"Easy Ride" Suspension Axle For Deere Track Tractors

"It makes for a much smoother ride and takes the shock out of sharp bumps," says Luke Bartel, ERA Mfg., about their new "suspension axle" for Deere 9000 and 9020 track tractors.

The axle is designed to replace the factory axle on Deere 9000 and 9020 series track tractors built from 2001 to 2007. It's equipped with a pair of 7 1/2-in. high solid rubber mounts, which are positioned beneath steel plates that bolt on under the tractor's frame. The sides of the axle bolt to knuckles on the tracks. A stabilizer bar on top of the axle keeps it from swaying side to side.

"It takes the rigidity out of the tractor, giving it a much smoother ride. It also eliminates most of the vibration, making things easier on all the tractor's components," says Bartel. "The tractor sets at exactly the same height as it did before. The rubber mounts compress about 4 in. as you drive through the field.

"We farm and came up with the idea because we weren't happy with the ride on our tracked tractor. The factory axle is solid with no suspension so the ride was very rough. In fact, it caused the tractor to vibrate so much on the road that we couldn't even read the gauges on the dash.

"In 2008, Deere started offering air ride suspension axles on their new tractors. Our replacement suspension axle isn't as good as their new air ride axle, but it's a lot better than the factory axles. It's not designed to fit Deere's 8000 series track tractors, which have a totally different, all-welded design with an adjustable width axle."

Installation requires no cutting, welding or drilling, or use of any special tools. You just unbolt the factory axle and bolt the new one in. "Installation takes about one day, and we supply detailed instructions. All you need is a jack that can lift up to 25,000 lbs.," notes Bartel.

The suspension axle sells for $7,500 plus S&H.

ERA suspension axle offers a much smoother ride than the factory axle on Deere 9000 and 9020 series track tractors built from 2001 to 2007.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ERA Mfg., Inc., P.O. Box 193, Hwy. 422, Rosenort, Man. R0G 1W0 Canada (ph 204 746-8325 or 204 746-5177; sales@eramanufacturinginc.com; www.eramanufacturinginc.com).

Airflow Cornhead "Saves 2 To 4 Bu. Per Acre"

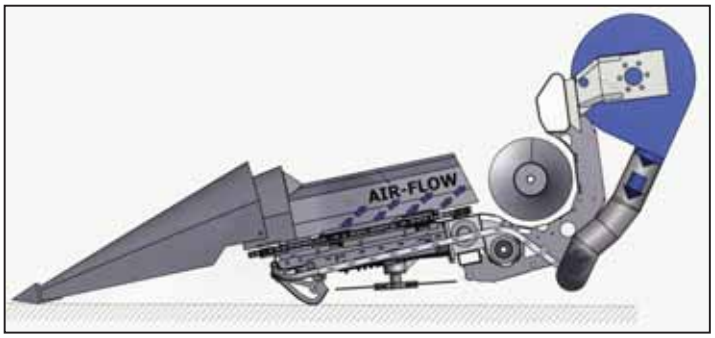
"Our new Cressoni Air-Flow blower sends a high volume of air directly to the row units to keep loose kernels from falling to the ground. It can save 2 to 4 bu. per acre," says Stewart Peterson, manufacturing rep with North Country Marketing, Inc. in West Fargo, N. Dak.

The Air-Flow system is available as standard equipment on all new Cressoni cornheads. It makes use of a high volume, pto-driven blower that mounts on one side of the head. An 8-in. dia. flexible hose leads from the blower to a main manifold, from where four 2-in. dia. metal lines equipped with nozzles lead to each row unit. The nozzles are located between the snap rolls and the bottom deck plate, and blow shelled corn back into the head.

The blower will handle 6 and 8-row 30 or 22-in. heads. A 12-row head requires mounting a second blower on the opposite side of the head.

"We've tested it for two years in really dry conditions, where we were harvesting corn at 15 percent moisture or less," says Peterson. "When such dry corn goes through the head a lot of kernels get shelled off the cob and fall through the deck plates and onto the ground. The blower is belt-driven off the head's existing pto drive. It doesn't require much additional power because it concentrates air between the snap rolls in a confined space."

The company also offers an optional Roto cross-cut stalk chopper that's built into the snap rolls. A 6-row Cressoni header equipped with a Roto cross-cut chopper and Air-Flow blower sells for about $58,000; without the chopper; $48,000.



Pto-driven blower mounts on one side of corn head and sends a high volume of air directly to row units, which keeps loose kernels from falling to the ground.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, North Country Marketing, Inc., 1740 West Main Ave., West Fargo, N. Dak. 58078 (ph 877 915-8790 or 701 277-1022; stew@northcountrymarketing.biz; www.northcountrymarketing.biz).

Steel Bars Support Cornhead Snouts

Walter Miller, Minerva, Ohio, has farmed all his life but had never harvested corn with a combine until a year ago when, at age 60, he bought a used 4-row model 843 narrow row corn head to mount on his 1984 IH 1440 combine.

It wasn't long before he had a problem with the tips of the snouts catching on the ground and buckling under. "It made a real mess. I spent a lot of time repairing bent snouts," says Miller.

He came up with an inexpensive solution. He bolted a 6 by 6 treated wooden pole across the top of the header, drilling holes in each end of the header and then attached a series of 8 1/2-ft. long, 2-in. wide steel bars to the 6 by 6. The opposite end of each bar is bolted onto the snout, about 3 in. from the tip.

"It really helped. I like to keep the snouts as low to the ground as possible to do a better job of picking up down corn. Now I can do that without having to worry that something bad will happen," says Miller. "The bars are mounted high enough that corn stalks keep flowing through without bunching up at all.

"I bought the combine 6 years ago equipped with a flex grain head. The corn head was about 25 years old when I bought it. I bought the steel bars at a local supplier of used metal, which kept the cost down. My total cost was less than $125.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Walter Miller, 9182 Knox School Rd., Minerva, Ohio 44657 (ph 330 894-2828).

Miller bolted a treated wooden pole across top of header and then attached a series of 8 1/2-ft. long steel bars to pole. Opposite end of each bar is bolted onto snout.

Mini Totes Store Liquid Fertilizer

"We mounted 10 275-gal. totes on a dual-wheel trailer to store liquid fertilizer. Different blends of plant food go in marked tanks," says Walter Miller, Minerva, Ohio.

"To fill the tanks on our corn planter or sprayer, we attach a 2-in. dia. hose to the discharge valve at the bottom of each tank and run the hose into the open bottom half of a 50-gal. plastic barrel. A 1/4 hp sump pump located inside the barrel is used to transfer liquids."

The trailer measures 24 ft. long by 8 ft. wide and was originally designed to haul crawler tractors and other big, heavy earthmoving equipment in the construction industry. "The trailer is equipped with a massive frame and hitch built from 10-in. steel I-beams so it can handle much more weight than a conventional trailer," says Miller.

"I paid $40 apiece for the poly totes. They're contained inside metal cages and mounted on pallets for easy loading and unloading."

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Ten 275-gal. mini totes are mounted on a dual-wheel trailer to store liquid fertilizer. Different blends of plant food go in the marked tanks.