

Divider Hinges Make Header Transport Easy

Crop dividers make hauling a grain header down the road tricky at best. Removing them for the trip is time-consuming and a hassle. Divider Hinges, LLC makes the job faster, easier and safer.

"My husband Mark and his father Ken got tired of removing and reattaching dividers every time they went down the road with the header," says Tamara Kiel. "They designed a hinge to attach the dividers to the grain header. Now they just turn them to the side, reducing transit width by more than 3 ft."

The hinge can be attached to the header beam with a welding kit or bolted in place. Bolting it requires drilling two holes. Once the hinge is attached, the divider connects to the hinge the same as it previously did to the header beam.

"The hinge has a pin mechanism," explains Kiel. "Just pull the pin, fold the divider

against the header and the pin locks in place."

Once the Kiels had modified their own header, they showed their Deere dealer. He told others, and they began getting requests for hinges. So far, they only make hinge sets for Deere grain heads made since 2002.

"We have a patent pending and started a company to build and sell them," says Kiel. "Our Deere dealer has sold more than 30 pair, and we are getting requests from owners of other makes. That will take a little modification, which we plan to do this winter."

The Kiels are selling hinge pairs for \$399 plus \$12.95 shipping. They request payment by check or money order.

"We make them in our garage with Mark and the kids and I in an assembly line," explains Kiel. "We've built a business around the Divider Hinges, but if someone was



Crop divider hinge attaches to header beam with a welding kit or bolts in place.

interested, the patent is for sale or license. People really like them."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Divider

Hinges, LLC, 1045 Tipton Lane, Columbus, Ind. 47201 (admin@cropdividerhinge.com; www.cropdividerhinge.com).

Hinge Pin Stops Gate From Sagging

The steel tube gates on Jerry Burns' Monterey, Va., property may be old, but they don't sag. He mounts screw-in hinge pins from old gates near the bottom of the fence post where the gate closes.

"I saw off the top of the gate hinge to about 1 to 1 1/2-in. so it's easy to lift the gate enough to get over it," Burns says.

Besides holding the gate securely so it doesn't sag, horses can't shove the gate down when they rest their hooves on the gate.

"It also makes a good latch so that goats and sheep can't crowd the gate open," Burns adds.

Just line up the flat part of the hinge to the bottom of the gate and the gate will open and close easily with a slight lift, he says.

It's a simple idea, Burns says, but one that's kept his gates working well for years.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jerry Burns, 7301 Upper Back Creek Rd., Monterey, Va. 24465 (ph 540 499-2196).



Burns sets end of gate onto cut-off gate hinge.



Jack McGee made this chicken plucker out of treated plywood, 12-in. pvc pipe, and parts from disassembled squirrel cage blowers.

Home-Built Chicken Plucker Works Fast

Jack McGee couldn't justify a commercial chicken plucker for his family's small flock. So he made his own with wood and other scraps he found around his Lake City, Mich., farm.

His model is a copy of a commercial model. "I had treated plywood and 2 by 4 scraps, and the white top is a 12-in. food grade pvc pipe, heated and flattened out," McGee says, explaining the chickens are placed on the pvc and never touch the treated wood.

The drum is also a piece of 12-in. pvc pipe with the ends of disassembled squirrel cage blowers. The drum spins on a 1/2-in. steel shaft secured on the outside of the wooden unit with bushings and metal pieces from the blowers. McGee purchased plucking fingers (\$1.30 each) from Cutler's Pheasant Poultry and Beekeeping supply, Inc. (www.cutlersupply.com). They snap in place in the

3/4-in. holes he drilled into the drum.

He wired a waterproof electric box and uses a 3/4 hp Wagner water pump motor to turn the drum.

"I adjusted pulleys – 1 3/4-in. pulley on the motor and 4-in. pulley on the drum – to get the right speed," he says. "The feathers just shoot out of there up to 5 or 6 ft."

Once set up it only takes a few seconds per chicken to pluck the feathers clean. After he's finished, McGee hoses the unit down to clean it up. He stores it in an outbuilding, and the plucker is in like-new condition after 5 years of use.

"It works very well, and it didn't cost much," McGee concludes. "It's really nice for a small flock."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jack McGee, 4330 W. Houghton Lake Rd., Lake City, Mich. 49651 (ph 231 839-2765).



The Tango corn header is made mostly from aluminum, which reduces header's weight by 25 to 40 percent – a big advantage as combine headers keep getting bigger.

Aluminum Corn Header

Four years ago FARM SHOW reported on a new lightweight aluminum corn header made in Argentina by Allochis (Vol. 34, No. 1). It's now been renamed the Tango4 header and was on display at the recent Ohio Farm Science Show near London, Ohio.

"When the manufacturer first introduced this header 4 years ago they didn't really know how to gain entry to the U.S. market. They were just putting their toe in the water. Now we're diving in head first," says Sam Lawson, marketing rep for Tango4 in the U.S. and Canada. He has 38 years in the U.S. and Canada ag equipment industry as an IH, Case IH, and Deere dealer.

The low profile header is available in 15 to 30-in. row spacings and comes in 4 to 24-row models. It can be adapted to fit any U.S.-built combine.

"It's a lightweight, no frills, low-profile corn header that sells for roughly the same as U.S.-built models. However, the aluminum construction reduces the header's weight by 25 to 40 percent, which is a big advantage as combine headers keep getting bigger," says Lawson. "It means you can harvest, on

average, 25 percent more rows for the same weight. The lighter unit also reduces soil compaction.

"Other features include hydraulic-operated stripper plates designed to reduce losses due to corn shelling.

"Some people have asked whether a header made with aluminum will hold up in the field. An engineer with Alcoa, which sells the aluminum to us that we use to build the header's frame, says it's the same aluminum they sell to Boeing to build their jumbo jets so it should hold up. The company has been selling corn headers worldwide since 1997."

Lawson says the Tango aluminum header is comparable in price to most conventional steel headers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tango4, LLC, 4968 Point Pleasant Rd., Pleasantville, Ky. 40057 (ph 502 845-8011; info@tango4.net; www.tango4.net); or Lawson Marketing, Inc., 395 Briggs Hill Rd., Bowling Green, Ky. 42101 (ph 270 535-0875; SamLawson@LawsonMarketingConsultants.com; www.lawsonmarketingconsultants.com).