



Photo courtesy Kansas Farmer

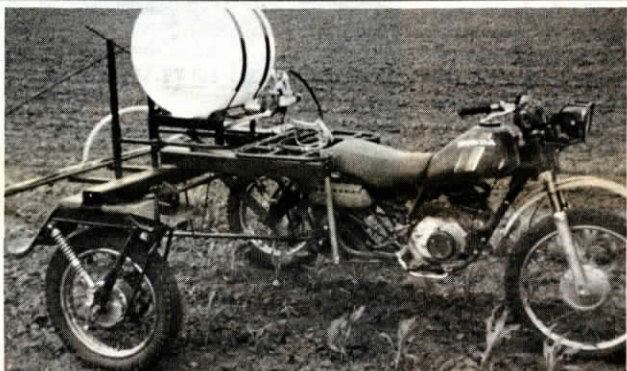
Skid-Steer Manure Scraper

"Removing manure buildup under fences was a problem for us until we made this low-profile scraper for our skid-steer loader," says Tom Herbers, of HRC Feedyard near Scott City, Kan. "Large scrapers would miss the manure and leave an ideal place for flies to breed. And pushing manure out from under the fences by hand took a lot of time and manpower.

The problem-solving "pusher," made from 6 in. angle iron, is 6 ft. wide and fits nicely between fence posts spaced 6.5

ft. apart. It's also low enough to clear the bottom fence line board. A frame was constructed to fit onto the skid-steer loader the same way other attachments mount, says Herbers. "The scraper could be used to push snow, although we don't use it for that. And, with some modifications, it could be attached to the front of a tractor loader."

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Motorcycle Bean Walker

Iowa farmer Robert Hancock says he enjoyed "bean walking" for the first time last summer, thanks to the mini-spray rig he built to walk through standing corn and soybean crops up to 3 ft. tall.

"I started with the chassis and engine of a 200 Honda 3-wheeler and added motorcycle parts so it would work through row crops," says Hancock, who farms near Ottumwa. "The front fork came off a Yamaha 250 Enduro and the rear wheels are the rear halves of two 250 Enduros. This allows for independent suspension of all three wheels which makes for a very smooth ride.

"The rear brakes operate independently so I can make extremely short turns by braking one wheel or the other. That also helps get out of mud holes. I mounted a chain-driven lawn mower differential under the tank between the rear wheels.

"The machine is equipped with a 30-gal. tank, a 12-volt electric pump, and a boom that covers four 38-in. rows. It can be used either to broadcast or to spray individually on top of each row using four separate nozzles. The boom is controlled by a push button switch on the handle bar wired through a 12-volt solenoid. I replaced the Honda battery with

a larger car battery that'll run the spray pump for 10 hrs. with no problem. I put the battery on a charger each night.

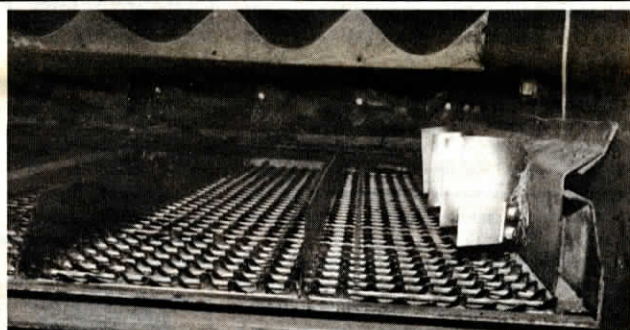
"I can drive 10 mph and spot spray at random with just the push of a button. I also carry a hand weed wiper filled with Roundup to wipe volunteer corn in beans. I also have problems with artichokes and cockleburrs so I spot sprayed 120 acres of beans twice with Classic, and about 50 acres of corn with Banvel. The cost of the application was about \$2.00 per acre compared with \$14 per acre for custom application.

"I haven't seen anything else on the market with the maneuverability of this machine. I installed a foot throttle to make it easier to control. Because of the narrow tires and light weight, I can turn around in the middle of the field with no damage. I used it hard all last season without a single breakdown. With a tractor umbrella installed over it, I can run on the hottest days and be fairly comfortable. Instead of making a couple rounds through the field by foot in the cool of the morning, I now cover about 30 acres working all day."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Hancock, Rt. 6, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501.

Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? (Send to: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, MN 55044).

Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director



Combine Modification Triples Hillside Speed

Last summer Steve Brooks, of New Windsor, Ill., cut out fins above the chaffer inside an old White combine and installed them in his Deere 6620 combine, allowing him to harvest three times faster on hillsides - without losing grain.

Brooks had traded a White combine for the Deere model. Both combines have similar capacities, says Brooks. "However, I was disappointed with the Deere 6620. On bottom ground it worked fine. But as soon as I got in the hills, I had to slow down because it was losing grain over the sides of the sieve, even at a half mile per hour. I had this big combine running practically empty all the time, trying to keep grain from running onto the ground.

"On the hillsides, grain piled up to 40 in. high along the sides of the sieve," says Brooks. "There was nothing to stop grain from going over the sides."

With the help of a neighbor, Brooks cut out the fins from a 25-year-old White combine with the same length sieve as the Deere combine. "The fins stick out

like wing dams to keep grain away from the sides of the sieve," says Brooks.

To install the fins in the Deere combine, they marked the location where they wanted the fins, then removed the sieves to add working room. Brooks' neighbor then fashioned a long, adjustable double threaded rod which he pushed against each side of the separator to hold the fins in place while he brazed them onto the inside of the separator where the sieve sits.

"For \$30 worth of labor, the modification made a lot more machine for us. It was hard to see how much grain we were losing, but it could very easily have been 10 bu. per acre. The modification also results in cleaner grain," says Brooks. "When a machine isn't running at capacity, debris gets in the grain. The separator is made to run at an ideal speed and we're now approaching that."

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