Made It Myself
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Handy Mover For Uni-System Attachments

"I'd bought a new New Idea Uni-System but was having problems moving and storing the various attachments after removing them from the power unit. So, I modified a running gear so I can now back under the combine or harvester unit, raise the jacks, and go," says Patrick Herbert, Thamesville, Ont.

With the attachments on the modified wagon, he can quickly put on and remove the attachment from the power unit and back them into a corner of his machine shed.

"I started with an old wagon running gear. On the front, I made a saddle to bolt the combine husker or forage harvester to," says Herbert, explaining that he has a separate running gear for each attachment.

"The saddle is the same height and width as the power unit. Under the rear of the two husker and forage harvesting units, I bolted two frame extensions that extend back about 2 ft. They're held in place with four bolts and rest on the wagon's rear axle," Herbert explains.

"When putting the wagon under a unit, I pull the reach apart, then put the back half of the wagon in from behind the unit, and the front half in from the front of the unit. I then reconnect the reach, raise the jacks and take off."

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Chisel Plow Converted To Ridger

A chisel plow that cost just $183 to modify is "working great" as a ridge maker on Frank Greff's Berlin, Wis., farm.

Greff developed his ridger and ridging system so he could grow corn on otherwise unproductive low spots on his farm.

"The 8 to 10-in high ridges get seed up and away from the excessive moisture, allowing quicker soil warm up," notes Greff who figures ridging has doubled corn yields in low-growing areas. Because of the system's success in lowland areas, Greff now uses it on all of his corn ground. He feels it'll work well on slopes up to 6%.

His ridger is made from an International Vibra-Chisel with 18-in. Adams furrowers bolted on. The furrowers form the ridge in the loose soil, creating an 18 to 20-in., wide ridge and leaving an 18-in wide furrow. The ridger uses five shanks — four to make ridges and the fifth as a marker that rides in the last furrow of the last pass.

To prepare soil previously planted to corn, Greff discs it twice, then follows with the furrower. In sod, he plows, discs and culti-mulches before riding.

After ridging, Greff plants with his conventional four, 38-in. row International planter. The planter is held in place on the ridge by the furrows, allowing row units to plant directly on top of the ridge. The furrow spacing also allows Greff to drive through with a sprayer, combine or wagon without problems or modifications.

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Home-Built Corn Reel

"I have used this spider reel on my cornhead to rake in down cornstalks for seven years with no troubles at all," says Willie Fichtenberg, Mesa, Wash.

"It's designed so that wherever you position it, fore and aft, it always remains the same distance from the gathering chains. It's equipped with hydraulic lift arms so the operator can lift it up out of the way in fields with both down and standing corn. If you don't raise the reel in standing corn, the batts will knock the ears off before the corn gets into the head.

"The reel removes by simply unbolting two bolts and there's nothing welded to the header. The batts are fastened to the reel shaft with clamps because, if you welded them or drilled a hole through the shaft, it would weaken the shaft. I do a lot of custom work around here in rows varying in width from 29 to 34 in. You have to change the head to match and the clamps let us easily make the switch.

"To drive the spider reel, I rigged up a No. 50 chain from the main corn head drive. The drive sprockets are shear pin protected and all pivot points are greased. The best way to drive it would be to run it off a hydraulic reel motor, which is possible on later model Massey combines.

"This reel lets me harvest corn other custom operators can't handle. Other farmers often call me to harvest downed crops they can't get with their own machines," says Fichtenberg.

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