

TURNS UPSIDE DOWN WHEN NOT IN USE, LEAVING PICKUP BED FLAT

New "Turnover Ball" Hitch For Pickups

"We think it's the best gooseneck hitch ever developed for pickups," says Joe Works of B&W Custom Truck Beds, Inc., Humboldt, Kan. Works and his partner Roger Baker came up with the "Turnover Ball" hitch to eliminate the inconvenience and hazard of having a ball protruding up into the pickup bed when not in use.

"It's easy for anyone to install. To store the ball, you just pull a spring-loaded latch pin located in the rear wheel well of the truck, lift the ball out of its socket, drop it back into the socket upside down, and then return the latch pin to the engaged position," explains Works.

The "Turnover Ball" mounts in a frame assembly that simply bolts between the pickup frame underneath the pickup bed. A 3-in. sq. hole cut in the floor is the only modification to pickup. The hitch is designed to bolt into place without removing or loosening the truck bed or any other truck



Hitch mounts in a frame that bolts between main side members of pickup.

component and it uses bolt holes already in the frame members so there's no cutting or welding.

Sells for \$219.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, B&W Custom Truck Beds, Inc., 715 New York, Humboldt, Kan. 66738 (ph 316 473-3664).

IT'S BUILT LOW FOR EASY ACCESS

Beer Trailer "Supply Wagon" Speeds Planting

The classic old polka tune "Roll Out The Barrel" has new meaning for Nebraska farmer Mike Bjorkman, of Phillips, who converted a beer trailer to haul large quantities of seed, herbicides, fertilizer and water to the field.

Bjorkman bought a 32-ft. long Strohs beer trailer from a used truck dealer for \$750. The trailer was equipped with eight compartments and roll-up doors on each side. Bjorkman removed the partitions between two sets of compartments to make room for tanks. The front compartment of the trailer holds a 1,100-gal. water tank while the rear compartments contain a 1,500-gal. starter fertilizer tank and a 175-gal. herbicide tank. Seed bags store in three middle sections and can be accessed from either side of the trailer. He pulls the trailer with a semi-tractor that he already owned.

"Our 900 acres is spread over seven miles. Having all our seed and fertilizer in a mobile unit that can be parked in a central location or moved to supply either of our two 8-row planters saves a lot of time," says Bjorkman. "We don't have to worry about seed getting rained on and when we're not using them the tanks don't take up storage space in the shed. The trailer also provides a safe environment for handling chemicals. We use a closed chemical handling system with a direct inject tank for herbicides. We bolted a steel frame and expanded metal deck on back to hold chemical mixing equipment."

To modify the trailer, Bjorkman first cut out a wall that ran lengthwise down the center of the trailer in order to make room for the tanks. Removing the wall weakened the frame, causing the floor to sag in the middle so much that he couldn't open the doors. To solve the problem he welded two 32-ft. long steel I-beams (purchased for \$200 apiece) along the top of the trailer (one on each side). The I-beams lift up on the

floor by welding to the tops of the support posts on the partitions.

"I don't fill the 1,500-gal. starter fertilizer tank completely full because I'm still not sure the floor could handle the weight. Next year I may reverse the positions of the fertilizer and water tanks to try to solve the problem. I used a beer trailer because it has wider doors than beverage trailers which meant I didn't have to cut out as many partitions in order to make room for the tanks. One problem is that when fully loaded the single axle trailer is too heavy for legal road use so I'm careful about how I load it. It would be nice to have a tandem axle trailer. But I don't drive the trailer on the highway very much so it's not a problem."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike Bjorkman, 1408 North H. Road, Phillips, Neb. 68865 (ph 402 886-2562).



Frowhein pulls his 5,000-gal. manure spreader with a 1974 Kenworth truck.

