



Combine stalk chopper consists of three hydraulic-powered mower decks suspended from bar that runs across rear of combine.

## EACH HYDRAULIC-DRIVEN ROTARY CUTTER CHOPS TWO ROWS AT A TIME

# Combine-Mounted Mowers Chop Stalks "On-The-Go"

Pulling three rotary mower decks behind an otherwise unmodified combine has almost no effect on combine operation yet eliminates a trip over the field to chop stalks, says Einar Oftedal, Cottonwood, Minn.

His combine stalk chopper consists of three hydraulic-powered mower decks suspended from a bar that runs across the rear of the combine. Each mower chops two rows at a time.

The mowers are fitted with hydraulic motors powered by a "sectioned" hydraulic pump that's driven off a modified pulley on the combine's drive system. The triple-sectioned hydraulic pump (45 gpm - sectioned to pump three separate channels at 15 gpm) mounts on the side of the combine where it's easy to get to yet out of the way of other components. Hydraulic oil is supplied from a 55-gal. tank mounted above the pump. It's fitted with a sight glass to make it easy to determine fluid level.

A sectioned pump is more efficient than the use of dividers or operating the hydraulic motors in series and it produces much less heat as a result," notes Oftedal, adding that the cutters are powered by high torque,

low speed hydraulic motors.

The 4-ft. wide mower decks have 3-pt. mounting linkages and 45 hp. gearboxes. They hang from a mounting bar bolted to the rear axle of the combine by two pins and a safety chain, which is used to control height of the cutters. It takes just minutes to remove the mowers when changing from corn to other crops.

Mower motors have quick disconnect fittings and each is independently connected to one section of the hydraulic pump by 1-in. lines with shutoff valves so they can each be independently controlled. Shields (not shown) protect the belts and hydraulic motors from corn cobs and husk debris.

Belts that power the hydraulics are all shielded for safety. The pump, valves and cutters are all positioned for easy access for servicing and removal.

Total cost to build the combine stalk chopper was about \$2,500 using off-the-shelf parts and miscellaneous steel to make mounting brackets.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Einar Oftedal, Cottonwood, Minn. 56229.



Atkinson mounted Sound Gard cab off 1988 Deere 2955 tractor onto his 4020.

## "IT'S ONE OF THE BEST LOOKING 4020'S AROUND"

# Deere 4020 Equipped With Sound Gard Cab

"I mounted the Sound Gard cab off a 1988 Deere 2955 tractor onto my 1971 Deere 4020 tractor. It helped make it one of the best looking '4020's around," says John Atkinson, Castleton, Ontario.

Atkinson bought the 2955 fitted with the cab four years ago from an insurance company for \$800. He spent another \$4,500 installing it, including a new air conditioner. All extra parts, including battery boxes and rubber mounts, were new Deere parts.

The 2955 tractor had been in an accident and had rolled completely over twice, landing on its wheels," says Atkinson. "A 7-year-old girl was in the cab at the time but was completely unharmed. The top of the cab was smashed in, but none of the glass was broken. I replaced the roof and straightened out the door which got bent. I had to modify the front of the cab a little where it

goes over the cowling, but it wasn't a big job. The 2955 it was on had been made in Germany and has a solid cowling in front of the steering column. The cowling on U.S.-made 2955's is cut out there so the cab fits over the top of the shroud. I used a piece of cardboard to make a pattern, then cut the cowling to fit.

I bought the 4020 used in 1984 with 5,000 hours, and it now has 9,975 hours on it. I repainted it. It's equipped with dual remote hydraulic outlets, powershift transmission, side console, 20.8 by 38 rear radial tires, and 10 by 16 front tires. It's too bad they don't make 4020's again. I think it was and still is one of the best tractors Deere ever made."

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## Quick-Attach Tanks For Versatile Tractors

"Since I came up with this idea, two other neighbors have copied the design for their own tractors," says John Lousberg, Sterling, Colo., who designed and built quick-attach fertilizer tanks for his 1991 Ford Versatile 846 tractor.

In 10 min. we can have the tanks, pump and carrier stored away for the winter. Our neighbors had mounted a 500 gal. tank on front of their Versatile and complained that they could only put 400 gal. in the tank because it would pick up the back end of the tractor. They also couldn't get to the radiator without taking the tank off and the carrier rack would get in the way of other routine maintenance jobs.

After some careful planning, we came up with this quick-attach design. The tanks mount on two 12-ft. lengths of 6-in. channel iron that run under the front tractor frame. Four hangers made of plate steel mount on the side of the tractor - two on each side. They bolt to existing holes that would ordinarily be used for service ladders (plus Lousberg drilled two extra holes). Three 3/4-in. bolts hold each hanger bracket, all of which extend down be-



Tanks mount on 2 lengths of 6-in. channel iron that run under front of tractor.

low the tractor frame. A pair of 1 1/2-in. dia. steel shafts run between each pair of brackets, positioned just below frame of tractor.

Each 12-ft. length of channel iron is fitted with 6-in. wide brackets made from 1/2-in. thick plate steel. Hooks on these brackets - also made from 1/2-in. plate steel - slip over the 1 1/2-in. dia. steel shafts running beneath the tractor.

"We're looking for a manufacturer to put this idea on the market."

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