

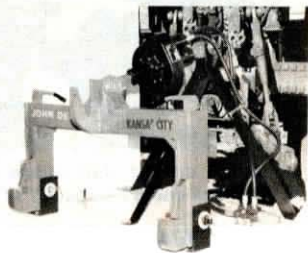
## CONTROLS HYDRAULICALLY FROM TRACTOR SEAT

# New "Power Hitch" Adjusts 3-Pt. Top Link

"Increases fuel economy and reduces wheel slippage. Also makes it faster and easier to hook up 3-pt. equipment with quick hitches," says Wayne Drury, general sales manager for Caldwell Mfg., makers of a new Power Hitch that automatically adjusts the length of the 3-pt.'s top link arm from the tractor seat.

The Power Hitch also does away with the conventional method of adjusting the top link — wrestling with a wrench to turn the collar. It operates electro-hydraulically, plugging into the tractor's hydraulic ports and mechanically lengthens and shortens the top link using a hydraulic-driven gear.

To install, unscrew the top link section, remove the collar and replace it with the Power Hitch, which screws into place. The top link retains the same range of adjustment as before.



### Hitch does away with turning top link collar by hand.

A control lever mounts in the tractor cab. Moving the lever forward or backwards adjusts top link length. Power Hitch fits Cat. II and III 3-pts. Sells for \$995.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Caldwell Mfg., Co., P.O. Box 338, Kearney, Neb. 68847 (ph 800 228-8833; in Neb. 308 237-3186).

# "Cat Whiskers" Keep Cultivator On Row

"You get better cultivator control and since you don't need to continually check back to see if you're on row, there's less fatigue. You can also go faster and use larger equipment. I went from using an 8-row cultivator to a 16-row because I had greater control," says Illinois farmer Don O'Neill, inventor of the new "Cat Whiskers" cultivator guidance system.

In addition to cultivators, O'Neill feels Cat Whiskers could also be used on band sprayers, fertilizer applicators, and vegetable crop equipment. He points out that by making cultivating easier and faster, you can cultivate more often and use fewer chemicals.

Key to Cat Whiskers, which are manufactured by Tri-R Innovations, Gibson City, Ill., are the two 40-in. long, tapered, stainless steel feelers that brush between the two crop rows just a few inches above the ground. If the cultivator starts to slip off row, regardless of whether it's steering or side draft pull on a hill, the pressure of the crop row will push the feelers off-center and send a signal to an electronic monitor mounted near the operator. The monitor shows if the cultivator edges too far to the right or left and to what extent.

If the monitor's needle is in the center green zone on the gauge, cultivator position is okay. If the arrow is in the yellow zone just to the left or right of center, you're slightly off the row and may be damaging plant roots. When the needle's positioned in either the red zone on the far right or far left, you're



Colors on gauge (top) indicate if you're veering off the row. Feelers (prototype shown in lower photo) run between two crop rows and travel just a few inches off the ground.

off the row and need to make a quick steering adjustment.

The gauge has a switch for "slow" or "fast" sensitivity response. O'Neill points out that you'd use the slow response mode when cultivating at faster speeds so you don't overcompensate steering and you'd use the fast response mode when cultivating high value crops at slower speeds.

You need just one 12-volt powered Cat Whiskers sensor unit for each cultivator. It mounts directly on the toolbar. Sells for \$395.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tri-R Innovations, 628 S. Sangamon, Gibson City, Ill. 60936 (ph 217 784-8495).

## MAKES PERFECT CONE-SHAPED TREES

# Back-Mount Tree Shearer Cuts Costs By 80%

"A good operator can shear up to 3,000 trees a day with our new backpack shearer versus 300 to 500 trees working by hand," says Ernie Howe, Salem, Ore. about his company's new back-mount tree shearer which he and his brother Stan have used on their own tree farm for several years and began marketing last year.

The 30-lb. shearer has an 88-in. self-sharpening sickle blade and a 25 cc. 2-cycle gas motor, which mounts on the operator's back. A flexible driveshaft runs to a gearbox on the sickle. The operator handles the sickle with a waist-high handle that lets him reach up to trim trees up to 13 ft. high.

"Trimming trees by hand with a machete is extremely hard work and often by the end of the day you get tired and the trees get uneven. This shearer always gives a perfect conical shape," says Howe who sells the machine through dealers throughout the country for \$1295. Shorter versions with 72 and 60-in. blades are also available.

The Howe's also recently introduced a new "Tree Goat" tractor that's designed for work in trees but could also be adapted to work in tall-growing row crops. The 7½-ft. tall, all-hydraulic tractor stands on four 6-in. dia. legs which are actually self-leveling hydraulic cylinders which raise and lower the platform. Each wheel steers and is hydraulically driven. The high-profile machine, 10 ft. long and 6 ft. wide, is powered by a 250-hp Ford engine. It self-levels automatically on up to 40° slopes.

"We're developing hydraulic-driven spray, mowing, shearing, cutting, and stand-up baling equipment for it. We plan to mount 3-pt. hitches on individual legs for between-row work," says Howe, noting that automation is increasing in the Christmas tree growing business due to increased competition. "There are so many trees expected to flood the market in the next few years that only those growers who automate will



Operator controls back-mount tree shearer with waist-high handle.



"Tree Goat's" platform is 7½ ft. off the ground.

survive," he predicts.

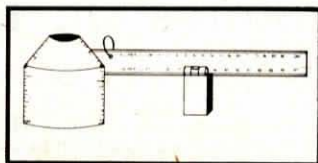
Howe's high-lift tractor sells for \$20,000 plus the cost of the engine, which can be selected from among several.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, SAJE Unlimited, Inc., 1940 Hyacinth N.E., Salem, Ore. 97303 ( ph toll-free 800 354-4565 or 503 585-9511).

## Fertilizer Density Scale

"It's accurate, inexpensive and easy to use," says Berkes Mfg. of its handy new fertilizer density scale.

Patterned after the company's popular Acu-Test scale for checking grain for test weight, it eliminates guesswork when setting fertilizer spreaders and attachments. It weighs dry fertilizers ranging from 20 to 90 lbs. per cu. ft. (or .3 to 1.4 KG per DM). You simply fill the canister with any analysis fertilizer, move the weight until level, then read the pounds per cu. ft. and set the spreading equipment accordingly.



Sells for \$29.95, plus \$2 for postage and handling. Dealer inquires welcome.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Berkes Mfg., Rt. 3, Box 228, Canby, Minn. 56220 (ph 507 223-7754).