



Dufner's triple tractor hook-up is designed so rear tractor can be removed and just the front two tractors used on smaller jobs.

"HANDLES LIKE A 4-WHEEL DRIVE TRACTOR"

Another Triple Tractor Hookup!

That triple tractor hookup we told you about in our last issue may have been the first of its kind, but we found out it wasn't the only one. Ryan Solberg, of Fosston, Minn., wrote to tell us he'd seen a similar hookup at his county fair's tractor pulling event.

We checked into it and, sure enough, Donald Dufner, of Buxton, N.D., has a triple tractor hookup that he's been using since 1967 for both fieldwork and tractor pulling contests.

Dufner hooked three John Deere D's together to make himself a 165 hp, 6-wheel drive tractor. "It handles like a 4-wheel drive tractor, and even has articulated steering. It's not a bit clumsy, despite its size," Dufner told FARM SHOW. "It's also designed so the back tractor can be removed quickly and just the front two tractors used for smaller jobs."

"When just two tractors are used, such as on my pull-type combine, the second 'D' runs the pto and the front 'D' pulls the load. This way, I've got variable ground speed," Dufner notes. "The three D's have enough power to pull a 10-bottom plow."

In the early 1970's, Dufner quit using the 3-tractor hitch for the most part. "Since gasoline got to be so expensive, I now use, as my main power source, an 820 John Deere diesel with a single Deere 'D' behind. With this rig, I can pull a 32-ft. field cultivator or a 10-bottom plow. The two-cylinder 100-hp. 830 is the newest tractor I own," Dufner points out.

He adds that, in tough going, he mounts an extra Deere "A" motor on the back of the "D" to operate pto equipment while the 830 and "D" engines provide the pulling power.

HELPS DUMP HIGH MOISTURE LOADS

New Hydra-Tilt Wagon Unloader

You'll like the help you get from Hydra-Tilt, a wagon-length ramp that'll lift a 3½ ton load up to 16 in. off the ground to dump even the stickiest loads of high moisture grain or other material.

"It puts an end to pounding on wagon sides, or climbing inside to move stuck grain. It's completely portable and runs off tractor hydraulics at 2200 psi, or a portable power unit," says Peter Goertz, of Midwest Tool Co., Strathroy, Ontario, manufacturer of the Hydra-Tilt.

Interest has been high for the new unloader, says Goertz, particularly from farmers handling high moisture corn. "When you get above 28% moisture, the 26° slope of most gravity-unload wagons isn't enough to unload the whole load of grain.



Hydra-Tilt's one cylinder raises the platform 16 in. to dump even the most sticky wagon loads.

The Hydra-Tilt lifts one side of the wagon 16 in., changing a 26° slope to 38°, which is enough to dump virtually any load," says Goertz.

NEW "CORN CONVEYOR" ATTACHES IN PLACE OF COMBINE HEADER

Shell Ear Corn With Your Combine

Now you can put your self-propelled combine to work shelling ear corn during the off-season for neighbors, thanks to a new attachment introduced by Kersten Enterprises, of Roberts, Wis. It fits on most makes of combines in place of the header to let you shell ear corn right out of the crib.

The Quick Tatch Corn Conveyor is driven off the same chains, gears and hydraulic drive as the header, and can be timed at the same intake speed for even feeding into the combine. A pair of conveyor chains moves ear corn from the crib to a set of paddles that flip the ears into the combine. "The paddles flip the corn into the feeder housing just like the elevator on a corn head does," notes inventor-manufacturer Bernard Kersten.

The shelling attachment measures 5½ ft. long and 4 ft. wide, and weighs about 400 lbs. It lifts the same as the combine header so you can lift it right up to the crib door and let the corn run into it without shoveling.

After the crib is partially emptied, the Quick Tatch Conveyor can be lowered for shoveling in the remainder of the corn, or pushing it in with a tractor loader and bucket. "Three or four men shoveling can't keep up with this unit on a combine," points out Kersten. "I can easily shell out a 300-bu. truckload in a half hour with this unit. It goes really fast when you let corn run out of the crib." Kersten has used his original model for two years to custom-shell in a 20-mile radius of his home with his New Holland TR-70 combine.

"I've also used this machine to shell corn out of snow-fence cribs and corn piled on the ground. I just load the corn with a front-end loader into a gravity box, then put the Quick Tatch Conveyor under the discharge chute. I haven't had any problems with dirt



Quick Tatch Conveyor feeds corn to the combine evenly so the "at rest" combine shells at the same rate as in the field.

in the combine and the grain comes out clean and undamaged," Kersten told FARM SHOW. "Also, since the combine isn't working too hard, it's easy on fuel."

He uses the combine grain tank as a temporary holding bin, or just unloads right into a truck with the discharge auger. By placing an elevator behind the combine discharge, cobs and husks are picked up and piled away from the combine with no extra labor required.

The Quick Tatch Conveyor sells for \$2,495. Kersten notes that it's principally designed for custom-shelling for neighbors without combines. "It should help combine owners keep their machines busy during the off-season in areas where the harvesting of ear corn is still prevalent. This attachment helps fill a gap that was vacated when many custom ear corn shellers quit operating," Kersten told FARM SHOW.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bernard Kersten, Kersten Enterprises, Rt. 1, Box 22, Roberts, Wis. 54023 (ph 715 796-2601).

Why not just build a 16-in. high wooden ramp and drive the wagon on that?

"First of all, you might do damage to the wagon frame," Goertz told FARM SHOW. "Secondly, if you drive a full wagon up that high, it might roll over. Our procedure is to drive the wagon onto the 5 in. high retracted Hydra-Tilt and dump as much grain out as will flow at that angle. We don't begin raising the platform until most of the grain left inside is on the upper side, lessening the risk of tipping the wagon over."

The ramp lifts with just one hydraulic cylinder. The standard model comes with a 2½ in. cylinder that'll lift a maximum of 2½ tons. The ramp is 14½ ft. long. When it raises, it moves forward 1¼ in. and then back

the same distance — not enough, Goertz says, to put undue stress on the wagon frame.

The Hydra-Tilt does not have to be anchored in place, although Goertz says some farmers are mounting it in concrete. Others use an optional 3-pt. lifting frame to haul it to the field for dumping bulk fertilizer. One farmer-customer says he moves the Hydra-Tilt into his shop in the winter to service cars, pickups and trucks.

The Hydra-Tilt sells for \$1,675 (Canadian). An optional 3½ in. hydraulic cylinder that lifts up to 4½ tons is also available.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Goertz Farm Systems, Ltd., Ancona, Ontario Canada NOM 1B0 (ph 519 828-3667, or 245-4560).