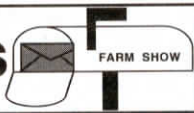


Reader Letters



Continued from previous page

The engines on diesel tractors equipped with mechanical fuel pumps that supply fuel to the fuel injection pump can be seriously damaged when the fuel pump starts leaking diesel fuel into the engine crankcase. I used a piece of 16-ga. sheet metal to make a hole cover and mount and replaced the mechanical pump with an electric one. I simply flip a switch to bleed the fuel system.

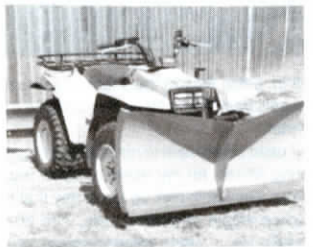
I mounted an extra oil reservoir and filter on the side of my Oliver 77 tractor. The original reservoir had only 1/2 gal. of oil. Now the total capacity is 3 gal. (**Johnny Crawshaw, 1603 19th Rd., Clay Center, Kan. 67432 ph 913 632-3979**).

I made this Waterloo Boy tractor and mounted a sign with my name on it. It sits



alongside a road in front of our house. The wheels are off an old steel-wheeled wagon, the seat is off an old implement, and the steering wheel is off an old threshing machine. The belt pulley is off an old machine. I made the gas tank and exhaust stack from lengths of steel pipe. I painted the tractor red and yellow because that was the color of the original Waterloo Boy. (**Douglas Watson, Box 119, Eriksdale, Manitoba, Canada ROC 0W0**)

Our 'ultimate blade' splits snow drifts for faster plowing and was previously featured



in FARM SHOW. We now have mounting brackets so it can fit onto the Deere Gator utility vehicle. The split blade rolls snow left or right with less side draft than conventional plows. A 12-volt electric linear actuator eliminates hydraulic hose problems. (**Trail-Buster Dozer, Inc., 272 Main, Grainfield, Kan. 67737**)



We have several gates around our place that started to sag and would no longer swing freely. We solved the problem by putting wheels on them.

An old wheelbarrow wheel worked nicely on one heavy wooden panel, making it easy to open and close. We put a metal wheel on a metal gate. Before we put wheels on some of our gates, opening and closing them was a back-breaking chore. Now the gates roll open or shut with a minimum of effort. (**Heather Thomas, Box 215, Salmon, Idaho 83467**)



I'm sending along a photo of an offset pull-behind mower I built last summer. I started with an IHC 44-in. deck, the rear wheels and tires of an old Sears electric tractor, and a new 12-hp. Briggs & Stratton engine. We fabricated the frame from 1 by 2-in. steel tubing and made the caster assembly for the front wheels. The offset tongue is adjustable for different width tractor mowers. (**John Payne, 522 E. Fourth Ter., Lees Summit, Mo. 64063**)



Here in the Southwest we have a lot of sandy soils. Conventional "V" closing wheels don't work well because they tend to form a hardpan over the seed that keeps it from breaking through. Our new furrow closing system replaces "V" closing wheels on Deere 7100 planters. It uses a press wheel attachment and drag closing system to pull loose soil back over the trench. Weights can be added onto the drag to pull more soil over the seed. A rod and spring provide down pressure. The drag is held by a chain and designed so that it won't interfere with the planter whenever it's raised or lowered. Also fits the Deere 7300 as well as Kinze and KMC planters. Sells for \$145. (**Sam Stevens, Inc., Rt. 02, Box 15, Lamesa, Texas 79331 ph 806 872-8365**)



Used and surplus parts can be made into self-loading, ground-driven earthmovers. Mine is built simpler and loads faster than anything on the market yet cost less than \$10,000 to build. I've used it on a variety of jobs including roads, dams, golf courses, building foundations, terraces, etc.

Starting with an old pull-type land leveler, I removed the front axle and replaced it with a 2-wheeled tractor drive unit. Power is supplied by a Chrysler 440 Hemi V-8 gas

FARM SHOW readers may be interested in this rubber tired 'volunteer corn puller' I built that uses eight 12-in. tires to pull corn and tall-growing weeds out of soybeans. The wheel spindles were rotated by a hydraulic motor powered by the tractor hydraulics. The tires were mounted on a toolbar and arranged side by side. They leaned back at about a 40 degree angle so they would pull up the weeds and throw them backward out of the way. The motor's shaft was bolted onto a steel plate that I bolted onto the wheel of one of the inside tires, causing it to rotate. All the other tires turned off this wheel, with each pair of tires rotating inward to grab tall weeds out of the row and pull them out of the ground.

