



Manco Stalk Roller uses two 500-lb. drums to smash corn stubble. It bolts on in place of weight brackets on tractor's front end.



Blades on drums are designed to crush the stalks ahead of tractor tires.

He "Rollerizes" Tire-Ripping Stubble

Troy Mannon has a simple solution to the problem of corn stubble ripping up tires. His Manco Manufacturing Stalk Roller simply smashes it down.

"This tough stubble is really hard on guys around me who practice strip tillage," says Mannon. "They told me about the problem, and I said, 'I'll build it if you'll try it.'"

With a season of user experience behind him, Mannon made some changes in roller diameter and design. He's comfortable his second-generation roller will do an even

better job.

Nearly 13 ft. wide, two 500-lb. drums and the heavy-duty frame total 2,760 lbs. Each drum is supported in place with 4-bolt flange bearings. The unit mounts to the weight brackets on the tractor's front end.

"Just remove the weights, and bolt the roller in place," explains Mannon.

The Stalk Roller consists of two, 48-in. drums on the 30-in. row model, separated by 48 in. Each drum is designed to crush the rows ahead of the tires on a tractor doing

strip tillage or other field work in standing stubble. The lift cylinder allows the roller to float across the field, maintaining full weight-to-ground contact.

Although the basic design remains the same, the new model has a slightly smaller diameter drum and 8 blades that run the length of each 500-lb. drum, rather than 10 like the first model.

"The blades help chop up the stalks for faster stalk decomposition and keep the drum rolling across the field," explains Mannon.

"The smaller diameter drum increases per square inch ground pressure to the stubble. At the same time, it increases ground clearance in the raised position from 8 to 14 in."

Mannon has his stalk roller priced at \$4,900. He sells direct as well as through a number of distributors. Contact him for your nearest dealer or to place an order.

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Home-Built Inverter "Works Like A Haybine"

"I couldn't find what I wanted on the market so I built my own. It fluffs the windrow and turns it over a half turn, and is designed to reach deep down into ditches," says Aaron Melby, Beltrami, Minn., who built his own low-cost windrow inverter using scavenged parts.

The one-of-a-kind rig was built from a New Holland 9-ft. haybine, a Deere small square baler, and the canvas draper header off a Versatile 400 swather. The hydraulics came off a New Holland 358 hammer/mixer mill.

The baler's pickup gently lifts the windrow and then the swather canvas moves it to the side where it falls out and back onto the ground.

"I came up with the idea because I cut hay along water storage ditches that are too steep to be baled safely with a round baler," says Melby. "Conventional hay inverters can't reach out far enough. The haybine hitch on my inverter can be adjusted by changing the position of a pin, which allows me to move the entire machine up to 5 ft. to the side. With the inverter moved as far out as possible it can

reach down into ditches and kick hay back to the top, where I can safely bale it.

"It also works great for normal field use. I can either drive between the windrows or straddle them. I can set the inverter to set one row on top of another without having to drive on top of the crop. Or, I can move the hitch all the way over and simply flip the hay.

"I chose the New Holland haybine because its hitch design allowed me to mount different components on the frame. Deere and IH haybines won't work because their hitch setup is different."

He started with a 1970's New Holland 479 9-ft. haybine, stripping it down to the hitch, wheels and frame and fixing it so the pivot point is stationary. He lengthened the Versatile swather's canvas and draper frame by 3 ft., then welded it to the haybine frame. The rig's hay pickup is off a Deere 24T small square baler and has a flow control valve on it, so it can be sped up or slowed down depending on hay conditions.

The hydraulics are off a new Holland 358 hammer/mixer mill. The hammermill's pump is chain-driven off the tractor pto and delivers



"It fluffs the windrow and can reach deep down into ditches," says Aaron Melby, who built the inverter out of a New Holland 9-ft. haybine.

oil back to a hydraulic motor that chain-drives the baler pickup and the drive motor for the canvas.

"It does a great job of fluffing hay up for drying purposes and didn't cost much to build," says Melby. "I already had the tub grinder, baler pickup, and swather. My total cost was about \$350.

"I might make another model and add

some improvements. For example, I would extend the pickup out farther so it can reach even farther down into ditches. And I'd use a longer canvas that could be hydraulically moved in or out."

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Shop Stove Made From Anhydrous Tank

Jack Erisman, Pana, Ill., used a 500-gal. anhydrous ammonia tank to build a big wood stove to heat his shop.

Erisman stood the tank on end and attached four legs to hold it in place. The legs are embedded in the concrete floor.

Above the firebox he ran 20 horizontal pipes through the tank to collect heat. A plenum and fan on the back side of the stove blows the hot air out into the shop. Erisman says the best thing about the stove is that it'll take logs as big as he can carry.

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Jack Erisman says his home-built stove will take logs as big as he can carry.

Sheep-Tied-To-Goat Mows His Yard

Charles Graling ties a goat and sheep together with 18-in. of rope between them to clear weeds and grass around his farm buildings. The rope attaches to two heavy-duty swivel hasps on dog collars, and then tethers to a 12-ft. heavy-duty nylon line with a swivel secured by a crowbar in the ground.

"The pair of them will clean out a swath of about 6 to 12 ft. wide a day," Graling says.

He made the discovery accidentally when he tied a ewe to a goat that was mischievous and wanted to jump up on people. It didn't take long for the pair to function as one. The goat's behavior improved, and the sheep grew tamer.

Graling started "mowing" with them this spring. He moved them ahead about 3 ft. each



Goat and sheep are tied together with 18 in. of rope between them, as they eat weeds and grass around farm buildings.

day and they ate everything. They almost eliminated the need for a brush cutter around buildings. He notes he's always around when he has them tied together in case they get tangled up.

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