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Swather Converted To Snowblower

Jeryl Van Der Pol, Raymond, Minn., turned an Owatonna hydrostatic-drive swather into a big self-propelled snowblower with a 7-ft. double auger.

He got the basic idea from reading about Minnesota farmer Charlie Anderson featured in FARM SHOW (Vol. 32, No. 2).

Like Anderson, Van Der Pol started with an Owatonna swather but made design changes that he thinks work better.

He bought a 1960's Owatonna 260 swather for \$900. It was equipped with a Ford Industrial 200 cu. in., 6-cyl. engine with 70 hp. He narrowed the axles by 40 in. to match his mower and snowblower. He made his own cab, using safety glass for the windshield and plexiglass for the side and back windows. He made his own 3-pt. hitch and mounted it on the snowblower. The power shaft was lengthened about 10 in. to reach the swather



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and snowblower shafts.

The pto shaft on the swather ran counter to the pto drive on the snowblower so it needed to be reversed. Van Der Pol used a gearbox from the discarded header, mounting it to the snowblower. A series of sprockets are used to reduce the speed of the snowblower's auger.

"I like the visibility - I can blow snow without having to look backward," says Van Der Pol. "It was a good winter project. My

total cost was about \$1,500. I bought a heater for the cab that runs off the swather's water pump. The windshield wiper is off an IH 856 tractor.

"I use the controls for the swather's header to raise and lower the snowblower, and the controls for the reel to rotate the spout."

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Front-End Pto-Driven Snowblower

Rick Bezemek saw no reason to blow snow while driving in reverse with his WD Allis Chalmers. Instead he rigged up a front-end pto drive and mounted a used snowblower on the original trip-style loader.

"I've had the WD for more than 30 years and bought the blower with the intention of mounting up front," says Bezemek. "The two-clutch power control on the WD lets me run the pto while the tractor is slowed or stopped."

Attaching the lightweight blower to the loader was easy. Bezemek used quick disconnect pins so he could switch from snowblower to bucket as needed.

"It takes me longer to put tire chains on than it does to mount the snowblower," he says.

Modifying the pto was slightly more difficult. The pto housing on the WD is situated not far back from the halfway point on the tractor. Bezemek purchased a splined shaft and machined it to replace the original pto output.

"I bored a hole in the front housing and replaced the original pto shaft in the bearing

with the new one," he says. "I then replaced the housing and installed a seal."

A pto extension shaft connects the output shaft on the WD with the input shaft on the blower. Bezemek simply pulls a pin at either end to disconnect, remove and store the shaft.

He recognized the danger of accidentally lifting the loader-mounted blower too high and damaging the shaft. To prevent that, he installed two stop chains between the loader frame and the tractor frame.

"I set the stop chains so I can lift the blower about 14 in. off the ground," says Bezemek. "I also attached 12 by 12-in. skid pads on the bottom of the blower to prevent it from cutting into the lawn."

Bezemek says he has used the blower for the past four years, and the pto modification works fine. Best of all, he can move snow in a fifth the time required with his old garden tractor-mounted blower.

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Rick Bezemek rigged up a front-end pto drive on his WD Allis Chalmers tractor and also mounted a used snowblower on tractor's trip-style loader.

How To Plow Snow With A Zero-Turn Mower

Add a Universal Mounting Bar from Country ZTR, and you can turn your mid-mount, zero-turn radius mower into a snowplow. It can even be used as a dirt blade the rest of the year and you can also attach a fertilizer spreader or aerator.

"Most customers buy it with the bar and then add other attachments over time," he says. "The snow blade is easy to disengage. Swapping tools takes about 10 min."

The bar includes a foot pedal for pushing down the spring-mounted snow blade. Release the pedal, and the blade rises. The blade can be set at 3 different angle positions and comes with replaceable edge and bottom height adjusters.

Country ZTR claims a zero-turn mower equipped with their snow blade can move snow 3 times faster than a garden tractor with blade or a conventional snowblower. It takes advantage of the speed and maneuverability of the mower.

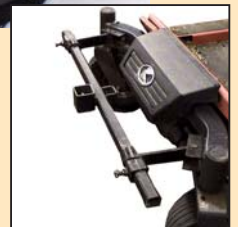
The mounting bar attaches easily to the caster wheel support frame. Clamp-on

adapters can be used or pivot brackets. For the brackets, holes are drilled in the frame, and the brackets are bolted in place.

"The bar fits 90 percent of the zero-turn radius mowers on the market," says Goosens. "We have a lot of customers with multi-acre lots, as well as commercial landscapers and lawn services."

Country ZTR snow blades are available in a 4-ft. version (\$455) or a 5-ft. version priced at \$485 with the mounting bar. The other attachments are available with or without the bar. Without the bar, the broadcast spreader is priced at \$320, the aerator is priced at \$390 and the hauler is priced at \$220. The Universal Mounting Bar by itself costs \$59. All prices include free shipping.

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You can turn your zero-turn mower into a snowplow by adding a Universal Mounting Bar, says Country ZTR, other attachments mount on bottom.