



Self-propelled baler makes 360° turns thanks to front caster steering wheel.

Self-Propelled Baler

(Continued from cover page)

parts, off the swather. A piece of 4 by 4-in. steel tubing mounts at a right angle to the left side of the swather drive unit and runs under the baler to a hydrostatically-driven wheel on the other side of the baler. The baler is pinned to pivot points on top of the steel beam that allow it to pivot up and down so hay pick-up height can be adjusted. Metal braces that attach

to the front of the baler hold it in place once height is adjusted. Controls on the swather drive unit were reversed to travel in the opposite direction. The baler can be quickly removed and converted back to a pull-type, if needed, since it's not modified in any way. Wheels and tongue were simply unbolted and removed.

Both the drive wheel on the swather and the baler-mounted wheel are hydrostatically driven. A driveshaft on the swather drive unit, which was originally used to power the swather header, runs to a right angle gearbox on the baler — originally driven by a tractor pto — to provide power for baling.

The two machines make for an ideal match-up both because of the combination of mechanical and hydrostatic drive and because the swather was an end-drive unit. "The drive units on most new swathers are mounted in the center of the machine and may not work as well as this machine for mounting off to the side of the baler," Stonebrink points out.

The unique self-propelled baler has been in use for two seasons. "It's much faster than baling with a tractor and baler. You can quickly pick up hay in odd-shaped corners and make square corners on windrows. If you slip off the row you can just back up and pick it up. Visibility is also good because the operator sits right alongside the baler. You can see the windrow without constantly turning around and, when tying, you can easily see the twine. When you've finished a field, you just pull a lever on the baler and go. The unit has a road gear for speedy travel to the next field," explains Stonebrink.

The swather was painted Vermeer yellow to match the baler. Except for labor, the only real construction cost was for the used swather, which cost around \$2,000. While the Stonebrinks are Vermeer dealers, they have no plans to market or build the self-propelled baler.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clarence Stonebrink, 509 W. Main, Enterprise, Ore. 97828 (ph 503 426-3503).

ELIMINATES 30-YEAR-OLD HAZARD AND INCONVENIENCE

Automatic Stone Trap For Gleaner Combines

"It's dangerous. You have to climb down out of the cab, lay on your back under the header, and close the stone trap with your feet," says Barry Ireland, manufacturer along with Doug Fortune, of a new stone trap for Gleaner L, M, and F combines that replaces the existing trap that's been in use for the past 30 years.

"In rocky ground you spend an unbelievable amount of time climbing down to close the trap. It can be dangerous because the header could fall on the operator while he's under the header or the machine could slip into gear," Ireland told FARM SHOW.

When a stone or other foreign object, enters the combine, the cylinder drives the object against the stone trap door which causes pressure latches to release. The operator is alerted by a warning light in the cab and must then stop the machine, raise the header to the top, and then crawl under the header to shove the door closed with his feet.

The new Soil Mate stone trap holds several stones up to 3 in. in dia. When the door opens the alarm goes off and

the operator simply stops the combine and lifts the header to the top, at which point a spring mechanism shuts the door. The operator doesn't have to stop the threshing mechanism or dismount the combine.

"It can increase work time 10 to 50% in rough ground," says Ireland, who notes that the new stone trap is made of heavier metal than the existing trap to prevent metal warpage when stones are trapped in corners of the trap.

The new trap is installed by drilling and tapping one hole and making three welds. The original sensor switch is used to warn the operator that the stone door is open.

The company makes traps to fit all Gleaner L, M and F combines and is developing one for Gleaner rotaries and other combines. The traps sell for \$875 to \$995.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Soil Mate Equipment, Ltd., Rt. 1, Wingham, Ontario Canada (ph 519 335-6195 or 335-3801).



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NON-TOXIC AND EASY TO SEE

Spray Marker Uses Toilet Paper To Mark Each Pass

"Toilet paper is easy to see yet it breaks down and disappears without damage to crops or field, unlike some dye markers that use diesel fuel as a base," says Mike Jackson, Weippe, Idaho, who's invented a toilet paper marker.

Jackson's all-steel device weighs about 15 lbs. and mounts at the end of any spray boom. "It uses regular bathroom tissue. You simply slip on a roll and it's electrically driven using 12-V power from a tractor or 3-wheeler. The operator activates it from the tractor seat and the marker drops a length of tissue as often as needed to mark the pass. The marker is mounted low to the ground and in front of the spray mist so that the tissue is wetted down as it reaches the ground and can't blow away," says Jackson.

"The advantages of this marker are that it's economical to use, the tissue is biodegradable, and the tissue leaves a highly visible mark. Compared to other markers, it's very clean. There's no paint or foam ingredients to clean up. And it's easy to load. You just slip on a roll of paper," explains Jackson.



Spray wets paper "mark" as it drops to hold it in place.

The toilet paper marker sells for \$395, including electrical wiring and switch.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike Jackson, HCO2, Box 11C, Weippe, Idaho 83553 (ph 208 435-4873).