

By attaching an auger to his tractor, Mickey Heneghan finds it easy to move, position, raise and lower the auger — all from the tractor seat.



Tractor-Mounted Auger Easy To Move

Ice and snow can make it tough to position large augers, but not for Mickey Heneghan. His tractor-mounted, 41-ft., 10-in. auger is easy to place and to move from one bin to another. Best of all, it didn't require major modifications on either unit, and it can be removed with 2 bolts.

"We farm in western Manitoba, and winter weather can make positioning large augers a challenge," says Heneghan. "That's before you try to cold-start the small engine to power the auger."

Heneghan positioned the auger so one wheel is under the tractor and then ran a push/pull brace between the tractor drawbar and the auger axle. In order to position the auger wheel under the tractor, he extended that end of the auger's axle by about 17 in. A second brace runs perpendicular from the front of the tractor to the frame of the auger. It acts as a steady bar to keep the auger in line with the tractor.

The 1 by 3-in. push/pull brace (fabricated from 2 pieces of angle iron) is about 20 in. long. It is pinned to a clevis type bracket on a 3-in., angle iron crossarm that bolts to the drawbar mount. The clevis pin allows the auger axle to flex over uneven ground separate from the tractor.

The push/pull brace is welded to a 12-in. length of pipe that Heneghan slipped over the end of the extended axle. A 3/4 by 3/4-in. piece of steel welded to the extended axle keeps the pipe sleeve in place.

The steady bar is an 84-in. long, 2-in. diameter steel pipe. It is bolted to the front of the tractor frame and pinned to a clevis bracket at the auger. The clevis is bolted to the mounting plate on the auger for the auger frame.

Heneghan welded a second mounting plate to the auger pipe just ahead of the steady bar. A caster wheel is welded to a steel strut that is pinned to the mounting plate. A hydraulic cylinder attached at the bottom of the strut makes it easy to raise or lower the intake end of the auger for transit or use.

The caster wheel hydraulic cylinder is pinned to a reinforcing, 25-in. long, cross brace on the auger frame.

Most of the materials that went into the project were salvaged. One challenge Heneghan couldn't fabricate for was hydraulic power. His tractor had 16 gpm flow, but he needed 25 gpm. Another out-of-pocket expense was a 1,000-rpm orbital motor mounted at the top of the auger to power the flighting.

"The entire project ran about \$2,200 with most of that being the pto-powered pump and the hydraulic motor," says Heneghan. "I had previously replaced the manual crank with an orbital motor to raise and lower the auger. Everything can be done from the tractor seat."

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Corn Crib Cage Helps Grow Tomatoes

An old wire corn crib serves as a giant tomato cage for Gary Griesse and his wife. The wire sides are mounted on a steel frame that mounts on a 3-pt. hitch and is hung with 30 heavy-duty tomato cages and a watering system.

"We raise about 30 tomato plants a year. Our cages are 6 ft. high and 30 in. in dia. and are made from concrete reinforcement mesh," says Griesse. "I'm getting too old to carry 30 cages and steel posts to the garden each spring. Dragging a hundred feet of garden hose up and down the rows in dry years isn't any fun either."

The big wire cage had previously been used to graze turkeys on pasture. "I made clips for my tomato cages so I can attach them to the big cage and move everything to storage at once," he says. "The individual cages mount inside and outside of the big cage."

Rotating tomato beds is a breeze. This spring he picked the big "tomato dome" with a tractor 3-pt. and moved it to fresh soil. Watering is easy with a soaker hose laid in a circle between the plants.

"Last year the weather in our area turned dry, and everybody complained about a poor tomato crop," says Griesse. "Our tomato dome was always humid with its concentration of plants. We raise about 9 indeterminate varieties, common varieties,



Once the tomatoes grow over the tops of the pails, he lifts the pails away and drops the cages into place.

and several heirlooms. All of them did well, with some yielding close to a bushel of fruit per plant. We had one 12-ft. tall cherry tomato plant that grew over the top of the cage."

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Camera Arm allows driver to watch the grain flow into his semi-trailer from the comfort of the cab.

Camera Arm Helps Fill Grain Trailers

Filling a grain trailer is a breeze for Roland Wohlgemuth with his Camera Arm. He can watch the grain cascade into his semi-trailer from the comfort of the cab.

"I can see exactly what is happening and move the trailer ahead as I need to," says Wohlgemuth. "I can see all the way to the back without running back and forth and climbing up and down the trailer sides, which can be a hazard with ice and snow."

Wohlgemuth saw the need when he got his first trailer. The problem was how to get a camera up where it could see the length of the trailer, yet not get tangled in tarp covers. Initially, even getting a camera was a challenge.

"There were zero closed circuit cameras at the time that would work in our winter environment," says Wohlgemuth. Once he found a camera that would work, he met the tarp challenge."

He came up with an arm that mounted to the trailer, but could bob out of sight as the tarp was unrolling. The gas cylinder attached to the camera arm popped the camera back into view when the tarp was re-rolled.

Neighbors took note, and Wohlgemuth began making and selling The Camera Arm. Fast forward 15 years, and he has successfully licensed manufacturing, marketing and distribution to Michel's Industries. The Saskatchewan company has built a reputation for combine accessories, grain tarp systems and augers.

"We could see the benefits of The Camera Arm immediately," says Brad Michel, Michel's Industries. "We farm too, and I've been in situations where I overloaded a trailer



Camera Arm on cylinder allows it to move into position when tarp is rolled.

or moved too far and ended up with grain on the ground."

Michel replaced the gas cylinder with a heavy-duty spring. It offers break-away like action if the camera arm is struck by low doors or overhead spouts.

"It returns to its original position just as it does when a tarp is rolled back off," says Michel.

An even bigger change was to make The Camera Arm monitor wireless. Previously the cameras had been hardwired to the cab.

The 7-in. wireless monitor can handle up to 4 cameras, such as 2 on the trailer, a back up camera and one to monitor air gauges. The operator can choose from single view, split view or quad view.

"The Camera Arm system for a Super B or any trailer 32 ft. and longer comes with 2 camera arms, cameras and a wireless monitor for a retail price of \$1,400," says Michel.

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Log chain attached to an implement helps to reduce sway while driving on highway.

Chain Stops Sway On Highway

"A lot of farmers know this trick but some younger ones may not. It's something my dad taught me years ago," says Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.

"When pulling a piece of equipment with a single axle on the highway, it'll sway back and forth after you hit about 30 mph. The trick is to attach a log chain to one side that runs from the back of the pickup to the far corner of the equipment.

"Hook up the chain and then turn the pickup left to shorten the chain and get it

tight. It sometimes takes 2 or 3 times to get it adjusted just right.

"I pulled the cultivator in the picture home from an auction that was 150 miles away. I had it up to 75 mph on Interstate 90 and there was no sway at all. I greased the wheel bearings before taking off and that helped, too."

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