



Single wheel at the front of Snell's home-built mower turns 180°, allowing him to trim around small trees. Dual wheels on back provide needed stability.

## BETTER THAN ANY COMMERCIAL MOWER ON THE MARKET

# Built-From-Scratch "Zero Turn" Mower

"There's nothing like it on the market. The mower deck is 72 in. wide yet I can trim around an 8-in. tree," says Richard Snell, Oglesby, Ill., about the riding mower he built from scratch to take care of the 1 1/2 acres of lawn surrounding his farm home.

The first thing you notice when you see Snell's mower is that it only has one front wheel. That wheel turns 180° and is what makes the big mower so maneuverable.

However, it also made the tractor less stable so Snell added dual wheels on back.

"It has hydrostatic transmission (a Bolens hydro rear end), power steering (from an Oldsmobile car), dual wheels and a Ford Pinto 4-cyl. 80 hp. engine," says Snell.

A pulley on the engine belt drives a hydraulic pump that drives the rear end. The power steering consists of a single hydraulic cylinder which is connected to a roller chain that's wrapped around a sprocket on the front spindle. Snell covered the engine with a hood from an Allis Chalmers WD45 and painted the tractor with John Deere green and yellow paint, putting a John Deere decal on the hood.

He built the mower deck from scratch as well, equipping it with three belt-driven blades. He says he made the deck "backwards" as compared to most commercial mowers, putting the straight edge of the deck forward and the pointed wedge of the deck to the back. "It totally eliminates windrowing of heavy grass because grass feeds into the deck so much more evenly," says Snell.

He's used the mower two years with no problems. "It's got plenty of power, an infinite variety of speeds, and totally eliminates the need for trim work afterwards because it can cut so close to trees and buildings. I wouldn't trade it even for a \$10,000 new mower," says Snell, adding that he spent less than \$500 out-of-pocket to build it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Snell, Rt. 1, Oglesby, Ill. 61348 (ph 815 446-5643).

## Tractor Without Wheels Makes Compact Pto Power Unit

(Continued from cover page)

it runs constant. It also adds weight to the rear of the pickup, boosting traction (weighs about 1,000 lbs.)," says Cihar. He replaced the 6-volt coil with a 12-volt coil and starts the tractor off a 12-volt battery that sits in the back of the pickup, but says he could simply wire it to the pickup's battery.

Pulling silage wagons behind the pickup lets one person keep up with a chopper working several miles away because he can



It's less than an inch wide at the widest, say inventors of this new coultter subsoiler that works down to a depth of 18 in. without the need for a high horsepower tractor.

## WORKS 18 IN. DEEP BEHIND A 70 HP. TRACTOR

# Giant Coultter Aerates Subsoil, Prunes Roots

By C.F. Marley

It's the simplest solution yet to aerating compacted subsoils, say the two inventors of a new 48-in. coultter that easily penetrates down to 18 in. with a smaller horsepower tractor.

Clark Stoller and Fred Gilman of Stoller Equipment, Pontiac, Ill., say they came up with the "Stoller Coultter" as a way to aerate soils without the need for high horsepower. "It's less than an inch wide at the widest, made out of high carbon steel that's reinforced at the center. It mounts on a heavy 3-pt. frame that we fit with about 1,000 lbs. of weights," says Stoller.

The men say the new subsoiler works great to reduce end-row compaction. "The roots of corn grow into the gap that we cut and then go down," says Stoller, noting that the unit can also be used throughout the

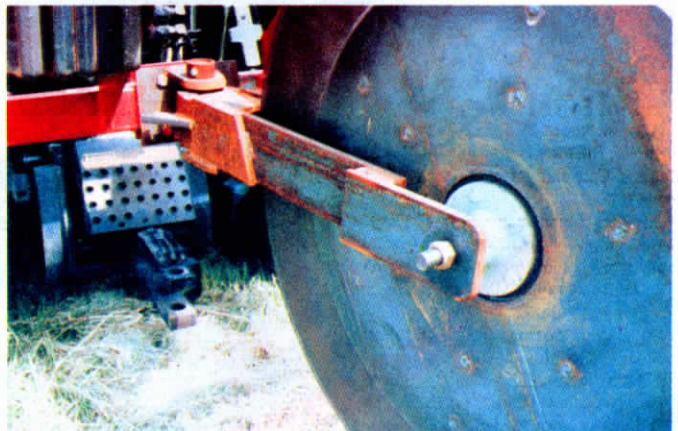
field. He says they recommend running it about every 4 rows to not only reduce compaction but to also improve moisture absorption.

The coultter is swivel mounted so it will trail behind the tractor on big turns.

Another use for the Stoller Coultter is to prune hedge roots that extend out into fields to keep them from sucking moisture out of the crop. "That application alone will pay for the machine for people who have the problem," says Stoller.

Stoller Equipment plans to put the giant coultter on the market sometime in 1993.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stoller Equipment, Inc., Rt. 3, Pontiac, Ill. 61764 (ph 815 844-6197 or 3668).



Coultter is swivel-mounted which allows it to trail behind tractor on turns.

load it into the pickup with a front-end loader. He says he could lighten up the tractor further by removing the transmission gears and other equipment on it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Allan Cihar, 1035 CTH B, Mosinee, Wis. 54455 (ph 715 693-6230).

If needed, Cihar says he could convert the tractor power unit back to normal tractor operation but says he has no plans to. He put hooks on the frame of the tractor so he can

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