

FARM SHOW[®]

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Vol. 23, No. 3, 1999
\$4.50



Tim Scheetz rebuilt a 1995 Cat Challenger to pull his Seed Hawk planter. He remounted the cab further ahead on the frame and raised it 16 in. A sliding fifth wheel hitch is used to pull the planter, which is fitted with a detachable "gooseneck" hitch (not shown in photo).

Modified Challenger Designed To Pull Planter

By Bill Gergen, Associate Editor

When Illinois farmer Tim Scheetz set out to find "the perfect planter", he decided on a Canadian-built Seed Hawk air seeder that he felt would be able to plant no-till narrow-row corn, beans and wheat without plugging. FARM SHOW featured the planter in our last issue (Vol. 23, No. 2).

To pull the planter, he recently reworked a 1995 Cat Challenger tracked tractor which he bought used this spring. He stripped the \$125,000 tractor down to the frame. Then he remounted the cab further ahead on the frame, raising it 16 in. and reshaping the hood. He also eliminated the back fuel tank and fitted the tractor with saddle tanks. The most important part of the conversion was installing a first-of-its-kind slid-

ing fifth wheel hitch on back of the Challenger frame to pull the planter, which is fitted with a detachable "gooseneck".

Hydraulic-driven roto-tillers mount ahead of the air seeder. A tilting cargo platform and boom pull seed and fertilizer wagons right up onto the planter. Scheetz can even carry an anhydrous or liquid fertilizer wagon right on the planter.

He calls the reworked Challenger a self-propelled "cargo cart" and he used it for the first time this spring. "It's a high flotation system that reduces compaction, increases the payload, and eliminates the need to plant into tire tracks," says Scheetz. "It has really helped out this year. We've had a very wet spring but I've

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