



Combine Crop Sprayer

"It's a great way to make use of an old combine," says Donald Jobgen, who built a self-propelled sprayer out of an International 403 combine with variable speed hydrostatic transmission.

With the cab positioned directly above the boom, Jobgen says you can't beat the visibility of his home-built rig. And it's always ready to go with no need to mount tanks or other equipment on a tractor. And maybe best of all, it was inexpensive to set up.

"I have a large heated shop so I do a lot of building in the winter. I began by stripping the combine down to the frame, leaving just the cab, chassis, wheels, engine, and transmission."

He remounted the engine crosswise at the back of the frame, and mounted a 325 gal. fiberglass spray tank on the frame be-

tween the engine and the cab. There's also a 30-gal. foam marker tank.

Booms are 57-ft. wide when fully extended and can be raised and lowered hydraulically, mounted in place of the feederhouse. Wings fold manually back against the sides of the combine. Jobgen bought the boom from a dealer.

"I've used the sprayer three seasons with absolutely no problems. I can spray at 9 miles per hour. The booms and pressure are both regulated electronically from inside the cab. I also have a monitor in the cab for measuring speed and acres," says Jobgen, who plans to build another self-propelled sprayer this year from a Deere combine.

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Go-Anywhere "Wheelchair" Built From Ford Tractor

"It'll go places no other conventionally powered wheelchair can go," says Canadian inventor Hudson Wilson about a go-anywhere "wheelchair" built out of an old lawn tractor.

Wilson and designer/welder Glen Hastings reversed the direction of travel on the tractor so it steers from the rear and drives from the front. It's fitted with two big flotation tires.

"One big advantage of this rig is that you can sit up high so people can see you. In a conventional wheelchair people are always bumping into you because you're out of their line of sight," says Wilson, who contracted polio as a boy. "I'm 6-ft. tall standing; 6-ft., 4-in. when I'm sitting in the chair. People in stores and malls see me now."

The men started with an older model Ford tractor equipped with a 14 hp engine and

hydrostatic drive. They rotated the seat and controls 180°. Thanks to hydrostatic drive, they didn't have to reverse transmission gears.

"This way, objects on store counter shelves, for example, are within arm's reach rather than 3 or 4 ft. away," Wilson notes.

The men converted the original tractor's foot-operated transmission and brakes to hand-control gears. "We extended the linkages 15-in. with flat iron so the control levers come up between the left fender and driver's seat," he explains. "I use an 18-in. long tiller bar connected to the rear steering axle and positioned between my knees to steer. This way, we didn't have to move the whole steering mechanism back."

They fitted the drive axle with 15-in. car rims off an old car and put 14-in. tires off a Gehl forage harvester on them. "We had to

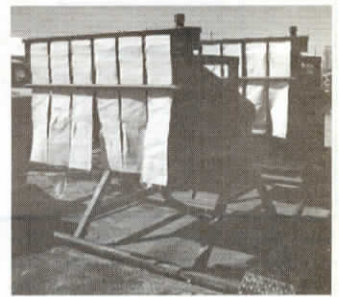
"We tested it on pasture with 18 bulls and they never tipped it over. Yet it weighs only 260 lbs. so it's light enough for one man to move from pasture to pasture with no trouble," says Chuck Russell about a heavy-duty combination cattle oiler/mineral feeder he built last fall and is now beginning to market.

Russell's patent-pending oiler/mineral feeder was introduced at the "Big Iron" show at Fargo, N. Dak., earlier this fall.

"It's sturdier than anything else on the market. It should last anybody an entire career," says Russell, a 22-year-old North Dakota rancher.

The 4-ft. high unit is 3 ft. wide and 4 ft. long. It's built out of 14-ga. steel and 2 7/8-in. dia. heavy wall pipe. The tub for salt and mineral, which has a hood to protect the material from the elements, is made out of U.V.-treated 1/4-in. thick polyethylene.

The oiler/feeder's tub holds 200 lbs. of salt or mineral, while its iron tank holds 4 gal. of diesel fuel and fly spray. The wick-drawn oiler uses heavy canvass hanging above the mineral tub to apply the material to the backs of cattle. The oiler is adjustable.



The oiler/feeder can be easily loaded for transport onto a pickup using lift brackets on each side of the frame.

Russell has sold 15 of the oiler/feeders since building the first one last year. Selling price is \$525, and tubs can be customized to include one, two or three compartments for feeding a combination of minerals, he says.

He's looking for dealers and distributors.

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"Fail-Proof" Front-Mount Rock Box

"I needed a rock box that wouldn't dump accidentally if the lock pin fell out or a cornstalk caught on the lever," says Charles Thompson, who designed his own "fail-proof" dumping rock box to mount on front of his tractor.

It works so well he's sold 12 units to neighboring farmers. "It's easy to mount and safe and easy to use. It locks automatically in place without the need to insert a pin or set catches. All you do is pull back on a lever until it snaps into place. The mechanism has a high linkage ratio so you can have good control of the lever when you dump the rocks," says Thompson.

A mounting bracket attaches the rock box to virtually any tractor using existing bolt holes. A bracket mounts permanently to the tractor frame. To mount the box, all you do is set the box onto the mounting hooks and install a pair of locking bolts.

"Works great with a front-end loader because the box is easy to remove.

"All the farmers who have them have



been happy with no complaints. I have a commercial fabricator cut and form the box and I then weld it together. Sells for \$275. I'd like to find a company or a distributor to take over production of it."

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