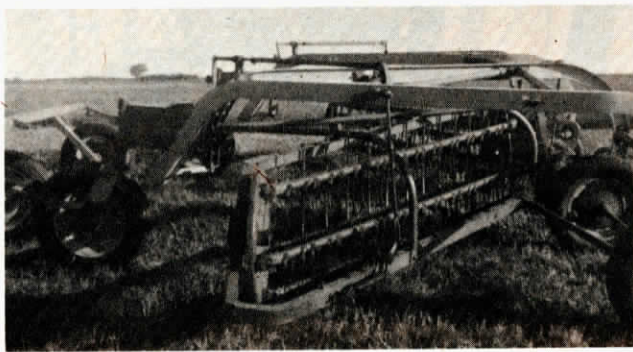


Made It Myself

(Continued from previous page)



“Reversed” Rake Speeds Haymaking

To rake and bale hay faster, brothers Ray and Roger Walter, of Plummer, Minn. — who already owned a 2-wheel Deere model 894 hay rake — purchased a second one and had it “reversed” by their local welder so it would throw hay at a 45° angle in the opposite direction of the first rake. They paid \$300 for the rake and spent about \$500 to reverse it.

By pulling the two 9 ft. wide rakes together behind each end of a dolly hitched to the tractor, they now have a combined 18 ft. raking width. They can roll two swaths into one large double windrow that’s just right for their big round baler.

The gear-driven, 2-wheel model 894 rakes were originally designed to be mounted directly to the tractor drawbar. To pull them behind the dolly, the Walters added a third wheel, taken from an old grain drill, in front. Ahead of this wheel, a hitch connects the rake to the dolly, which is made of 2 by 2 in. steel tubing. A tube inside can be moved in or

out to adjust distance between rakes, and size of the windrow.

To reverse direction of the teeth, the local welder completely dismantled the cage. He cut off the drive from the right side and moved it to the left side. Using a torch, he heated up the teeth and bent them in the opposite direction. Then, he rewelded the teeth together.

“Because these rakes are equipped with parallel wheels, we didn’t have to change the main frame of the rake,” notes Ray. “On rakes with staggered wheels, you’d have to change the main frame. And, on some new rakes, one wheel is in front of the other so there’s no room to run the cage on the other side.”

To transport the rakes, one is hooked to the middle of the dolly and the other is pinned behind it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ray Walter, Plummer, Minn. 56748 (ph 218 465-4400).

ATV “Tow Bar”

Towing one ATV behind another ATV, tractor or implement can save a lot of steps, says Bob Roberts, Huntsville, Utah, who made his own ATV “tow bar.”

The “tow bar” consists of two 18-in. long, 1/2-in. dia. pipes, welded together to form a “V”. Each pipe is bolted to a plate fastened to the bottom of the wheel yoke, just above the axle pin. When the “tow bar” is not in use, Roberts can quickly remove it by removing a cotter pin from each bolt. Or, he can raise the “tow bar” up out of the way and tie the hitch to the ATV’s front carrier rack.

“We use the ‘tow bar’ often while repairing fence in high mountain range country,” says Roberts, who owns about 15 miles of fence spread over 5 farms. “I drop one ATV off where I’ll finish fencing, then I drive to my starting point and start walking the fence. When I reach the ATV that I dropped off, I simply drive it back to the starting point, hitch the ATV up, and go home. It saves walking back several miles with all my tools.”

The “tow bar” also comes in handy for towing an ATV behind a tractor or implement, says Roberts. “You can drive to a



field, drop off the tractor or implement, and ride the ATV back home instead of having to walk back or have someone pick you up.”

The hitch is mounted low, even with the front axle, so it won’t tip over even on rough terrain, says Roberts.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Roberts, 8391 E. 500S., Huntsville, Utah 84317 (ph 801 745-3063).



“Backwards” Loader

“Most loader tractors are designed wrong. The weight of the loader should be positioned over the rear driving wheels rather than the front steering wheels,” says James McDougall, Dover, Minn.

McDougall solved the problem on his own International 656 hydrostatic drive chore tractor by mounting his Schwartz front-end loader on the back of the tractor and reversing the controls.

“I mounted the main frame of the loader on the tractor normally and then put the rest of the loader on backwards. The loader arms clear the rear axle of the tractor the same way they cleared the wide axle in front. I exchanged the seat with the steering post and gas tank, which I moved to the rear, and converted the hydrostatic drive lever to a foot pedal.

“I made a quick-tach hitch to make quick switches between bucket and fork. It consists of two half-moon cams, controlled by a small hydraulic cylinder, which pull or push wedges to lock or unlock. I can change buckets in seconds from the tractor seat.

“This loader tractor now has great traction and is much easier to operate. Because it has hydrostatic drive, you can change speeds and direction as fast as you can change foot pedals. It turns on a dime and is very stable. We use it for loading manure, silage, hay and straw. We can still use the pto and hydraulic outlets.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James McDougall, Rt. 1, Box 92, Dover, Minn. 55929.

“No-Chute” Upright Silo

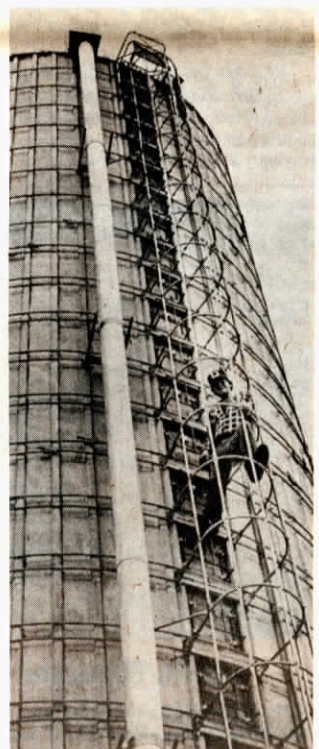
Robert Slattery’s neighbors can’t figure out why he hasn’t put a chute on the silo he built last May. But Slattery, a dairy farmer near Rudolph, Wis., can’t figure out why anyone thinks their silo needs a chute.

Slattery and his son, Matt, put up a 20 by 70 ft. concrete stave silo. Unlike conventional silos, this silo has no chute and no separate ladder next to its blower pipe. Instead, they built the blower pipe just to the left of the row of doors, which are protected by a cage. By saving the cost of the chute and ladder, Slattery figures he saved \$1,000.

“The key to making this design work is a top unloading, bottom discharging distributor-unloader. It’s more expensive than a conventional silo unloader, but saving the cost of the chute and ladder made it affordable,” says Slattery, noting that chutes are the source of many silo problems. “Farmers trapped in silo chutes can be poisoned by silo gas. With this silo, there’s no place for gas to collect. Doors on conventional silos often freeze shut. That’s less likely to happen on this silo because the sun can shine on the doors. It’s easier to service the silo unloader because the doors let in a lot of light. And the person on the ground can see what the person at the top of the silo is doing, and each can hear the other.”

As the silo is filled, the unloader-distributor, which is at the bottom of the silo, raises itself and forms a 19-in. dia. hole through the haylage at the center of the silo. It also levels the silage.

To empty the silo, Slattery reverses the motor. It augers silage to the center and



Laura Sternweis photo courtesy The Country Today

drops it through the hole.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Slattery, 898 County Trunk, Rudolph, Wis. 54475 (ph 715 435-3332).