



## Tractor "Mud" Wheels

Your 2-WD tractor can work its way through even the muddiest ground if you equip it with a set of smaller-size "mud-proof duals" that only get used when the regular front wheels sink into the mud.

Lloyd Atchison, Pipestone, Manitoba, often has trouble with the low-lying marshy ground in his area. He especially runs into trouble when stacking hay with his IH Hydro 70 loader tractor. To "mud-proof" the tractor he attached 16-in. wheels to the outside of the standard 18-in. front wheels. On dry fields the outside wheel rides just above the ground. When the tractor hits a soft spot, the add-on tires take hold.

Atchison mounts the add-on wheels with metal spacers that weld to the outside wheel and bolt onto the inner wheel. He makes the spacers just wide enough to leave a slight gap between the tires.

The idea can also be used on rear tractor tires and Atchison says other farmers in his



The truck tires are 18 in. dia. and the add-on duals 16 in. dia. A spacer is welded to the outside edge of the 16-in. wheels. The spacer fits into the second "step" of the 18-in. rims. They clamp into place with J-bolts, just like rear tractor duals.

area have added "mud" duals to their big balers.

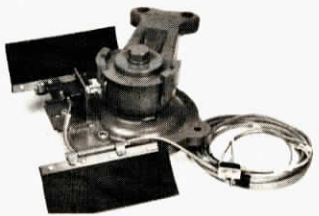
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lloyd Atchison, Box 4, Rt. 1, Pipestone, Manitoba R0M 1T0 Canada (ph 204 854-2947).

## Add-On Switch Automatically Deactivates MFWD On Turns

Turning tight with tractors fitted with mechanical front wheel drive can be a problem, especially when plowing or chiseling. An Ohio farmer says he's solved the problem with an uncomplicated add-on switch that automatically deactivates MFWD on turns.

Steve Kimmel, who farms near Bluffton, first got the idea when applying anhydrous with a 12-row applicator. With the MFWD activated on his 4650 Deere, he couldn't make the sharp turns he needed on headlands. But he didn't want to have to manually turn the front-drive on and off. "My switch shortens the turning radius and also saves wear and tear on tires. The most stress on front tires occurs when they're pulling through turns. My tractor has nearly 700 hrs. and the front tires show much less wear than normal. The shut-off switch also saves wear and tear on the front drive joints," says Kimmel.

The add-on kit consists of a 4 1/2 in. dia. steel washer that mounts on the steering arm. The washer is fitted with two adjustable cams. The washer simply installs between the mounting nut on the steering arm and the body of the power steering unit. A microswitch attaches to the side of the power steering unit. As the steering arm turns, the washer moves with it and the cams off to either side of the washer strike the microswitch, which is wired to the solenoid that activates and deactivates the MFWD. The cams can be adjusted to strike the microswitch at any degree of turn (you can set it to shut the front wheels off right at the beginning of the turn or anytime after the tractor has already started its turn). Once



the turn has been made, the switch automatically reactivates the front drive.

The kit installs without any modification to the tractor. The washer is slit so it slips onto the steering arm without pulling it from the power steering unit. The microswitch is wired directly to the existing in-cab MFWD shut-off controls. There's no need to cut any existing wires. When desired, the automatic shut-off switch can be turned off so the MFWD stays on through turns.

"I talked with officials at Deere & Co. and they told me there's no problem caused by turning the front drive on and off so often. I've used the switch in my own tractor for more than a year and it works great. Once you get used to it, you leave it on all the time," says Kimmel, who's gearing up to sell the do-it-yourself kit. It sells for \$150 and is available only for Deere tractors from the 4050 and on up. He's working on kits for other MFWD tractors.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve Kimmel, Rt. 1, 2340 TWP Rd 27, Bluffton, Ohio 45817 (ph 419 358-3860 or 358-2230).

# FARM SHOW



## He Custom Washes Dairy Barns

When dairy farmers in southeastern Minnesota want their barns cleaned inside, all they need to do is call Bob Theobald, Stewartville, Minn., who operates a custom "high pressure" barn washing service.

Theobald custom washes barns for about 40 regular customers living within a 70-mile radius of his home. He hauls an 18 hp, high pressure washer and pump in a snowmobile trailer pulled behind his car or pickup. Upon reaching the farm, he hooks the washer's 150-ft. hose to the closest water hydrant and puts on his raincoat and cap.

Then he goes to work, using the washer's wand, which delivers up to 2,500 lbs. of pressure, to wash down the barn's walls, ceilings, pipeline, and curbs between the mangers and walls. Adjustable wand settings allow him to vary spray pressure and pattern.

The washer, which weighs less than 250 lbs., pumps 4 1/2 gpm of cold water to blast dirt loose. "No hot water heater can keep up with the 4 1/2 gallon per minute rate," notes Theobald.

Most farmers call him in once a year, although he does wash a few barns twice a year. He works mostly on summer weekends, beginning in May and quitting in the fall before hoses can freeze up. He charges \$30 per hour, with no charge for travel.

What can Theobald do that most farmers can't do on their own?

"Most dairy farmers own a pressure

washer but they're usually quite small," he points out. "Farmers have told me that they used to clean their barns, but it took them up to three days to do the job, and they had a mess in there all the while. With my heavy duty, high pressure washer, I can do the job in five or six hours, and get all the dirt."

To his customers, the thorough cleaning job is worth the cost. "At first, when I tell farmers what I charge, they say 'that sounds kind of high. But after they see the job I do, they say 'see you next year,'" says Theobald, who adds that milk inspectors often refer customers to him.

Theobald has cleaned a couple of hog barns, but says those days are gone. "Most hog barns have pits underneath slat floors. While blasting water toward the slats, you also stir up the manure in the pit. The smell is almost unbearable."

Theobald figures he spent about \$3,500 for the washer, pump and hoses. "Holding a high pressure hose and wand six hours a day, with the pressure blowing against you, is a hard, dirty job," he says. "Even with a raincoat and cap, you get water and debris raining on you all day. But it's a custom service dairymen need and are willing to pay for. A washing service like this might be a good way for a college student to earn money during the summer," he adds.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Theobald, RR 1, Box 328, Stewartville, Minn. 55976 (ph 507 533-8972).

## Wire Baler Converted To Twine

Terry Riegler paid just \$500 for a 10-year-old Massey Ferguson 126 wire tie baler at an auction because, he says, few farmers are interested in tying bales with wire anymore. Also, the wire twisters were worn out although the rest of the baler was in good shape.

"No one in our area knew how to fix the wire twisters. I decided to convert the baler to twine and began looking for knotters from a MF 124 baler, which is the same model as the 126 wire tie baler except for the twine," says Riegler.

He couldn't find a used 126 baler but he did find knotters for an older MF 12 baler, made in the early 70's which he purchased for \$145. "The MF 12 knotters are virtually the same as knotters on a never 124 baler

except for the fact that they drive from the right rather than the left as on the MF 124," says Riegler.

To solve the problem, Riegler simply disassembled the knotters and reassembled them in reverse order on the left side of the baler. Because the MF 12 and MF 126 use the same gearbox to drive the baler, there was no compatibility problem.

"It works great. I got an excellent baler, which could have cost \$6,500, for under \$1,000. If I had been able to find knotters from a 126 baler the conversion would have been even easier," says Riegler.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Terry Riegler, Rt. 1, Sparta, Mo. 65753 (ph 417 485-7709).