

Sifford builds a heavy-duty I-beam frame around each truck axle shredder.

Stalk Shredders

(Continued from cover page)

the "truck axle shredder". The frame is equipped with a hitch on front.

As the "truck axle shredder," is pulled by the tractor, the axle's wheels drive the differential which rotates the cutting blades. "The blades spin around between the tires as you pull the shredder, cutting a swath 5 1/2 ft. wide," explains Sifford. "Any time the axle's wheels are moving, the blades are turning."

Leaving a single wheel on each side provides just enough cutting width for the blades, says Sifford. "The blades run within 2 in. of the tires."

A 10-ft. long bar, welded onto the back side, allows for multiple hookups of shredd-

ders in the form of a "V" behind the tractor.

"By hooking shredders together in this fashion, farmers can cut 30 or 40 ft. wide without needing a pto. In comparison, most commercial shredders are no more than 25 or 30 ft. wide," notes Sifford, who adds that some farmers hook an axle shredder to both ends of their conventional pto-driven shredder to add 5 1/2 ft. of cutting width on each side.

Sifford builds most of the shredders with four arms and blades. "Four blades work better than two because each blade exerts less pressure on the differential," says Sifford. "Also, in real heavy grass and weeds, the drive wheels tend to slip a little. Having four blades helps to compensate for the slippage."

Once the axle shredder is built, the blade height can't be adjusted, says Sifford. "There's no way to adjust the wheels or blades up or down. When I build the shredders, the farmer has to know what height he will cut at. Most farmers want to cut 5 to 7 inches off the ground, so I set the blades accordingly."

Sifford says you don't have to use two-speed truck axles to build truck axle shredders, but they work best because they're equipped with a high and low range, allowing you to control blade speed. Also, by shifting the axles into neutral you can keep the blades from turning when you're on the road. You select the range you want, using a lever located in the center of the axle, next to the yoke.

"In real heavy foliage, you want the blade turning as fast as possible, so you put the lever in low range," says Sifford. "It works opposite of the way it was built to work on the truck. When you shift into low range, you're reducing the gear ratio to make the blades turn faster. When you shift into high range, the blades turn slower."

Although the blades aren't covered by a shield, very little residue flies at the tractor driver because the blades turn more slowly than they do on conventional pto-driven shredders, says Sifford.

A bushing, positioned between arm and blade, allows the blade to swing freely. "Centrifugal force slings the blade out," says Sifford. "If the blade hits a rock, the blade will double back. When it gets past the rock, centrifugal force slings it out again." If the blade was welded to the arm, you'd break the blade, he notes.

To provide extra traction while cutting through 4 to 5 ft. tall weeds and grass, some farmers add extra weight to the A-frame, which keeps the wheels from slipping.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wayne Sifford, Adrian, Texas 79001 (ph 806 538-6233).

PULL ONE PIN TO MOVE INTO TRANSPORT POSITION

24-Ft. Sickle Mower Great For CRP Acres

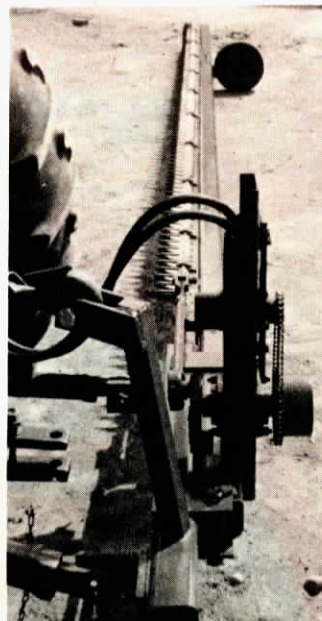
"Interest has been tremendous. Everyone is looking for an inexpensive way to mow CRP acres," says Kyle Westeman, Syracuse, Kan., manufacturer of a new 24-ft. sickle mower that adjusts from 8 to 18 in. in height.

Westeman used Deere & Co. parts for the sickle itself, which mounts on 4 by 4-in. steel tubing with 3/8-in. sidewalls. One end of the sickle mounts on the tractor 3-pt. and the other end on an 8-in. wheel that raises and lowers hydraulically. The sickle can be driven either hydraulically or by pto. For transport, the sickle trails directly behind the tractor by pulling one pin. The single support wheel "castors" freely.

The mower requires a minimum 50-hp. tractor. "Big rotary mowers need at least 150 hp. and they're not built as wide as this machine. They also have a lot more parts. This mower is easy to maintain and there's nothing to catch or drag trash through the field," says Westeman, noting that the mower sells for a fraction of the cost of similar sized swathers.

A 24-ft. mower sells for \$3,850. Westeman also plans to build a 30-ft. model.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kyle Westeman, Westeman Machine, Syracuse, Kan. 67878 (ph 316 384-7508).



The 24-ft., 3-pt. mounted mower adjusts from 8 to 18 in. in height.

ROLL-A-DUMP TRAILER

"Handiest New Hauler Since The Wheelbarrow"

"It'll haul everything from big bales and rocks to firewood or even water," says Jack Switzer of his new Roll-A-Dump trailer.

Billed as "the handiest new hauler since the wheelbarrow," the largest model (4 yards capacity) carries loads up to 9,000 lbs. Unlike a pickup, the Roll-A-Dump is easy unloaded. One person working alone can unload a full 9,000 lb. load in seconds simply by cranking a hand operated cable winch, Switzer points out.

The largest 4-yard Roll-A-Dump is designed for use with a tractor or full size pickup. A "medium" size model (2 yards capacity) can be pulled with a pickup or small tractor and a "small" (3/4 yard) model is designed for use with an ATV or garden tractor.

"Some farm families are using our new Roll-A-Dump as a garbage container," says Switzer. "When it's full, they hook on with a pickup and pull the portable dumpster to the nearest dump."

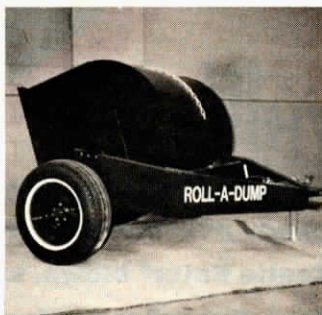
With an optional nipple and valve installed at the bottom, and a lid on top, the Roll-A-Dump can be filled with water and used to water trees, gardens or livestock, notes Switzer.

The three large, medium and small models retail for \$2,600 (Canadian), \$1,800 and \$800, respectively.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jack Switzer Ltd., Rt. 4, Stratford, Ont. N5A 6S5 Canada.



The largest Roll-A-Dump model carries loads up to 9,000 lbs.



Hand-cranked winch on Roll-A-Dump tongue makes it quick and easy to dump even the biggest loads.



Vol. 12, No. 4, 1988

Publisher and
Editorial Director - Harold M. Johnson
Editor - Mark Newhall
Associate Editor - Bill Gergen
Office Manager - Joan C. Johnson

FARM SHOW is published bimonthly for \$11.95 per year (\$14.95 in Canada and foreign countries) by Farm Show Publishing Inc., P.O. Box 1029, 20088 Kenwood Trail, Lakeville, Minn. 55044. Second class postage paid at Lakeville, Minn., and Madelia, Minn. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 612-469-5572). Single copy price is \$2.00 (\$2.50 Canada). Publication No. 470870

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July-August, 1988