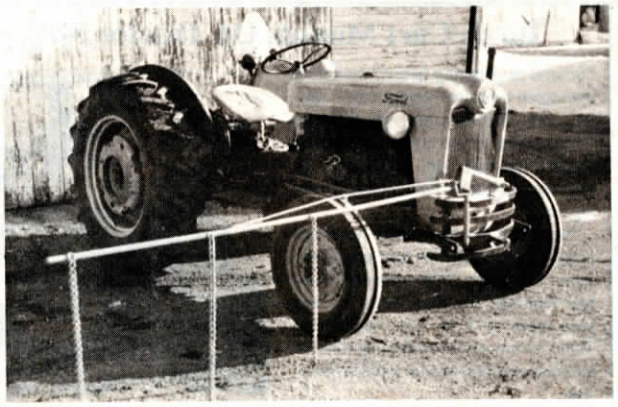


"Pheasant Bar" Saves Wildlife

Iowa farmer Vern Martens, of George, built a "pheasant bar" on the front of his tractor to scare birds away so they don't get cut with the sickle.

The device consists of a 7 ft. long, 1/2 in. dia. bar with 3 bright yellow, 28-in. "twist link" chains hanging from it. The chains drag through the hay or grass as Martens pulls a 7 ft. wide mower with his 1954 NAA Ford tractor. "The idea is that the bar and chains will scare away any nesting birds or animals before the mower sickle arrives.

Martens welded the chains to the bar. He then welded a 1 ft. long, stationary pipe vertically on the tractor's grill guard. One end of the 7 ft. bar, curved at a 90° angle, fits into this pipe, which is hinged so that Martens can fold the bar to the side of the tractor after mowing. A locking bracket holds the bar in the folded position, and a rubber tarp strap secures it to the tractor frame. The bar also can be removed from the pipe and stored on the mower or in a shed.

If he could do it over again, Martens says he might have bolted, not welded, the pipe and locking bracket to the grill guard. "That would have let me transfer the 'pheasant bar' to other tractors."

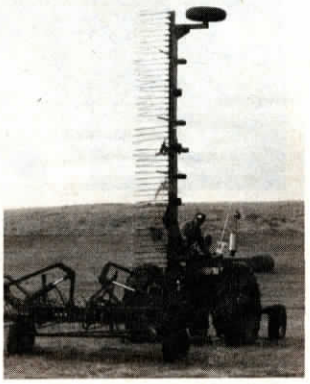
Contact: FARM SHOW Follow-up, Vern Martens, Rt. 1, Ashton, Iowa 51232 (ph 712 475-2682).

Giant 40-Ft. Dump Rake

"It would take five mowers to stay ahead of this rake. It's got tremendous capacity," says Russ Bomesberger, Onaka, S. Dak., about his giant 40-ft. wide dump rake.

Bomesberger built the rake both to rake faster and to get bigger windrows to feed his round baler. He built the rake from the ground up. It's got a 12-ft. center section and two 14-ft. wings. He used all new steel for the frame and salvaged the rake teeth from old horse-drawn rakes. The rake is supported by four 14-in. tires.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Russ Bomesberger, Rt. 2, Box 286, Onaka, S. Dak. 57464 (ph 605 442-2551).



Tall-Crop Sprayer Features Adjustable Row Spacing

You've never seen a sprayer quite like the one chemical dealer and custom applicator Owen Elmer, of Indianola, Neb., has designed and built. It features 4-wheel drive, 4-wheel steering and adjustable row spacing and crop clearance to match any field conditions.

The sprayer frame, built like a scissors jack, adjusts hydraulically to match the machine to various row spacings. Wheels can be extended from 80 to 120 in. wide.

Elmer, who built the sprayer 3 years ago, has patented 17 different features on it.

Nineteen hydraulic cylinders turn, lift and spread the machine as well as unfold and position the front-mounted 40 ft. boom. Individual hydraulic cylinders inside each wheel tower raise and lower the sprayer so it can adjust with crop height. Top clearance is 7 ft.

Individual hydraulic cylinders steer each wheel, two fold the boom and another lifts it into travel position above the cab. Controls for all cylinders operate from the cab which Elmer salvaged from a hay swather. "The cab is in front of everything, so there's very good visibility of the boom in front of you," says Elmer.

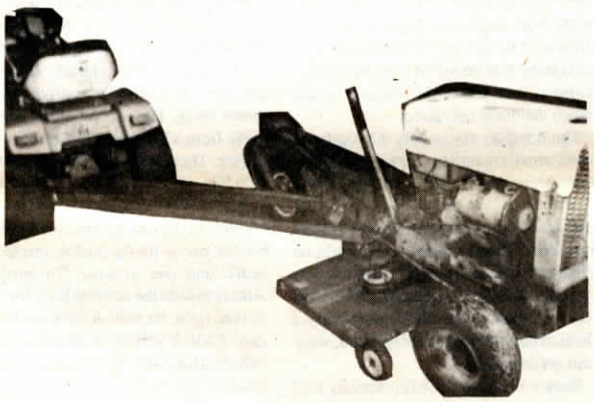
"This sprayer shines for spraying in tall crops such as mature corn, where you can use drop nozzles to control velvetleaf, or to spray for corn borers. It's flexible. You can go from field to field, or between different kinds of crops, and easily adjust for row spacing and crop clearance with the flick of a lever."

The sprayer's 95 hp Deere diesel engine, rear-mounted, drives a hydro transmission that powers hydraulic motors on each wheel. A closed center hydraulic pump that runs off the back of the engine handles the power for all the hydraulic cylinders. A 35-gal. reservoir provides enough hydraulic fluid to feed all cylinders.

A hydraulic motor pumps chemical from one 500 gal. tank mounted in the middle of the sprayer frame, out to the boom. The 2 outside boom sections fold up and the whole assembly lifts back over the cab for road travel.

Eight large holes in each wheel keep the sprayer's weight down, allowing it to scramble through soft ground.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Owen Elmer, Indianola Oil Co., Box C, Indianola, Neb. 69034 (ph 308 364-2214).



Tag-Along Mower

"We needed something to mow under the trees in my Dad's small orchard. We looked at commercial offset tractor orchard mowers but they're expensive and don't cut the grass as well a lawn mower. So I decided to build my own trailing lawn mower," says Jeff Farnsworth, Wauseon, Ohio.

"I bought an old International Cub Cadet and removed the rear end and steering column for clearance under trees. I built a frame with a dolly wheel and attached it where the rear end used to be so that I could pull the mower backwards. There's a pivoting hitch on both the pulling lawn tractor and the trailing lawn mower to allow it to tilt sideways. A long steering bar on the hitch reaches back to the middle of the mower to attach to the steering tie rod which allows it to steer like a semi-mounted plow. I then turned the mower deck around and reattached it to the mower frame.

"We used the rig all last season and it worked liked a charm. Total cost was just $200. The only thing I plan to change is the pivoting hitch on the pulling tractor. It pivots sideways but should also pivot up and down.

"I'd be glad to build another one for anyone who's interested."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jeff Farnsworth, 13642-US 20A, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

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