles outside the shield cover a 6 1/2-ft. swath.

persed by a 12-volt air compressor.

"I use it a lot in cemeteries and also around farmsteads. It works great around shrubs, flowers and gardens," says Cafourek.

Power for spray operations is provided by a 12-volt demand pump that's backed up by a 12-volt battery. "I plumbed everything so I can adjust the pressure as needed," says Cafourek.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gene Cafourek, 1102nd Ave. S.E., Stewartville, Minn. 55976 (ph 507 533-6283).

Add-On Boat Lift Motor

If your back's tired from cranking the wheel on a boat or pontoon lift, you'll like this electric-powered "Lift Mate" that fits onto any wheel-cranked lift.

You can power it off the 12-volt boat power or 110-volt power from shore. It has a 5,000-lb. lift capacity. Bracket is all aluminum. Brackets adapt unit to any lift. Wheel friction-turns wheel.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Shoreline Industries, Inc., 199 College St., Pine River, Minn. 56474 (ph 888 298-9702 or 218 587-8700; website www.boatliftmotor.com).

Motor fits any wheel-cranked lift. It'll handle up to 5,000 lbs. and is powered by the 12-volt power off the boat or 110-volt power from shore.



3-Pt. Splitter Eliminates Heavy Lifting, Bending

"My 3-pt. log splitter eliminates heavy lifting or bending over. It's designed to handle both big and small diameter wood," says Clarence Bartow, Merlin, Ore.

The splitter works vertically and has its own hydraulic reservoir and pto-driven hydraulic pump. A metal splitting platform measures 4 1/2 ft. long by 27 in. wide. The platform hydraulically raises about 2 ft. off the ground. A 4-in. dia., 24-in. stroke hydraulic cylinder attached to a 17-in. long wedge is used to split the log. The operator uses a control lever on the tractor to raise and lower the platform, and another lever on the splitter to operate the cylinder.

"It really works well and has exceeded my expectations," says Bartow. "The split wood always stays on the platform without ever falling to the ground. I just roll the log onto the platform, raise it up, and then lower the wedge into the log. I don't have to do any lifting or bending at all. I can work for hours without the slightest fatigue in my back.

"I came up with the idea because I have a big firewood processing machine that can't take logs bigger than 19 in. in dia. I had 50 cords of oversize wood that wouldn't go through my processing machine so I had to find a splitter that could handle it. I searched the market but couldn't find what I needed. There are machines that lift the log onto a platform, but as soon as you push the splitter head the wood falls to the ground and you have to pick it back up again for resplitting. That's no big deal if you're splitting small diameter logs, but it is if you have to split big wood like I do."

Bartow says it would probably be more convenient to locate the platform control lever on the splitter. However, he didn't do that because it could be dangerous. "Walking up to the tractor eliminates the chance my feet



Operator uses a control lever on the tractor to raise and lower the platform, and another lever on the splitter to operate the cylinder, which has a cycle time of about 8 seconds.

will ever be under the platform when it's lowered down to the ground."

He uses a 30 hp tractor to power the splitter and says it does a fantastic job. "I'm using a 21 gpm pto pump which works fast. The cylinder has a cycle time of only about 8 seconds compared to 15 to 20 seconds for splitters equipped with a 2-stage pump."

The splitter sells for about \$4,250.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clarence Bartow, 3587 Quartz Creek Road, Merlin, Ore. 97532 (ph 541 660-4995 or 541 474-0555).