LeRoy Lyne took the reel off a 15-ft. flexhead and mounted it on his 6-row, 30-in. Deere corn header. "The reel works like a brush. It pulls corn stalks off the snouts and feeds them into the combine," he says.

He Reeled In Downed Corn

When LeRoy Lyne couldn't keep downed corn from plugging up his corn header snouts, he decided to reel the corn in. He took the reel off a 15-ft. flexhead and mounted it on his 6-row, 30-in. Deere corn header.

"The header would pick up the corn, but it would hang up on the snouts," says Lyne. "The reel worked like a brush. It pulled the corn stalks off the snouts and fed them into the combine."

To mount the reel, Lyne built brackets to match the reel arms. He bolted channel iron to the back of the corn head and bolted the brackets to them. Mounting or dismounting the reel was fast and easy.

"I left the reel lift cylinders on the reel arms and cut holes in the row snouts to attach the cylinders to the framework, but ended up not using them," says Lyne. "All I had to do to the reel was to mount the hydraulic drive to the corn head."

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Charlie Golden built this hydraulic-operated unroller. He'd rather unroll bales on the ground than put them in bale rings.

Bale Unroller Beats Big Bale Rings

Bale rings work great when the weather is good but on wet ground, cows often end up in muck up to their knees. That's why Charlie Golden switched to 3-pt. mounted bale unrollers more than 30 years ago.

"If you unroll the hay, you can feed them just what they need," says Golden. "Plus I've noted that if I unroll hay on my poorest ground, all the activity will improve it."

He built his first unroller before he had hydraulics on a tractor, using a 3-speed transmission on a pto drive. He would lean out the back window to shift it. It worked so well he went through the patent process and sold a number of them to area farmers. While retired from daily use, Golden keeps it in shape as a backup.

Once he had a tractor with hydraulics, he made two unrollers with hydraulic drive. One is painted Ford blue and the other Deere green and they're in use on a daily basis throughout the winter.

A long spear and a short spear stab and hold the bale in place. The first spear, a 6-ft. long, 1 15/16-in. dia. cold rolled steel shaft, is mounted through a 36-in. diameter disc made from 3/8-in. plate. Crossbars radiating from the center of the plate strengthen it. The second spear is about 14 in. long and made from 1-in. steel. Its purpose is to keep the bale spinning with the center spear.

"Originally I tried a third spear, but it held too much hay, so I cut it off," notes Golden.

Hydraulic motor is used to chain-drive the unroller.

The center spear extends through the disc to twin pillow box bushings and a 30-tooth sprocket wheel. The bushings are mounted on double A-frames made with 3-in. channel iron. The twin A-frames are 4 in. apart and have a 12 by 28-in. rectangular frame at their base with pins for the lower arms of the 3-pt. hitch. From the base of the rectangle to the tip of the A-frame measures 36-in.

"The A-frame should be only as wide as your 3-pt. hitch so there is no sway when you drive with it loaded," says Golden.

The rectangular frames also hold a hydraulic motor mounted in a corner. A no. 80 chain connects a 9-tooth sprocket on the motor with the large sprocket on the spear.

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"It has a much shorter turning radius than a quad, and also costs less," says Keith Schole about his 1982 Honda 3-wheeler. He uses it during calving time.

The Ideal Calving Rig

Keith Schole of Pickardville, Alberta thinks his 1982 Honda 3-wheeler is the ideal mode of transportation for getting around the cattle yard during calving time.

"This ATV only cost me $1,500, and it's far more maneuverable than a quad would be. I can make tight turns and get out of the way fast when I need to. Quads have a much wider turning radius, and even a used one costs a lot more," he says. "It really saves me thousands of steps, which is a big help when you're tired from getting up for night checks. That alone wears you down by the end of calving."

Schole carries his processing supply box on the back carrier of the three-wheeler, tied on with a tarp strap.

He mounted a standard grease gun holder on the rack to hold a baseball bat, which Schole keeps handy in case he needs to protect himself from an angry cow trying to keep him from a calf.

"You still have to use a lot of caution and judgment, but sometimes a tap on the nose will get her to back off long enough for you to get your work done - or at least get it to a safer location," he says. "I really like having the bat so handy and yet so securely stored out of the way when I'm not using it."

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"It's so well balanced that a 12-year-old can operate it," says Roy Huber about his rototiller. The front tines rotate forward and the rear tines rotate backward.

First-Of-Its-Kind Rototiller

The front tines rotate forward and the rear tines rotate backward on Roy Huber's rototiller.

"It runs like a floor polisher or a concrete troweling machine," Huber explains. "You control it simply by balance."

He demonstrates by raising the handles up and the front tines pull forward and dig. He levels the handles and the tines dig deeper. Pulling the handle down makes the self-propelled machine move backward.

The TILIT Tiller works an 18-in. strip, but has extensions that can be added to work 28 in. in sandy loam soil.

The tiller has a 7 hp gas engine and is mid-size between a front tine and a rear tine tiller. The 160-lb. machine is so well balanced that a 12-year-old can operate it, Huber says.

"It was hard to get everything working together," he says. When it did, he discovered an added benefit. Weeds and debris don't ball up as much in the intermeshing tines. The tines tear up vegetation and mix it into the soil.

The TILIT Tiller is in the patent process,

Rototiller works an 18-in. strip, but has extensions that can be added to work 28 in. deep.

and Huber hopes to interest a company in manufacturing it. For now he's building and selling the tillers from his Texas business.

Cost is $1,195. "It's not the cheapest," Huber says, "but it makes other tillers obsolete."

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