GIANT CAPACITY OF CONVERTED TANKS SPEEDS UP WORK

They Use Semi-Tanks To Haul Water, Manure

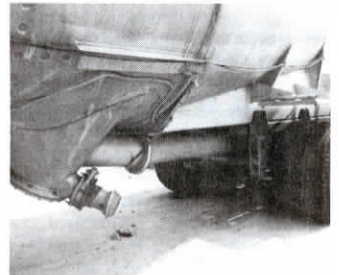
"There's nothing like it on the market. People can't believe how well it works," says Keith Frowhein, Zeating, Iowa, about the semi-tank he converted to a 5,000-gal. liquid manure spreader. He pulls it with a 1974 Kenworth semi-tractor.

"It's a fast, inexpensive way to apply liquid manure that really speeds up work. Holds two or three times as much manure as the biggest commercial tanks," says Frowhein, who raises hogs and uses pits to store manure.

Frowhein bought the tank for \$1,500 from a local trucking firm. The semi-tank, originally designed to haul liquid fertilizer, loads from the top. Manure is pumped from the pit up to a portable overhead stand, then into the tank.

The tank, which is open inside, has three dump funnels underneath. Frowhein ran a length of pipe from the rear funnel to the back of the trailer and mounted an electric gate valve inside it that's connected to a toggle switch in the cab. Manure flows into a 12-in. dia., 10-ft. long pipe bolted across the back of the trailer and out through slots in the bottom of the pipe.

"We use it to spread manure on idle acres. Some of our farms are several miles apart. The semi-tractor allows us to haul manure at road speeds and make fewer trips. We can spread as much manure in a half day as we can in two days with our 1,100-gal. honey wagon. However, we still use the honey wagon to empty out small pits. We also use the semi-tractor to custom spread manure



A length of pipe carries manure from bottom dump chute to back end of trailer.

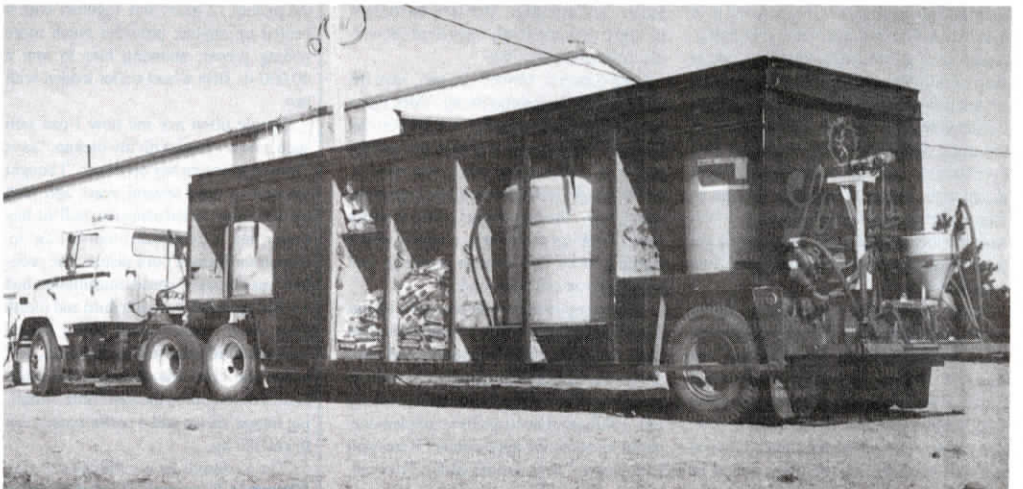
for neighbors. It's equipped with a Caterpillar 380 hp 6-cylinder diesel engine that has plenty of power."

Frowhein uses a second 4,500-gal. semi-tank as a nurse tank when spraying chemicals and also to haul liquid nitrogen for sidedressing corn. A home-built "tow dolly", equipped with a fifth-wheel, hitches to the tank. It lets Frowhein pull the big tank with a Deere 8640 tractor (245 hp).

"We can spray 160 acres and move on to the next field before we have to refill. It also lets us buy liquid fertilizer by the semi-tank load for volume discounts," says Frowhein.

Frowhein notes that many semi-tanks are available that aren't in good enough shape to go over the road but can be used as holding tanks for water or liquid fertilizer.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Keith Frowhein, Rt. 1, Zeating, Iowa 50278 (ph 515 487-7332).



Converted beer wagon carries enough chemicals, seed and fertilizer to keep two 8-row planters going all day.