



Modified Swather Combines Two Windrows

"They make V rakes that can combine two swaths together, but they cost about \$6,000 or more," says Grant Gulleeson. "I modified an old swather to do the same thing - only better - for a lot less money."

"Now we pick up two 14-ft. swaths at a time, turn them over more gently than a rake, and leave a single fluffy windrow that dries faster with less leaf loss."

In addition, the Rutland, N. Dak., farmer can now bale about 1 mph faster than he'd be able to picking a single windrow off the ground.

The conversion began with a mid 1970's 4000 International swather with

6-cyl. engine and 19 1/2-ft. header. He took the reel and sickle off the header and mounted two 5-belt Melro pickups on front. To get hay to drop properly onto the swather's canvas, he raised the pickups 8 in. by bolting wood shims underneath them.

The original reel pulley belt-drives the pickups. A square piece of sheet metal mounted between the pickups serves as a wind screen for hay on the canvas.

Gulleeson spent about \$600 on the swather, most of that for the two pickups.

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Covered Square Bale Hay Feeder Equipped With "Swing-Out" Roof

"It keeps hay dry in rain or snow and also provides shelter for animals when eating," says Ohio farmer Craig Dennis about his covered square bale hay feeder that's equipped with a two-part, swing-out roof.

The 5-ft. wide, 8-ft. long, 7 1/2-ft. high feeder has a 3/4-in. thick plywood floor. The sheet metal roof has a 23-in. overhang on each side and a 1-ft. overhang on each end. The roof is split into two halves that swing out and down against the sides of the feeder for loading bales into the feeder and for transport through narrow gates. Pipe handles on both ends of the feeder are used to swing out the roof section. The sides of the feeder are made from 3/4-in. dia. steel rods spaced 4 in. apart. A plastic-lined trough on each side of the feeder is used to feed grain.

"I built it because I couldn't find a covered feeder on the market," says Dennis, who owns a fabrication shop and also breaks draft horses. "It holds 12 small square bales. I place it between two pens, with small horses on one side and larger horses on the other side. There are almost no parts to wear out so it's virtually maintenance-free. The roof sections hinge on 3/4-in. dia. bolts. The feeder is mounted



on skids so I can also drag it into a field. The pipe handles lock in place so the wind won't bother it."

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"Big A" Sprayer Kit Mounted On Tracks

"It reduces soil compaction and allows me to cover a lot of acres without worrying about tracking," says Duane King, Tiffin, Ohio, who mounted a 1,600-gal. stainless steel spray tank and 60-ft. boom on a Caterpillar VFS 50 undercarriage equipped with 24-in. wide rubber tracks. When he's done spraying King uses the tracked undercarriage on his Kinze 800-bu. grain cart.

He bought a spray tank kit that was designed to fit a "Big A" self-propelled floater. The kit included the tank, boom, and Scott hydraulic pump. He used 12-in. channel iron to build a frame for the tank, then made brackets to mount the 4-section boom on the rear of the undercarriage. A home-built pto shaft drives

the pump. Tractor hydraulics are used to raise or lower the boom as well as to fold it against the tank for transport. Foam markers at each end of the boom are activated by an air compressor.

"The tracks provide a lot of flotation on soft ground without packing it. I can get across fields where Big A's can't go," says King. "I use a Deere 4560 MFWD tractor equipped with duals (18.4 by 46's, at 6 lbs. pressure) to top dress wheat. However, I have to make broad turns at the end of the field to keep the tracks from damaging the crop. I don't use the tracks on corn that's already up because they'd tear up too much of the crop on headlands. I use a Deere 4020 tractor to pull the sprayer while applying preemergence corn and soybean herbicides.

He Harvests Spuds With 100-Year-Old Digger

"It's a lot older than I am," says 75-year-old Leonard Thoeny, Circle Pines, Minn., about his 100-year-old potato digger.

Thoeny has had a lot of fun converting the old horse-drawn rig to mount on the side of his John Deere "B". It makes quick work of harvesting the several acres of potatoes he raises each year to sell at a local farmer's market.

The digger was originally ground driven. He took off the wheels and converted it to pto drive, mounting it on the right side of the tractor. Blades scoop down under the potatoes and a chain conveyor carries them back. Chain slats are spaced about 3 in. apart to let dirt drop through.

"Mounting it on the tractor makes it easy to maneuver around small potato patches," notes Thoeny.



The Hoover digger was originally patented in 1888. He bought it at an auction about 10 years ago.

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"Knocker" Stops Bridging In Feed Bin

Anyone who feeds livestock or poultry out of a bulk feed bin has probably had plenty of experience with bridged feed. It's not unusual to see a rubber mallet hanging from a string on many bulk bins to be used to solve the problem whenever it arises.

R.E. Charlton, Jr., Dillwyn, Va., decided to solve the problem permanently with an automatic "bin knocker" that automatically strikes the bottom of the bin two times a minute.

A pulley on the end of the bin unloading auger belt-drives a small 150:1 gearbox (salvaged from an aircraft engine starter).

The gearbox drives an old silage wagon unloading drive with a large crank welded onto the shaft. As the crank comes around it engages a lever which releases a spring-loaded rubber hammer that strikes the bottom of the bin. As the crank comes around, it resets the hammer.

Charlton says that once he got it set up, his "bin knocker" works unattended whenever the auger runs. "It totally eliminated feed bridging problems," he says.

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"I made the sprayer three years ago and used the tracks for the first time last year. For the first two years I mounted the sprayer on conventional tires. I had two different sets of axles available - one with single or dual 30-in. wheels for pre-emergence applications, and the other with 45 by 60 floater tires for top dressing wheat. However, the tracks do a much better job because they don't sink into the ground nearly as much, even better than dual 30-

in. tires. I widened a 4020 tractor to straddle four rows and have an 18.4 by 42 on a 4-row straddle, 120-in. axle to post spray corn and soybeans.

"To change axles I unbolt the sprayer from frame and use a forklift to raise it, then put a stand under it. It makes changing axles easier than changing tires."

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