



Extending a cylinder on the Handy-Hitch moves trailing mowers off the road and into the ditch.

Handy-Hitch Helps on Ditchesides

Anybody who's ever mowed the side of a steep ditch knows how dangerous that can be for tractor and operator. Besides potential roll-overs, steep ditchsides can create fluid imbalances that affect lubrication of bearings and differentials.

Handy-Hitch Manufacturing says it has come up with a solution to the problem with a tow unit that transfers power and pull to side-mounted rotary mowers.

Extending a cylinder moves the Handy-Hitch with trailing mowers out of road mode and into the ditch. Tractor and driver stay safe up on the road shoulder.

"We recently beefed up the hitch and

eliminated some wear points," says Dave Schott, Handy Hitch Manufacturing, Inc. "We added safety warning decals as recommended by ASAE, raised a gear box to eliminate an unnecessary angle and increased the shaft diameter at the end of the gearbox that attaches to the mower."

Although Handy Hitch's main customers are local and state government agencies, farmers and others who contract to mow local ditches are also interested. Using the Handy-Hitch, agricultural tractors can safely handle road ditches which might otherwise require industrial tractors with their lower centers of gravity. The hydraulic motor-driven pto outlets provide power where it's needed, on the sides of the road.

One model powers a 5-ft. mower with one 5-ft. batwing deck (at 540 or 1,000 rpm's). Another model powers one 5-ft. mower with two batwing decks.

Prices start at \$5,900 (\$8,555 Canadian). Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Handy Hitch Mfg. Inc., 35 Trottier Bay, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3T 3R3 (ph 204 284-5252).



A pair of hydraulic cylinders is used to fold up wings on 30-ft. header.

12-Row Folding Corn Head

Harvestec of Oakville, Ontario, is getting ready to bring a 12-row folding corn head to U.S. and Canadian farmers.

Built in Europe, Harvestec will have North American distribution rights. A pair of hydraulic cylinders is used to fold up wings on the 30-ft. header.

"No other 12-row corn head built in North America can be folded. It will make road transport much easier and safer," says Bill Helm. "The only other folding header available in North America is built by Geringhoff in Germany. It's equipped with stalk choppers which greatly adds to the weight - and price."

Units will be available next year. No price has been set.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harvestec, 1124 Mayfair Rd., Oakville, Ontario, Canada L6M 1G8 (ph 888 432-3271).



Jerry Hinrichsen's house is a 42-year-old Harvestore silo. The 19-year-old college student lives in it with his older brother Eric.

Harvestore Converted Into Cozy Little Home

"It's like living in a tall tin can," says Jerry Hinrichsen whose house is a 42-year-old Harvestore silo located on a farm his father, Chuck, bought eight or 10 years ago.

The 19-year-old Goodfield, Ill., college student lives in the recently converted silo with his older brother Eric, 20. The Hinrichsens did all the work themselves, including electrical and plumbing work, and installed the electric furnace and water heater. The furnace and water heater are hidden beneath a circular stairway that goes to the top of the silo.

"I just got a wild hair one day," says Chuck. "It was structurally very sound and I figured this would give Jerry and Eric a place of their own. They're only about 100 yds. from Mom and Dad."

The silo is 40-ft. tall and 17-ft. in dia., with a 4-ft. thick concrete foundation.

The hardest part of the conversion, which took five months beginning a year ago in February, proved to be finding a way around the foundation.

"We had to build an entry point to protect the plumbing, instead of trying to go through 4 ft. of solid concrete," Chuck says.

Another challenge was getting the 2 1/2-in. thick foam insulation to stick to the glass-lined "walls". A special water-based epoxy primer was applied about 1 ml. thick with an airless paint sprayer by a local insulating contractor.

The insulated walls were then sprayed with a white acrylic latex to seal them. Holes were next cut in the walls for the double-paned, thermal efficient windows, one on each side of the top three floors. Braces were welded to the walls to support the stair steps as were brackets for the floor joists, which were covered with plywood.

The four-story silo house has about 200



Furnace and water heater are hidden beneath a circular stairway that leads to top of silo.

sq. ft. of living space per floor.

The first floor is the bathroom and kitchen, complete with cabinets, countertops, sink and appliances.

The second floor is the living room furnished with a couple of sectional couches, TV and stereo.

The third and fourth floors are the brothers' bedrooms.

Out-of-pocket expense was \$5,000, with more than half of that going for foam insulation.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jerry or Eric Hinrichsen, R.R. 1 Box 5, Goodfield, Ill. 61742 (ph 309 965-2959).

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Harold M. Johnson

Founder & Publisher Emeritus

Editor/Publisher - Mark Newhall

Associate Editor - Bill Gergen

Contributing Editor - Mick Lane

Office Manager - Anne Lash

Circulation Manager - Nora Petree

Circulation - Marcy Isaacson

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