



Width adjusts by adding, removing spacers. Height adjusts by moving center hitch point up, down.

BOLT-IN SECTIONS CHANGE HITCH WIDTH

Farmer-Built Variable Width 3-Pt. Hitch

"As a part time farmer with small fields, I've always liked the maneuverability of 3-pt. mounted equipment. The only problem is hooking up," says Charles E. Hill, Lynn, Ind.

"Hooking up a 4,000-lb. chisel plow to a 12,000-lb. tractor can be a real chore and a safety hazard. So I went out to buy a quick hitch and put it on my tractor. When I went to hook up to my chisel plow, I discovered to my amazement that the vertical distance between the lower hitch points and top point were not compatible. I then tried it on my moldboard plow and discovered the horizontal distance between the two lower points was not compatible. I took the hitch off the tractor and returned it.

"Later I was talking to my wife's brother and learned he had experienced the same problem. The quick hitch he bought would only fit one piece of his equipment.

"That got me thinking and, after measuring my equipment, I decided I could modify a quick hitch to make it universal. I went back to the farm supply store and bought back the hitch I had returned.

"What I did was to modify the hitch so it can be set at two different widths and so that the vertical distance between the top hitch point and lower hitch points could be set at two different points. Horizontal width is adjusted by simply adding or removing two bolt-in-place spacers, and vertical height is adjusted by moving the third arm attachment point up and down.



Photo shows removable sections next to hitch.

"I used a Skil saw with a cut-off blade to cut two chunks out of the top beam on the hitch. Although the spacers are 3 in. wide, you actually have to cut out 3 1/2 in. to compensate for the 1/4-in. plates that weld back into the opening. Then you weld plates onto either end of each spacer, and drill holes so you can quickly bolt them into place, or take them out and bolt the two plates on the hitch together. I used grade 8 1/2-in. bolts to hold them together.

"I used 17-in. long pieces of 1/4-in. plate steel to modify the top hitch point. The hitch point can be moved to two different positions between the vertically-mounted plates.

"If enough people are interested in this modification, I will take the time to document the details of these modifications."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Charles E. Hill, Rt. 2, Box 131, Lynn, Ind. 47355 (ph 317 874-1507).

Fly Tag Applicator Doubles As Remover

"As a veterinarian, I'm always looking for ways to save time. I've come up with an attachment for conventional ear tag pliers that lets me remove an old tag and apply the new one at the same time. It eliminates the need to carry a knife or other attachment to cut off the old tag," says Dr. R.C. Ebert II, of Pleasant Hill, Mo.

The attachment is a notched steel block equipped with a pair of blades. You hook the attachment on the button of the old tag and pull it toward you to cut off the button. Then place the new tag between the jaws of the pliers and squeeze the tag on.

To attach the block, Ebert uses a drill to make a pair of holes in the pliers and then screws the block on.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Add-on attachment uses V-shaped blade to slice off old tags.

R.C. Ebert II, DVM, 601 N. Highway 7, Pleasant Hill, Mo. 64080 (ph 800 676-2164 or 816 987-2164).



It takes only about 30 seconds to wrap a bale with Niermann's home-built wrapper.

"WORKS AS GOOD AS COMMERCIAL UNITS"

Bale Wrapper Fits Skid Steer Loader

An Illinois farmer who wanted to wrap round bales but didn't have a tractor equipped with a 3-pt. hitch solved the problem by building a bale wrapper for his Bobcat skid steer loader.

Steve Niermann of Chester came up with the bale wrapper to protect his bales over the winter. It's mounted on his skid steer's quick tach loading arms.

"It works good and cost only about \$300 to build," says Niermann, who used the bale wrapper last summer to wrap over 200 bales. "Commercial 3-pt. bale wrappers sell for about \$3,000 so I saved a lot of money. Also, I didn't have to buy a 3-pt. or another tractor. I use it to wrap both dry and high-moisture bales."

The bale wrapper consists of a round, 3/8-in. thick steel plate fitted with a large spear and four small ones. The unit mounts on a steel frame made from 2-in. sq. steel tubing. A hydraulic motor mounted on the frame belt-drives a pulley on the back side of the steel plate. A commercial bale wrap arm, which Niermann bought for \$75, extends out to one side. It holds a roll of 30-

in. wide plastic that slides forward or back on a rail.

Niermann and his wife do the bale wrapping together. He spears the bale and raises it, while his wife ties the plastic onto a bale string. He then rotates the bale while his wife slides the roll of plastic back and forth to cover the bale.

"It takes only about 30 seconds to wrap a bale," says Niermann. "The motor turns at 50 rpm's and would have rotated the bale too fast so I had to slow it down. I wanted to chain drive the bale wrapper but I couldn't find the right size sprockets to gear the motor down. I solved the problem by mounting a 4-in. dia. pulley on the motor and a 19-in. dia. one on the steel plate. I salvaged the pulleys and idler wheel off an old Massey Ferguson combine. My bales are about 40 in. long and weigh only 500 to 600 lbs. Big 2,000-lb. bales might cause the belts to slip, so chains would work better."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve Niermann, 141 Lochhead Dr., Chester, Ill. 62233 (ph 618 826-4697).

Giant Mexican Corn Thrives In Iowa

"After you published my letter last spring (Vol. 19, No. 2) about the giant corn my wife had brought back from Mexico, I heard from a number of readers who wanted some seed to try," says Marion Sexton, Riverside, Iowa. "It took me a while to find someone coming from Mexico but I finally got some seed. I planted the corn in the picture on May 26th in mud but it grew to nearly 20 ft. by fall. My daughter is standing in the middle of the corn in the photo (the dark spot at center).

"There are as many as three ears of corn on each stalk. On some stalks, ears start at about 13 ft. off the ground and the highest ears are as high as 16 ft. Many of the stalks are as high as 19 ft. We got caught by frost in September just as the ears were developing, so we didn't get any seed."

Sexton will send out a handful of seed for \$1.50, including postage.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marion Sexton, 3220 130th St., Riverside, Iowa 52327 (ph 319 648-3157).



Sexton's daughter is at center in photo, dwarfed by giant corn.