Made It Myself

(Continued from previous page)

3-Pt. Adapter Adjusts To Any Implement Width

"My 3-pt. hitch adapter works better than a conventional quick hitch because it adjusts to fit different implement widths," says Ken Braun, Braun Custom Lathe & Milling, Fort Wayne, Ind.

The adapter consists of two hooks that attach to the lift arms and a 1-in. wide "spreader bar" that mounts in between. The 2-piece spreader bar telescopes in and out as needed and is held in place by two spring-loaded carriage bolts. The width of the hitch arms can be widened or narrowed as needed to fit any width implement.

"It really works slick," says Braun. "I built it because it seems like none of my implements are the same width. I always had to have another person hold the lift arms apart while I backed up the tractor."

Spring-loaded locks flip down over the hitch pins to hold the implement securely in place once it's hooked up.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kenneth Braun, Braun Custom Lathe & Milling, 8110 Wayne Trace, Fort Wayne, Ind. 46816 (ph 219 447-1282).

Oliver Tractor Repowered With Chrysler V-8 Gas Engine

Old Oliver tractors can be repowered inexpensively with Chrysler V-8 gas engines, says Ken Phillips, East Otto, N.Y., who replaced the Waukesha engine on his Oliver 1755 tractor with a 318 cu. in. Chrysler V-8 gas engine.

Phillips bought the tractor from a friend for $1,000. The tractor had a bad engine and was sitting out in a field. He pulled the tractor home along with a pickup load of parts including the hood and the engine, which had been removed. He bought a Chrysler engine from another friend for $125 and had machinist Joe Detrick make adaptors to connect the engine to the tractor's flywheel. He fabricated a steel housing that serves as an engine mount and also connects the engine and transmission bell housing. Two pillow block bearings support the weight of the flywheel. A Falk Torus coupling was used in order to dampen engine vibration.

He installed a pair of Chrysler stock manifolds on the engine and had aluminum-coated exhaust pipes custom bent.

The pipes drop below the engine and then up the sides of the tractor.

"It doesn't have the fuel economy of a diesel engine but it runs like a top. The engine looks super clean," says Phillips. "Everything on the tractor works including the 3-pt. and live pto, and it starts right up in cold weather. I use it to plow my driveway and lift stuff out of my pickup. I made steel brackets so I could mount an 8-ft. snow blade on front of the tractor. I mounted a homemade boom on the 3-pt. hitch which I use to lift heavy cargo. The engine came out of a 1984 Chrysler car and had about 60,000 miles on it when I bought it. It has about 130 hp at 4,000 rpm's. However, I run the engine at about 2,100 rpm's. Peak torque is about 1,900 rpm's. I can go about 20 mph on the highway.

"Chrysler engines are inexpensive and widely available, and they're built tough and seem to last forever. I sold the Oliver engine for $450. My total cost was about $1,500."

To mount the blade Phillips bolted a pair of steel plates onto the sides of the tractor, just below the engine, and welded lengths of 3-in. sq., 3/8-in. thick steel tubing onto them to support the blade. A pair of hydraulic cylinders are used to tilt the blade from side to side and another cylinder, mounted on the tractor weights on front of the tractor, is used to raise it up or down. The cylinder acts on a hinged steel arm connected by a chain to the blade.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kenneth Phillips, 7261 Prill Rd., East Otto, N.Y. 14729 (ph 716 257-3739).

Powered Side Walls Heat & Cool

"My cows haven't had frozen teats since I added this system to my 100-cow free stall barn" says William Russ about ten powered side wall panels he installed on the south side of his barn.

Russ used 2 by 4's to build frames for the 8 by 20-ft. panels and nailed clear corrugated roofing to them. He hinged the panels at the top.

He mounted a 1 hp electric motor and gear box off a Knight manure spreader underneath the eves. A 200-ft. long piece of 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe that runs the length of the building runs the gearbox with a U-joint.

The pipe turns in hardwood bearings suspended under the rafters. It raises or lowers the side panels with a series of 1/8-in. dia. cables.

"They provide solar heat in winter and controlled ventilation in summer. They can be raised to any height and left open," Russ says. "Plus, they'll last longer than roll-up type canvas walls. And they allow the use of a feeder wagon from outside the barn to fill bunks, which are just inside the wall."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, William E. Russ, 8309 Mitchell Rd., Roscoe, Ill. 61073 (ph 815 885-3465).

Bucket-Mounted Light Great For Night Work

Alberta winters are long and the days are short so cattleman Stan Harder often finds himself moving round bales before or after daylight. He uses a Deere tractor equipped with a front-end loader and bale spike to do the job, but says the lights on the tractor are set too far back for him to see what he's doing. "All the lights do is illuminate the loader arms or back of the bucket."

Harder solved the problem by mounting one of the tractor lights on top of a 2-ft. length of angle iron that he bolted to one corner of the bucket. He says the repositioned light does the trick. "It turns with the bucket so it follows the bale spike when the bucket is moved up or down, which makes it easy to get the spike correctly positioned in the bale."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stan Harder, Box 86, St. Brides, Alberta, Canada T0A 2Y0 (ph 403 645-1881).