



Photo courtesy Country Guide

Balers attach to 8-in. sq. hitch bar made out of pull-type combine hitch.

BALERS POWERED BY SINGLE PTO SHAFT

“Splitter Hitch” Pulls Two Balers At Once

“It lets me bale hay twice as fast,” says Jacob Banman, New Bothwell, Manitoba, about his pto “splitter hitch” that lets him operate two Hesston small square balers at the same time behind his Deere 4450 tractor.

Banman bought a new Hesston 4590 baler to run alongside his existing Hesston 4600. The balers attach to 8-in. sq. hitch bar made out of a pull-type combine hitch. The hitch bar mounts on a two-wheeled cart made from the undercarriage of a New Holland manure spreader. A splitter gearbox, salvaged from an old pull-type beet harvester, mounts in the middle of the hitch bar. A pair of 7-ft. long pto shafts extend out in each direction from the splitter gearbox to a pair of 90 degree gearboxes mounted at either end of the hitch that drive the balers’ original pto shafts.

“I made about 6,000 bales with it last summer with no problems,” says Banman. “I was able to make about 500 bales per hour. Baling twice as much hay per hour allows me to bale more hay at optimum moisture levels, which usually occur between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. With a single baler, I had been putting up about 60% of my hay crop at the optimum moisture level. My twin baler allows me to put up about 80% of my crop at the optimum moisture

level in most years. I spent about \$1,800 to build the hitch.

“I figured it was cheaper to build the hitch and buy a second baler than it was to use preservatives or drying agents. I drop the bales on the ground and pick them up later with an automatic bale wagon.”

Banman says one disadvantage is that for custom baling he’s limited to fields with swaths spaced 14 ft. apart. He plans to modify the hitch with a telescoping system that will let him bale varying bale swaths. Another disadvantage is increased operator fatigue from watching two balers. He uses a 150 hp tractor to pull both balers and says his hitch could probably be used to power other equipment but he hasn’t tried anything else yet. For road transport he hooks the hitch cart up behind one of the balers and uses it to pull the other baler. “It takes only about 5 min. to switch from field to transport position,” notes Banman.

He used 4-in. sq. steel tubing to make a pair of short hitches that weld to each end of the hitch bar. The angle-drive gearboxes were salvaged from old pull-type combines. The gears in one drive were reversed to turn the baler pto shaft in the right direction.

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Kit Mounts Kinze Seed Units On Deere 750 Drill

If you own a Deere 750 no-till drill, you’ll be interested in this conversion kit that lets you replace the drill’s original metering units with brush-type seed metering units designed to mount on Kinze and Deere row crop planters.

The idea is the brainchild of Gary Beek and Dennis McWilliams, who both farm near Greene, Iowa. They mounted Kinze metering units on their 15-ft. drills for their own use and then came up with a kit that’s now being manufactured by American Tool & Engineering. To install, you remove the drill’s hopper and existing metering unit, then bolt on a special-built manifold to which you bolt the Kinze units. All parts mount using existing bolt holes and you still use the drill’s original drive unit.

“Deere 750 no-till drills are the best on

the market. They have good depth control, but I wanted more accurate population control than the drill’s original metering system could offer,” says Beek. “It’s difficult to adjust seeding rates on the drill because of bean size variations. Big soybeans get ground up and smaller beans drop into the seed tubes together. With the Kinze brush units, I not only know exactly what my seeding rates are, I also know seeds are being dropped one at a time. We don’t permanently modify drill at all so you can convert back without affecting resale value.”

The manifold sells for \$3,000. Kinze metering units sell for \$100 apiece.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, American Tool & Engineering, Inc., 410 W. Traer, Box 599, Greene, Iowa 50636 (ph 515 823-4921).



Tractor steers at rear like a combine and has front-mount deck.

FITTED WITH A FULL COMBINE CAB

Home-Built Yard Tractor Features “Comfort Cab”

By Bonnie Heidtke

When Jon Nelson set out to build his own yard tractor, he wanted to prove that he could build a machine that would be both fun and functional. He says he succeeded with his “Lawn-Jon” tractor that he uses for mowing grass and blowing snow.

In fact, he says it’s such a success, he plans to build them for sale.

Powered by an 88-hp, 4-cyl. Pinto car engine that’ll propel it at speeds up to 50 mph on the highway, the unusual-looking tractor is fitted with a full cab off an old combine. The cab provides shade in summer and is heated for winter work. Nelson says you could easily equip it with air conditioning. It’s fitted with a stereo and a comfortable seat with a backrest.

The engine shroud on back was taken off the back end of a combine and reshaped to fit the mower.

The tractor steers at the rear like a combine which Nelson says gives it excellent maneuverability. He can mow at speeds up to 15 mph so he drives the mower blades on the 6-ft. deck at 4,000 rpm’s compared to normal speed of 3,000 rpm. To supply the extra power needed to cut grass at high speed, he fitted the deck with two drive belts rather than just one.

With the front-mount deck and rear steering, Nelson says the mower eliminates the need for hand-trimming. “You can whiz up real tight to vehicles, doors and buildings. You can see both sides of the mower deck easily thanks to the windowed cab,” he notes.

Good visibility also makes the tractor ideal for snowblowing. And because the weight of the cab and blower is over the drive wheels, no chains are needed.

The tractor’s driven by an automatic transmission that chain-drives the front drive axle (it’s a cut-down Ford pickup rear end) through gear reduction sprockets to get the slower speeds needed for mowing grass and blowing snow.

The tractor took Nelson, who runs a manufacturing firm, about 1,500 hrs. to build but he says he could complete models on order in about 30 days. He already sold the prototype and has had a number of inquiries through word of mouth. “It’s fun to drive yet gets a lot of work done,” he says, adding that he’s selling units for \$4,500.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jon Nelson, Nelson Industries Corp., 12329 SW 8, Stewartville, Minn. 55976 (ph 507 533-4815).



Kinze brush-type seed metering units bolt on in place of drill’s original metering units.