

## IT TURNS ON A DIME

# Home-Built Hydrostatic Feeder-Mixer Truck

"It's low-cost, trouble-free and maneuverability is terrific," says Dave Schnittjer, Hopkinton, Iowa, about the hydrostatic self-propelled feeder-mixer truck he made from a stripped down IH 403 combine.

Schnittjer bought the combine's drive axle and steering axle, motor, and cab at a salvage yard. He remounted the 70-hp motor crosswise to make room for the mixer and cut 18 in. out of both axles to make the machine narrow enough to work through his feedlot. He also lowered the frame in front of the motor so the cab is positioned only 2 ft. off the ground.

Schnittjer fashioned a 2 by 6-in. box beam frame above the rear axle to support the Knight mixer box, removed from a trailer rig his uncle had owned. He installed scales under the mixer, which can hold 6,000 lbs. of grain or 3,000 lbs. of silage. The mixer is driven by an orbit motor powered by the combine's hydraulic system. The combine's steering axle mounts at the front of the self-propelled machine. Steering is hydraulically controlled.

Schnittjer uses the rig to fill feed bunks in his feedlot, and to fill two overhead bulk bins. Auxiliary hydraulic outlets on the self-propelled rig drive hydraulic motors that power augers to fill the bins.

Schnittjer says his home-built feeder-mixer easily outperforms the 4-WD Ford truck he previously used. "We ran that rig until there was nothing left of it. I couldn't afford the \$18,000 the dealer wanted for a new truck, so I built this one for about \$4,000. We've used it for three years, four hours a day, and haven't spent a dime on it."

The rig is equipped with individual brakes for each wheel, just like on a tractor, so you can hold the inside tire and bring the rig around quickly. The short wheelbase - the



Schnittjer built his self-propelled feeder by mounting a stationary mixer box on a stripped-down IH 403 combine.

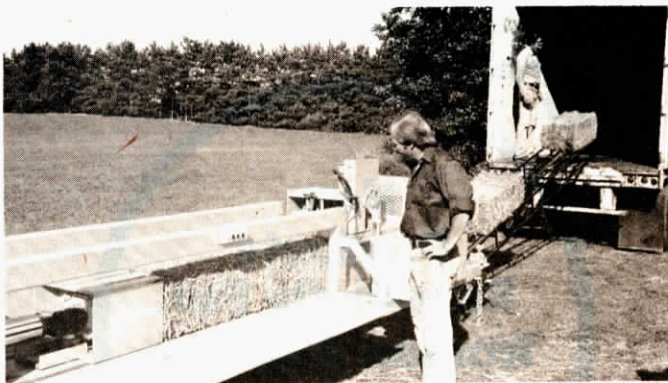
same as on a Deere 4020 tractor - also helps the rig turn short.

"It'll turn on a dime around feedbunks," says Schnittjer. "With the 4-WD truck, we had to back out of a lot of places. Now we just turn around and drive out."

The hydrostatic rig runs at speeds up to 20 mph. Schnittjer outfitted the machine with the combine's 3-speed manual transmission, but says he doesn't use it. "We went to a lot of trouble to hook it up to our home-built linkage, but we don't need it. We just leave the transmission in high gear. The hydrostatic transmission eliminates the need for other gears."

Schnittjer plans to build a second hydrostatic feeder-mixer truck. "I won't use a combine as old as this one because parts aren't readily accessible, especially since IH joined Case. Also, I'll fit it with a larger engine for more power."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Schnittjer, Rt. 1, Box 31, Hopkinton, Iowa 52237 (ph 319 922-2524).



The machine automatically compresses two bales into one, reties them with poly twine, and carries finished bales up to a truck or wagon on an elevator.

## COMPACTS TWO BALES OF HAY INTO ONE

# New "Go Anywhere" Portable Bale Compactor

A new "go anywhere" portable bale compactor that compresses two bales into one helps hay growers and dealers reduce costs when transporting hay over long distances, says inventor Randy Mirr, Princeton, Wis.

Compressed bales are 38-in. long, the same size as most single uncompressed bales. "Bigger, stationary compactors, found mostly in Western states, are used primarily for hay export. We needed a small, compact unit that could be moved from farm to farm," says Mirr.

The compactor, which Mirr tows behind a 3/4 ton pickup, is 30 ft. long and 6 ft. wide, narrow enough to fit into a barn. It's powered by a diesel engine and is hydraulically controlled. To operate the compactor, you lift bales onto the side feed table and feed them into the bale chamber. A plunger compresses the bales and then they're automatically retied with three strands of poly twine. The original twine strings remain in

the new bale. An elevator carries the finished bales onto a truck or wagon. Mirr notes that the compactor can be used to compress two larger square bales (around 50 lbs.) or three smaller bales (around 35 lbs.) into one.

Although he built it with Midwestern producers in mind, Mirr says most interest so far has come from Canada and the Southwestern U.S. He expects hay dealers, large-scale commercial growers and groups of growers who market hay together to be the primary buyers.

Mirr is negotiating with a Milwaukee, Wis., manufacturing firm. He expects the machine, which will be manufactured on a per-order basis, to cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Randy Mirr, Rt. 2, Box 20-C, Princeton, Wis. 54968 (414 295-3067).



Deere's upgraded AMT has a steering wheel, two seats, a larger engine and more.

## 'ALMOST A TRUCK'

# Deere Upgrades Popular AMT Utility Vehicle

Popular demand has prompted Deere to upgrade its five wheel AMT600 ("Almost A Truck") utility vehicle, which has been on the market about two years.

The just-introduced new version, called the AMT625, sports the following new features:

A steering wheel (instead of handle bars), two seats (instead of one), a 10 hp Kawasaki

engine (instead of 8 hp), foot-operated controls, console shifting, dual headlights and a bigger (manual-tip) bed (48 by 48 by 11 in.) rated at 625 lbs. capacity.

Suggested retail is \$4,199. The original AMT600, still in production, sells for \$3,399.

For more information, see your nearest Deere dealer.

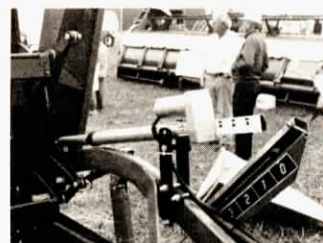
## LETS YOU MAKE ON-THE-GO ADJUSTMENTS TO PICK UP DOWNED CROPS

# Reel Control System Moves Header In Or Out

You can modify your combine reel to move in or out on-the-go thanks to a new pickup reel control system from Yetter Manufacturing.

The new do-it-yourself kit, which lets you quickly adjust to changing crop conditions, consists of two electric screw actuators that mount at either end of the reel. The actuators mount in place of the manual reel position control brackets, sliding the reel in and out on the mounting arms as needed. No welding or cutting is required. The units simply bolt into place.

"If you run into down crops while harvesting a field, you can easily adjust the reel forward as needed from the cab and then move it backwards again when you're back in standing crop. It'll easily pay for itself in time and crop saved," says Jay Shoemaker, company representative, noting that an easy-to-read graduated scale on the actuators lets the operator tell at a glance how far the reel has been moved in or out.



A graduated scale on the actuator tells the operator at a glance how far the reel has moved.

One model fits all Deere flex heads built since 1979. Next year the company will have units available to fit other heads. Sells for \$750.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Yetter Farm Equipment, P.O. Box 358, Colchester, Ill. 62326-0358 (ph 800 447-5777 or 309 776-3222).