Photo shows pull-type Deere 3800 chopper carried on front 3-pt. of Versatile's Bi-Directional 276.

ALL THE ADVANTAGES OF A FACTORY-MADE SELF-PROPELLED FOR MUCH LESS COST

"Turn Around" Kit For Pull-Type Choppers

"You get all the advantages of a factory-made, self-propelled silage chopper for a lot less cost," says Charles Thor, inventor-manufacturer of a unique kit that adapts pull-type forage choppers for front hitching.

Instead of pulling it, you push it, operating at 5 to 6 mph. And, instead of tying up a lot of money in a power unit, you use the tractor you already own to provide the power, explains Thor who has made several key improvements in his adapter kit since it was first featured in FARM SHOW seven years ago (Vol. 4, No. 1, 1980).

He's redesigned the chopper's blower pipe which, initially, had a curve in it that occasionally plugged when chopping wet, sticky material. The new pipe (8 in. dia. and 12 ft. long) has no curve whatsoever and provides enough "blast force" to direct freshly-chopped material, regardless of how wet or sticky, into the far end of a long, trailing wagon, Thor points out.

He also revamped the blower (32 in. dia.) itself. Originally, it was mounted on the cutter head shaft and turned in the same direction. He now powers the blower via a separate gear case. It, and the cutter head, turn in opposite directions, causing chopped material to flow to the outer edge of the fan for greater propelling force in blowing material back and into the trailing wagon. "We run the fan at 650 rpm's but can adjust speed up or down simply by changing pulley sizes," Thor points out.

His kit will adapt to most newer makes of forage choppers — including Deere 3940 and the older 3800 — to conventional tractors, or to Versatile's new Bi-Directional model 276 which, says Thor, is "tailor-made" for the conversion.

For conventional tractors not equipped with a front pto or 3 pt., Thor supplies a special hookup which transfers pto power (from the rear of the tractor) through an enclosed roller chain and from it — via a long extension shaft running alongside the tractor — to the front-hitched chopper. The converted chopper rides on "dolly" wheels and follows ground contours independent of the tractor itself. (The "dolly" wheels aren't needed when mounting the chopper on Versatile's Bi-Directional tractor.)

"Our converted chopper, with a 2-wheel silage wagon behind so a lot of weight is transferred to the tractor hitch, will go through mud and other tough sledding that a regular self-propelled silage chopper can't get through. Our unit will also go over ditches and up steep banks that a factory-made unit can't handle. Another advantage in converting to self-propelled is that you don't get any down rows when opening the field," Thor notes.

Other key features of his conversion kit include automatic control of the discharge spout to allow cutting around sharp curves without any spillage of material; and a special hitch which allows the driver to hitch and unhitch silage wagons without leaving the driver's seat.

Cost of the complete conversion, with 3 row head, is right at $20,000. "That's about one-fifth the going rate for a factory-made, self-propelled chopper," says Thor.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Custom Made Equipment, Charles Thor, President, Box 654, Hutchinson, Minn. 55350 (ph 612 587-2380).

Thor equips conventional tractors with pto-transfer and "dolly" wheels to "push" pull-type choppers.

Epoxy's also applied to manger and feedbunks because it's smoother on a cow's tongue than rough concrete.

ACID-RESISTANT BARN FLOOR COVERING LASTS 4 TO 5 TIMES AS LONG

Epoxy Floor Coating "Better Than Concrete"

If you've got worn-down barn floors in your barns that need rebuilding, you'll want to take a look at these new acid-resistant "Even Floor" epoxy coverings that outlast concrete 4 to 5 times.

"One of the big advantages of an epoxy coating, in addition to its durability, is that it cures in just 3 to 4 hours so you can put the barn back into service the same day, unlike concrete," says Sid Sitterding, sales manager for Even-Flo, noting that the company has found many uses for epoxy coatings.

"In addition to dairy barn floors, we also apply epoxy to mangers and feedbunks because it's much smoother on a cow's tongue than rough concrete. It can also be used for general repair and beautification of concrete block walls in any farm building, and the components used in the manufacture of the epoxy have been FDA approved for use where contact with human and animal food is necessary. Epoxy can also be used to bond old concrete to new concrete by putting a thin layer between the two, and it's become popular as a replacement for steel floors in Harvestore® silos," says Sitterding.

The widest use for Even Floor epoxy has been to rebuild pitted concrete floors in dairy barns and milking parlors. It can be used to totally rebuild the floor and bring it back up to an even grade that allows water to flow evenly to drains.

To apply, concrete is cleaned with high pressure washers and then the coating is applied at thicknesses ranging from ⅛ to 1-in. thick, depending on the condition of the floor.

"Because it resists the effects of acid and moisture, these coatings will outlast concrete 4 to 5 times. And, because it cures so fast, you can apply it and be back in operation in one day," notes Sitterding.

Even-Floor epoxy coatings are applied by trained crews operating throughout the country. Grit can be added to create a non-slip surface. Sitterding says it's difficult to estimate cost because of the varying conditions of floors but, in general, a ⅛-in. thick coating costs about $2.50 per sq. ft. Epoxy coatings can also be used on steel.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Even-Flo, Inc., 405 Farabee Drive, Layfayette, Ind. 47905 (ph 317 448-1508).