FOLLOWS GROUND CONTOUR FOR MORE EFFICIENT HARVESTING

"Hinged" Header First Of Its Kind

By Frank J. Buchman

Wheat harvest was easier for Melvin Kejr this year.

The 34-ft. hinging platform header he designed for his Deere 8820 combine made a more efficient harvest on all types of ground.

"It was always a problem harvesting on terraces and in low spots of fields trying to position the combine to get all of the grain. That's the reason I decided to make this," says Kejr, a custom harvester at Brookville, Kan.

But inventing machines isn't new to him. Along with his dad, Harry, and his brother, Joe, Kejr has designed or remodeled several farm implements in the past.

"The whole idea of building this thing was to save the time and hassle of always trying to find the best place to drive in the field," Kejr notes.

Designed to work at any position with the push of a button, the hinging platform is divided into three parts with the center piece 12 ft. wide and the two outside pieces each 11 ft. wide.

"When the center is level with the ground, one side could go up four feet in the air and the opposite side could be two feet below ground level."

His header is for the 8820, but the design would work on any machine. "I made it to fit this because that's what I had," says Kejr.

It is made completely of salvage parts "from where I could find them."

The basic shell was Deere and a lot of the salvaged parts are Deere, but he "had to fabricate and customize" the pieces into a working machine. "It was trial and error to know if some steel would have enough strength and still work," he admits.

"It's kind of Siamese. I could cut it down the middle and each side would be exactly the same," Kejr points out.

A jig was used on parts he fabricated so he can make them again if and when needed.

Photo courtesy Grass and Grain

Folding header wings raise up as much as 4 ft. and drop 2 ft.

There's been "virtually no breakdown problems. Overall, I would say it's performed very well.

"We haven't had wheat loss on the platform even in heavy straw that was down and yielding 60 bu. an acre. We've traveled fast sometimes, too, without any problems whatsoever.

"It's not 100% efficient in all conditions, but we're making changes as we go," Kejr explains.

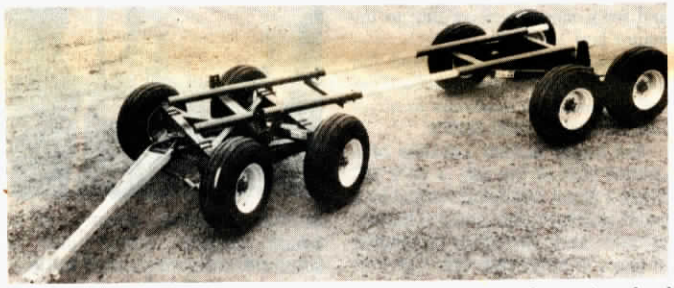
And the header has worked equally well in limited harvesting of soybeans and milo.

As far as value goes, Kejr says, "I haven't studied it all, but cost depends if you get used or new components. I'd say the header would figure about the price of a new corn head, $15-$20,000."

There have been several farmers ask Kejr to build hinging headers for their combines and he plans to do that. A patent is pending.

"If some company wants to buy the rights, I'll talk to them, but, in the meantime, I'll build some and see what happens."

(Reprinted with permission from Grass and Grain, Manhattan, Kan.)



Double front axle distributes heavy loads better than six-wheel models, says manufacturer.

BOTH STEER AND OSCILLATE TO BALANCE HEAVY LOADS

8-Wheel Wagon Has Twin Front Axles

"It pulls easier than four or six wheel wagons and balances out heavy loads for less wear and tear on the box," says Wilbert Sas, Rochester, Minn., designer-engineer of a new eight wheel 4 plus 4 wagon with twin front axles. Both front axles steer together, yet oscillate independently.

"The problem with conventional six-wheel wagons is that, under heavy load, the single front axle gets overweighted," explains Sas. He solves the problem by putting a second steerable and oscillating axle up front. He buys new six-wheel wagons (four behind and two up front) from Knowles Mfg., Glenbeulah, Wis., then installs the second front axle himself at a shop in Rochester, Minn.

"The ride on the eight-wheeler is a lot smoother than on a four or six wheel conventional wagon," according to Sas. "The eight-wheeler also pulls easier and won't bog down as quickly because of the extra flotation. And, you can carry heavier loads without worrying about bogging down the front end."

The eight-wheeler, equipped with a standard single reach, is rated at 16 tons capacity and adapts to 14 to 24 ft. forage boxes, 450 bu. grain tanks, 28 ft. flatbeds, manure spreaders and many other uses. It's factory-equipped with a V-shaped rear tandem assembly which permits easy operating in heavy mud without clogging.

"Some farmers have asked about buying our new front axle assembly and having it installed on their existing six-wheel wagons (four behind and two up front). This could be done but, in most cases, it would probably be better to buy a new factory-equipped eight wheeler since the changeover would include a lot of labor," Sas told FARM SHOW.

His eight-wheeler sells for $2,595. All moving parts have replaceable bushings. Brakes on the rear tandems, and a telescoping tongue, are optional.

For more information, contact: Custom Steel Fabricator, Wilbert Sas, 3221 Marion Rd. S.E., Rochester, Minn. 55904 (ph 507 289-5436 evenings).

GOES TO BOTTOM FOR COMPLETE AGITATION

Pit Agitator Fits Inside 8 in. Pipe

New from Farmstar, Glenwood, Minn., is the Pit Prop, a compact, easy-to-use, manure pit agitator that's slim enough to slip through 8 in. dia. portholes.

The 13 ft. long Pit Prop features a hydraulic motor that spins a stainless steel propeller at 3,000 rpms, breaking up any crust and completely agitating manure in a 25 ft. radius.

Hand controls let you maneuver the angle of the propeller from extending straight down to back 90° and you can rotate the Pit Prop 360°. A safety leg prevents the propeller from hitting the floor.

Sells for right at $1,085, including two 25 ft. hydraulic hoses.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Farmstar, Hwys. 55 & 28, Glenwood, Minn. 56334 (ph 612 634-4554).

Pit Prop has hand control to regulate operating angle.