



The 15-ft. length of log chain is "spiked" with 8-in. long steel crossbars welded on at 6-in. intervals. A "wheel rim" weight keeps chain tight so that it stays in contact with soil.

"Spiked" Log Chain Works Seed Into Roadsides

"It's a great way to work grass seed into roadside ditches that are too steep for tractors," says Steve Aggert, Ashland, Ill., who pulls a 15-ft. length of log chain behind his tractor as he drives along the shoulder of the road. The chain is "spiked" with 8-in. long steel crossbars welded on at 6-in. intervals.

A clevis on the drawbar fitted with a pair of swivel hooks allows the chain to tumble as it rolls along. A "wheel rim weight" at the end of the chain keeps the chain tight so that its entire length stays in contact with the soil. The spikes, made from 5/8-in. dia. steel rods, are welded on at a 90 degree angle to the chain so they dig in as the chain turns.

"We use it a lot in our lawn and tree care business," says Aggert. "We sometimes drag the chain back and forth several times to work the ground up even more. The weight keeps the chain working at an angle which improves the digging action. If we have to work a long hillside we can connect two lengths of chain together to cover it all."

Don Moss, a local welder, did most of the work. He welded the crossbars to every fourth link on the chain. To attach the chain to the wheel rim he welded a short length of steel



Drawbar clevis is fitted with a pair of swivel hooks, allowing chain to tumble as it rolls along.

pipe through the rim hole, then welded a steel loop onto the pipe. A clevis attaches the chain to the loop.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Earth Care Lawn & Tree Co., 17484 Sangamon-Menard Co. Rd., Ashland, Ill. 62612 (ph 217 476-8270; fax 8177).



Knepler built a cage around his MF tractor which he uses to pull a Brown Tree Cutter. The pto-powered chopper-mower pushes over trees and cuts them up.

"Caged" Tractor Used To Clear Land

By C.F. Marley

Running a tree removal and land clearing service requires taking on all sorts of tasks. Benny Knepler of Benny's Tree Service in Girard, Ill., clears brush and smaller trees with a Brown Tree Cutter - a pto-powered chopper-mower that lifts up vertically to push over trees and cut them up.

"It's really great for cleaning up all kinds of brush and will handle trees up to 8 in. in dia. I clean out under power lines and along fields," says Knepler.

The problem is that the innovative machine sends chips and other debris flying. Knepler decided to build a cage around his Massey Ferguson 393 tractor. The cage includes "push bars" up front and a protective grille so he can drive right over small trees and brush. And there's a 1/4-in. steel belly plate under the length of the tractor.

The cage is made of heavy-gauge round and square tubing and is covered with expanded metal normally used for industrial catwalks. The cage was built and installed by a local welder.

In addition, the rear tires are forester tires which are steel-plated inside. The front



Cage includes "push bars" up front and a protective grille so Knepler can drive right over small trees and brush.

wheels are fitted with airline tires retreaded with farm tire lugs.

For more information on the Brown Tree Cutter, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brown Mfg. Corp., Rt. 3, Box 339, Hwy. 27 N., Ozark, Al. 36360 ph 800 633-8909 or 334-795-6603; fax 3029).

Or contact Benny Knepler at: FARM SHOW Followup, Benny's Tree Service, R. R. 1, Box 155K, Girard, Ill. 62640 (ph 217 627-3868).

SWINGS ACROSS FULL WIDTH OF PLANTER OR DRILL

Planter-Mounted System Makes Seed Handling Easy

When Kevin Armistead of Adairville, Ky., started using bulk seed to fill planters and drills he used a pneumatic-type seed loading system. But he soon grew tired of carrying the cone-type decelerator and dragging the 3-in. dia. fill hose behind.

He decided to make things easier by building a planter-mounted "air boom" that swings across the full width of his planter.

The "air boom" worked so well he decided to build it for sale and recently put the system on display at the recent National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky.

The boom is designed to be used together with any pneumatic seed blower or grain vac. A vertical steel mast bolts to the center of the planter or drill frame. It's fitted with a hinged two-section steel boom equipped with a cone-type decelerator on one end and a camlock on the other end. Both boom sections swivel 360 degrees. The camlock hooks up to the pressure line on the blower/vac. To fill the planter or drill you just flip an electric switch on the decelerator to start the seed flow, then walk along the catwalk to guide seed from

the decelerator into the seed boxes.

"It completely eliminates the need to do any lifting and also works fast," says Armistead. "Loading capacity is about 4 bu. per minute. We use it to fill our two Deere 750 15-ft. drills. We can fill both drills in only 20 to 25 minutes.

"The 360 degree swiveling action of the booms makes it very easy to use and keeps it from getting caught in anything whenever you walk around the planter or drill. The decelerator mounts high enough to keep dust from seed treatments away from the operator. The entire unit locks into transport position when it's not in use.

"We use it with our Bruning pneumatic blower/vac which I think is by far the best pneumatic conveyor on the market. It costs about \$1,000 more than other pneumatic conveyors but is worth it because it's so versatile. It can be used not only to suck grain but also to blow it. It allows you to suck leftover seed out of the planter or drill. It really comes in handy for anyone who has to change seed varieties often. It also comes in handy for



Planter-mounted "air boom" swings across full width of planter and is designed to be used together with any pneumatic seed blower or grain vac.



Entire unit locks into transport position when it's not in use.

cleaning up grain spills around our farm. My 8-year-old nephew used it to suck up a 200 bu. grain spill in only 30 to 40 minutes."

Armistead notes that the same boom can be used on several different planters or drills

by installing an extra mounting pole on them. Sells for \$1,350 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kevin Armistead, 778 Armistead Rd., Adairville, Ky. 42202 (ph 502 539-9221; fax 9223).