



Control plate mounts on tractor's 3-pt. hitch and slides into a receiver plate that attaches to implement.

Self Aligning 3-Pt. Hitch

There are other quick coupling 3-pt. hitches on the market, but likely none faster or that self aligns like Bill Alexander's. The twin plate, Delta Hook Rapid Hitch System is so well designed that Deere tried to copy it. Fortunately the registered mechanical engineer had it so well protected with patent claims that Deere stopped selling them almost immediately. He has one of the few Deere made still sitting in his shop.

"Deere engineers looked at mine and talked about using it on their small tractors."

He told them to try it out and the initial response was positive. But later Alexander was told the company had changed its mind and that his sample unit had been misplaced. Some time later, his Deere dealer called to say a hitch in a piece of company literature looked like his.

"I told him to order one, and he did," says Alexander. "It was self aligning like mine, but it was lighter and wouldn't have held up."

The hitch was dropped soon after. When Alexander called his initial Deere contact, he was told the company's patent attorney had told them to leave it alone. Alexander's patent was too well done.

"You need to have a good patent attorney," says Alexander. "Mine had done 41 other patents for me, and this one had sailed through quickest of all with all 29 claims approved."

What the claims described was a control

plate that mounts to the tractor's 3-pt. hitch. A receiver plate attaches to the implement. The triangular design allows the operator to back into position and slide the control plate up and into the receiver plate, regardless how out of alignment the two are.

Once in place the control plate locks to the receiver plate. A simple cable release allows the operator to release the latch quickly to disconnect from the implement. The entire process is fast and easy, says Alexander.

"We set up three implements with receiver plates and a tractor with a control plate," describes the engineer. "The driver hooked up to one, dropped it, hooked up to the second and then dropped it and hooked up to the third, all within 21 seconds. He was fast, but most people can hook up to an implement in 15 seconds or less."

Alexander's hitch is marketed for Category I and Category II hitches. Receiver and control plates can be purchased separately or in a package of two receiver plates and one control plate. Category I plates are priced at \$370 each or a package price of \$999. Category II plates are priced at \$485 or a package price of \$1,399.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alexander Equipment Co., LLC, P.O. Box 694, Greenville, S.C. 29602 (ph 864 232-2448 or toll free 866 833-1160; fax 864 233-5140; sales@delthahook.com; www.delthahook.com).

Mini "Sod Buster" Chisel Plow

Frank Miller is a retired machinist who enjoys working a few acres to raise a variety of garden crops. His need to work up small patches of sod prompted him to come up with a 3-pt. mounted, 3-sweep chisel plow. It's built entirely out of scrap metal.

"I call it my Sod Buster because I use it to bust up old pasture land around my existing gardens," says Miller. "I have three different plots that total about two acres, on which I grow melons. The chisel plow is only 3 ft. wide. I use my Deere 4010 to pull it and can go down about 10 inches."

The chisel plow is equipped with three sweeps off an old row crop cultivator - a single sweep up front and the other two about 4 in. behind it.

The front-mounted sweep is welded to a vertical length of 2-in. dia. pipe. The shanks on the other two sweeps are welded directly to a horizontal piece of 3 1/2-in. dia. pipe. Quick hitch fittings mount on each end of the pipe.

A bolted-on wood board provides a place to add weights to apply downpressure.

"I built it because I didn't have a mold-board plow. I use the chisel plow to dig deep



Miller's 3-pt. mounted chisel plow is just 3 ft. wide and is equipped with three sweeps off an old row crop cultivator.

to let moisture in. Then I make a pass over the loosened ground with my 3-pt. mounted, 7-ft. disk," says Miller. "It didn't cost much to build because I already had the sweeps."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Frank Miller, RR 2, Box 249, Beecher City, Ill. 62414 (ph 618 487-5429).

Tie Rods Make Good Gate Hinges

Richard and Carma Small really like their unique gate hinges because, in addition to not costing anything, they're easy to install, allow the gate to swing in either direction and are easy to grease.

The Ovid, Idaho couple has found that using tie rods they've salvaged from old cars or trucks is an ideal way to go.

They have a short bolt on one side, which goes through a hole drilled in the gate's upright post, and the long bolt on the other side goes through the stationary post, according to Richard. It will go through a gatepost of 6 in. or so.

"All you have to do is weld a plate on top of the tie rod - the size depends on the size of gate. Usually about a 4-in. sq. plate is just right for an average gate, but if you're using a 2 by 6-in. wooden gate upright, it could be 6 in. sq. If you've got a metal gate post, you'd just weld it on," Richard says. "Having these home-made hinges on the top and bottom of a gate is really nice. They'll pivot, allowing you to swing the gate both ways, and they



Gate hinge makes use of tie rods salvaged from old cars or trucks.

also have a zerk fitting built right in. They'll last forever, and if they get a little dry you can just put a little grease in them with your grease gun."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard and Carma Small, 148 Old Mill Rd., Ovid, Idaho 83254 (ph 208 945-2390).

Sugar Beets Attract Deer

If you use food plots to attract more deer to your land, you might want to check out BuckLunch.com which encourages hunters and landowners to plant sugar beets to attract more deer.

"Our sugar beet seed will increase the quantity and quality of forage available to deer. They love to eat both the foliage and the roots, and the nutrition is excellent," says the company. "Provided with adequate moisture and nitrogen, sugar beets will grow well in almost any soil type. We also offer the option of fungicide coated seed for even better emergence."

The seed is available in two types, bare or treated, and in 3.5, 10 and 20-lb. packages. The 3.5-lb. container will seed a 1/4 to 1/3 acre plot and sells for \$33.95 for bare seed and \$44.95 for treated seed. A 20-lb. package of bare seed will cover 2 to 4 acres and is priced at \$132.95. All seed is sold in re-closable, disposable plastic buckets with a handle.

Standard ground UPS shipping on all orders is free to U.S. delivery addresses in the



Deere love to eat sugar beets. Seed is available from BuckLunch in re-closable, disposable plastic buckets.

lower 48 states.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, BuckLunch, Box 764, Sheridan, Wyoming 82834 (ph 888 331-8997 or 307 672-8997; sales@bucklunch.com; www.bucklunch.com).



Bracket slips over cutting edge of bucket to securely hold bale spear.

Bale Spear Attaches To Any Loader

Taking off a bucket to put on a bale spear attachment seems like a waste of time to Carl Hempel, a retired construction worker, who raises cattle in Niotaze, Kansas. So he designed and made a device that slips on a bucket to securely hold a bale spear that can be installed or removed in minutes.

"It slips over the cutting edge of the bucket, and a chain goes around the backside and back to itself," Hempel explains. The chain is held in place with a load binder.

"I haven't run across a bucket that it won't

work with," Hempel says. His attachment has short spears on each side to keep bales from spinning on the spear.

Hempel's Universal Bale Spear includes an 1,800-lb. forged high tensile steel spear and 5/16-in. grade 30 chain. It weighs 74 lbs. and sells for \$250 plus freight.

Hempel is selling them himself and is open to hearing from interested dealers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carl Hempel, 2901 Bronco Rd. #20, Niotaze, Kansas 67355 (ph 620 879-5780).