



High-Wheel Sprayer Built From Old Tractor

Old tractors can be easily converted into big-wheel flotation sprayers that glide right over bumps, holes, and center pivot irrigation tracks without any boom bounce or frame damage, according to Nebraska farmer J.J. Granstrom. He built a 300-gal. sprayer equipped with a 35-ft. boom out of the rear end of a 1950's vintage International M tractor.

Granstrom stripped the tractor down to the rear axle and wheels, leaving the seat mounting deck in place. He bolted the 300-gal. tank and tank mounting frame from his old sprayer lengthwise on top of the deck. He bolted sprayer's boom onto an angle iron framework that bolts onto the base of the drawbar and to the axle.

"It really rides smooth. The big tires cause less bounce when going over our center pivot irrigation tracks," says

Granstrom, of Holstein. "Our old conventional sprayer was equipped with 14-in. tires and the frame kept breaking on center pivot tracks. Whenever we went over a track the ends of the booms would fly 3 or 4 ft. up in the air. The smoother ride lets this rig do a lot better job of spraying. The wheels follow in the same tracks as the tractor tires which reduces soil compaction.

"The boom covers ten 36-in. rows. If we ever want to switch to 30-in. rows we can move the wheels in just like we would on a tractor. A 500-gal. tank could be used for more capacity."

The boom can be adjusted vertically by loosening two bolts.

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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, Minn. 55044)

Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director

Old Bridge Beams Support "Drive-Under" Bins

Ted Safranski, Argyle, Minn., turned old highway bridge beams into a 20-ft. high steel platform that supports a pair of 1,300-bu. hopper bins, allowing him to load semi trucks fast.

The "drive-under" bins are filled by a 35-ft. high vertical auger that runs from a dryer up to the bins. To load trucks, Safranski simply pulls a lever connected to a cable that opens a chute at the bottom of each bin.

"I bought the bridge beams for 5 cents a pound and spent less than \$5,000 to build the platform. Commercial steel framework would have cost about \$20,000," says Safranski. "It takes only about three minutes to load a semi truck using this system."

Safranski used six beams for the legs and welded more beams all the way around on top, adding two cross beams in the middle. To make the footings he welded two 30-gal. barrels together end to end and filled them with concrete, then dug a 10-ft. deep hole under each leg to hold the barrels. Four steel rods



anchor each leg to each footing.

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Photo courtesy USAgriculture Magazine

"Side-Shift" Planter Hitch For Narrow-Row Soybeans

A "side-shift" hitch built from the frame of an old 3-pt. wheel "detracker" lets Mark Kennedy, West Concord, Minn., slide his 6-row 30-in. planter 15 in. to the side, allowing him to make a second pass through 30-in. rows to plant between the rows.

"It lets me plant narrow-row soybeans without the expense of buying a splitter planter or new drill," says Kennedy.

He stripped the detracker down to the frame and then welded a 5-ft. long steel I-beam across the back. He attached a 30-in. hydraulic cylinder to one end of

the I-beam and put a 12 by 10-in. steel plate at the other end of the cylinder. A drawbar welded on top of the plate hooks up to the original planter hitch. As the cylinder is extended and retracted, it slides the steel plate and drawbar back and forth across the I-beam to shift the planter sideways.

"It lets me shift the planter 15 in. left or right, depending on the direction I'm traveling," says Kennedy. "I plant conventional 30-in. rows on my first pass through the field. Then I mount the detracker frame and slide the hitch over 15 inches. I follow the wheel tracks I made from the first pass. When I turn at the end of the field I shift the cylinder back the opposite way.

"I plant soybeans at about 60 lbs. per acre on the first pass and 40 lbs. per acre on the second pass. I've used this method for two years and the narrow rows have increased my yields about 5 bu./acre. Even considering the extra gas and time it takes to plant twice, I figure I'm ahead at least \$5 to \$6 per acre. A splitter planter would produce true 15-in. rows, but would cost \$15,000 to \$20,000. However, if I had more than 150 acres of soybeans I'd probably buy a splitter planter or newer drill because planting twice takes a lot of time."

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