Telescoping Pickup Topper

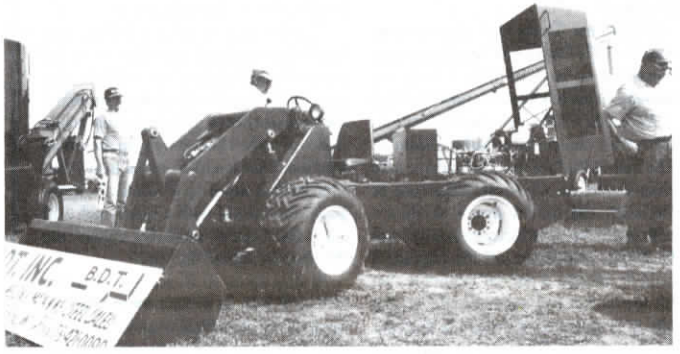
A new telescoping pickup topper consists of four molded segments made of a rigid composite plastic.

The panels can be fully extended to cover the whole pickup bed, or retracted so only the front quarter of the bed is covered, or just about any position in between. An optional electric model will cover the whole box in about 30 seconds with the flip of a switch.

Installation is easy, and for most vehicles can be done without drilling.

Two models are available, one for full size trucks and one for small trucks. Price of the manually telescoping model for full-size trucks is $1,298; price for the manually telescoping model for small-size trucks is $1,195. Optional electric telescoping adds $298.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, TrucTech Inc., 1416 Harris Industrial Blvd., Vidalia, Ga. 30474 (ph 912 538-8888; fax 538-8555).



4-WD Articulated Utility Tractors

They didn't skimp on steel when they built these "Power Trac" 4-WD utility tractors, which were originally developed for the coal mining industry.

The articulated tractors feature four independent hydrostatic wheel motors, positive traction and full differential to allow operation on grass with minimal damage. They're fitted with double foot controls - one for going forward and one for reverse. Speed is infinitely variable.

Unitized frame and body is constructed of 3/16-in. through 3/8-in steel plate. It features hydraulic controlled articulated steering. The tractors bend 45 degrees in each direction and oscillate 12 degrees either way to keep all four wheels on the ground in uneven terrain.

There are 65 attachments available. All are front-mounted for ease of operation and are powered from the pto. Most attachments can be changed in seconds with three pins and hydraulic quick disconnects. Hydraulic arms are controlled with a joystick.

Three series - 1400, 1800 and 2400 - are available ranging from 18 to 88 hp. Smaller models are gas-powered and the larger is a diesel. Prices start at $9,150 and range up to $37,400.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, PWTI Inc., TA "Power Trac", P.O. Box 539, Tazewell Industrial Park, Tazewell, Va. 24651 (ph 703 988-6543 or 800-843-9273; fax 703 988-9566).

Hydraulic Post Hole Digger

"Our hydraulically powered post hole digger mounts on a front-end loader bucket or a simple 3-pt. mounted boom. It requires less maintenance and is safer and easier to use than pto-driven post hole diggers," says Don Hollis, Valley Engineering, Franklin, Neb.

The post hole digger's auger is driven by the tractor's hydraulic system. It simply hangs from a steel bracket that bolts to the side of the bucket.

"It lets you mount the auger ahead of you for greater visibility and less fatigue," says Hollis. "There are no broken driveshafts or shear pins. Downpressure is applied by the bucket."

Sells for $995 (not including auger or hydraulic hoses) when used with augers up to 14 in. dia. A more powerful unit designed for larger augers sells for $1,335. Augers are available in 6 to 24-in. diameters. A 9-in. dia. auger sells for $170.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Valley Engineering, Inc., Industrial Park, Franklin, Neb. 68939 (ph 800 400-0124).

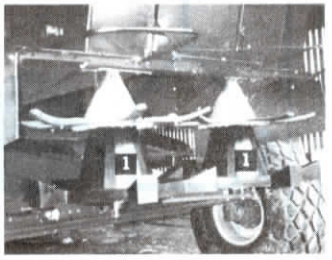
Poly Chaff Spreader For Case IH Combines

You can save hydraulic power and wear and tear on your combine with this new poly chaff spreader for Case-IH axial flow combines, according to the manufacturer.

Instead of hydraulic motors that can rob your combine of hydraulic pressure, these chaff spreaders from GVL Inc. are driven off the same shaft that drives the straw spreader. Driving both units with one shaft helps eliminate shaking and vibrations, thus preventing excess wear to bearings, the company says.

A complete unit includes two spreaders with hex drive shafts, two lower support bearings, one combine frame bracket, and one bolt attachment package.

Price is $395. Price does not include optional plastic wings for chaff pans which are $45 to $65.



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, GVL Inc., 60113 CSAH 16, Litchfield, Minn. 55355 (ph 612 693-8411).

"Slippery Kit" Makes Balers Work Better

Lining bale chambers on big and small square balers boosts performance, helping to make more uniform bales with a lot less tractor horsepower, says a Montana farmer-inventor who's come up with a new "slippery kit" for balers that covers the inside of bale forming chambers with new high-tech slippery plastic.

"My baler now produces much more uniform bales no matter what kind of hay or what the conditions. All bales have the same length and weight, and power requirements are reduced. Tractor rpm's dropped from 2,000 to 1,600," says Leland Driggs of Eureka, Mont., who designed an easy-to-install kit to line any small or large square baler with a slippery liner.

Driggs originally started working on the idea to eliminate problems with his baler that had always annoyed him such as varying bale length and density, and twine knotting problem. "Many add-on devices have been created over the years to improve baler performance but they all added more tension, friction or moving parts which in turn added to horsepower requirements. The worst part is that none of these improvements eliminated the original problem."

Because steel reacts insantly to changes in temperature and moisture, Driggs feels it doesn't matter how many devices you add to your baler. "You'll still have the same problems as long as your bale chamber is metal and doesn't have a way to prevent spring-back along the entire length of the bale chamber."

The liner Driggs invented installs in any model of square baler and covers the entire bale forming chamber with a teflon-like material that maintains its slippery nature no matter what the conditions. A key feature on the liner is that it's designed with a one-way anti spring-back pattern.

Stopping bale spring-back keeps tension on twine steady, which helps keep knotting problems to a minimum, says Driggs.

"The liner works somewhat like wax on cross country skis. It's made of 1/8-in. thick material that lets hay slip by easily but keeps it from moving back. Anyone who uses mechanical picking and stacking devices finds that the jobs go much faster with less down time and repairs once all bales are a uniform weight and density. Dust is reduced and leaf loss minimized. You can bale high moisture hay easier and you can get more bales made in a day. The bale chamber will also last longer since the plastic material we use actually lasts longer than steel," says Driggs.

A complete kit for a small square baler sells for $385. Kits are available to fit any small or big square baler.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leland Driggs, L.D. Ag Machinery, 2547 Burma Rd., Eureka, Mont. 59917 (ph 406 889-3846).

Quick-Change Tire Tool

This new manual tire tool allows you to dismount almost any tire in 8 seconds and remount it in 20 seconds or less, without having to lift the wheel up to remove the rear bead, as with most tire changers.

That's because the TNT-100 from Tire Equipment Corporation (TEC) pulls off both beads from the same side of the rim in seconds.

The tool mounts and dismounts all tubeless tires from 14 through 24.5 in., including implement tires. It'll handle super single/duplex, radial and bias tires.

Consisting of two pieces of metal, the kit weighs 37 lbs. and retails for $599.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tire Equipment Corporation, 15450 Flight Path Drive, Suite # 2, Brooksville, Fla. 34609 (ph 904 754-1883; fax 754-4508).