

# Made It Myself

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## "Hammermill" Straw Chopper

Tom and Glen Hutchinson, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., used to bale straw off their wheat fields and sell it before planting their double crop soybeans. But, when the market for straw dried up, they had a problem they felt couldn't be solved with any existing equipment.

"We couldn't get through the heavy straw to apply chemicals and to plant," says Tom, "and we were dissatisfied with the straw chopper on our New Holland TR 85. Other choppers didn't look any better and, although many farmers in our area burn straw off, we felt we needed the straw to keep the humus in our soil and to prevent erosion."

So, the Hutchinsons set out to build their own beefed-up chopper.

"We built it from scratch using hammermill parts and serrated mower sections. Last

year, it worked so well that, even though we had an 83 bu. per acre wheat crop with heavy straw, the straw was chopped up so fine it was like it had never been there. It chops any residue and pulverizes corn cobs into dust," says Tom.

The chopper has 110 hammermill hammers spaced 1-in. apart on shafts in a revolving cage. Each row of hammers swing between rows of stationary blades which face up and toward the rear of the unit. Flailing hammers, revolving at 2,800 rpm's, smash straw into matchstick lengths, then shred it against the blades for final grinding.

To handle the extra power requirements of the new chopper, the Hutchinsons added a larger V-belt drive and say there is no noticeable affect on the combine. They also built a housing around the new chopper assem-

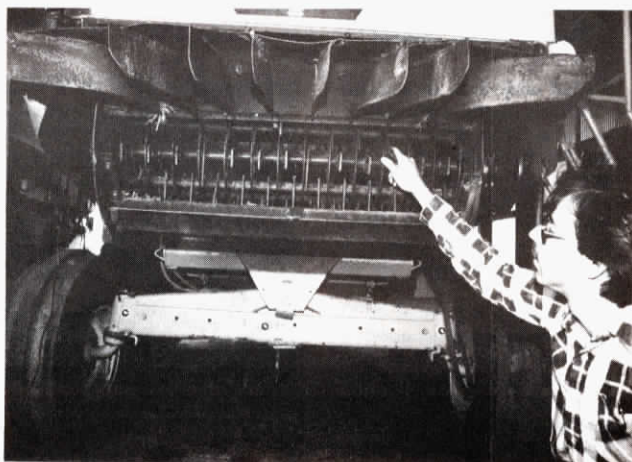


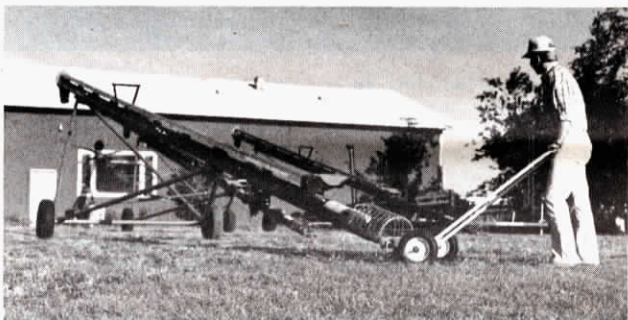
Photo by Owen Taylor

bly and attached spreader fins to distribute the residue.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom and Glen Hutchinson, Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37130 (ph 615 890-4760).

Another innovation the Hutchinsons use is a motorcycle weed wiper which lets them work through fields without damaging tall-growing crops. To rig up the cycle, they

mounted stabilizing wheels on either side of the bike that are easily removed when no longer needed, and installed a larger drive sprocket to gear the cycle down for lower speeds. Up front, they mounted a 14-ft. wide wiping bar to apply Roundup herbicide. They say they can even drive across rows, with the rig doing almost no damage to the crop.



## Homemade Dolly Moves Grain Augers Easily

If you've been looking for an easier way to move a heavy grain auger into position, this build-it-yourself auger dolly may be just what you need. "It will work with almost any portable auger equipped with a hitch," points out Bob Fanning, Farm Safety Specialist at North Dakota State University, Fargo, who designed the auger dolly.

Fanning suggests locating suitable wheels before building the dolly, since wheel shaft size will determine axle size, hitch angle and handle height. Fanning suggests 12-in. dia. hard rubber wheels with a 1-in. hub. Wheels with smaller than a 1-in. dia. hub are not strong enough to support the weight of the auger, according to Fanning.

An axle is constructed of 1-in. pipe. A 1-in. steel shaft is inserted through the wheel holes and inside the 1-in. pipe for extra support. Cotter keys inserted through holes in the ends of the pipe hold the wheels on the axle.

Handles are made of  $\frac{3}{4}$  or 1-in. pipe welded onto the axle and reinforced with strap iron at the joints. A hitch is formed out of  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. mild steel and wraps around the axle. With the handle placed at a comfortable working height, the hitch is positioned horizontally to the ground and welded in place. Fanning suggests covering the handle with PVC pipe to insulate it in case of contact with overhead power lines.

"About the only expense is in buying the wheels. PVC pipe and welding rods. The rest of the materials can come from scrap," Fanning told FARM SHOW.

For complete, detailed plans, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Fanning, Farm Safety Specialist, North Dakota State University, Box 5626, Fargo, N.D. 58105 (ph 701 237-7243).

## Four-Wheel Drive Garden Tractor

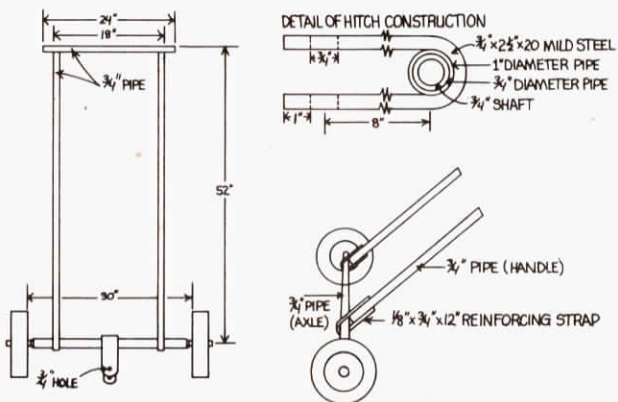
I built this "Versatile" 4-wheel drive garden tractor out of an old Plant Junior cultivator-type garden tractor that was well over 25 years old but in remarkably good condition. The engine is a 2½ hp. Briggs and Stratton with a 6.1 reduction and a 3-speed transmission. The back of the tractor has the same gear ratio as the front, driven by two angle drives. The steering mechanism is controlled from a car steering box.

We use the tractor for cutting grass, cultivating, and plowing. Its pulling power is unbelievable. I'm developing a 3-pt. hitch, a front-mount mower and a blade. I've proudly named it



"Versatile" because it's Manitoba-made.

Denis Combet  
St. Eustache  
Manitoba, Canada



Drawing courtesy The Farmer magazine