At the time I had 38-in. rows so the tires were on 19-in. centers. I raised the tires just over the top of the highest soybeans. The tires sent the weeds flying about 10 ft. up into the air. It got 90 to 95% of the big weeds out and was a lot of fun to watch. People who were driving by on the highway would see the weeds flying up and immediately stop to look. It didn't cost much to build and eliminated the need to spray with preemergence herbicides. I made a



pass with a cultivator, then went back with my corn puller to get weeds in the row. I adjusted the air pressure in the tires to grip the weeds. The higher the air pressure, the tighter the grip and the more power it took. I used a 140 hp Massey Ferguson 1130 tractor to pull it, but I could have got by with an 80 hp tractor. I went up to 10 mph.

I got the wheels and spindles from a manufacturer of modular homes. I built it 20 years ago and used it for about five years before I bought a no-till drill after reliable postemergence herbicides were developed. (**Carroll Gunderson 2276 160th St., Marengo, Iowa 52301 ph 319 642-3190**)

engine driving an automatic transmission. It's coupled to a Pettibone 2-speed rear end - salvaged from a logging skidder - that's equipped with planetary reduction gears in the wheel hubs. There are six forward speeds. An air conditioning radiator off an old Ford car is used to cool the automatic transmission. A big Vickers hydraulic pump, belt-driven off the engine crankshaft, is used to power the cylinders that raise and dump the load and the cylinders that are used for articulated steering. The engine radiator came off a Mack semi truck.

It does a great job and paid for itself in the first six months of use. The beauty of the machine is its simplicity. The land leveler is equipped with paddle wheels that work similar to the paddle wheels on old river steam boats. It's ground-driven with no hydraulic motors to maintain and no chains or links to wear out. I had been renting a tractor to move and level dirt for \$1,000 a week. I didn't want to spend the money for comparable commercial earthmovers which can cost up to \$75,000. The articulated tractor is built similar to the Caterpillar 613 self-loading scraper pan. However, it works three times as fast and has only four bearings to wear out.

It'll haul up to seven yards of dirt. I can load dirt at 5 to 10 mph and dump it at 10 mph. Top speed is about 25 mph. I plan to build another earthmover so I'm willing to sell this one at cost. (**R.C. Crews, 501 W. Martin St., Folkston, Ga. 31537 ph 912 496-7835**)

Needing a lift boom around my place and having a combine that sits idle most of the time, I designed a boom that mounts right



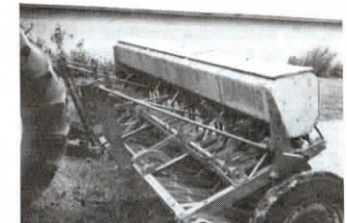
on the feederhouse. I used the frame off an old corn head and an unused planter lift assist arm. I stripped the corn head of all but a portion of one row unit (at the base of

the boom) which serves as a ramp onto which I can roll my acetylene torch. The lift-assist arm bolts to the toolbar of cornhead, where the row units had been bolted on. I used row unit frames to provide added support, remounting them vertically on either side of the lift arm. No welding was required.

The boom moves two ways. Most of the time I just lift and lower the cornhead using the combine lift cylinders. But the lift arm is fitted with its own hydraulic cylinder which allows the arm to pivot up and down as well. I control this cylinder with the reel height adjusting control, which is designed for a 1-way cylinder. I used a 2-way cylinder but I just used one hose and attached a fuel filter to the other hose fitting on the cylinder to keep out dirt and to allow it to breathe, so it works like a 1-way cylinder.

Lift height is 12 to 15 ft. One benefit of mounting it on a combine is that the hydrostatic drive lets you move and position objects very slowly and precisely. To increase control, I added a shut-off valve to the oil line leading to the hydraulic cylinder on the lift arm which allows me to control the flow of oil so I can lower an object, such as an engine head, slowly and carefully. (**Dale L. Orman, 1300 Timber Run Dr., St. Louis, Mo. 63146**)

This old 1950's Massey Harris 14-ft. grain drill was converted into a 3-pt. model that I use to plant soybeans as well as small



grains. Works great for replanting wet spots and for planting small fields.

I removed the drill's drawbar hitch and bolted a toolbar fitted with a 3-pt. hitch onto the drill's frame. I cut off the drill's depth levers, reversed them, and welded them back on with the handles facing toward each other so they wouldn't interfere with