

Gooseneck-Mounted Mower Deck “Turns On A Dime”

“It’s the best invention I’ve come up with in 45 years of farming and is worth its weight in gold,” says Ken Reynolds, Linesville, Penn., about the 60-in. mower deck he mounted on front of his 1981 Cub Lo Boy tractor. “It works great for mowing fence corners and ditches and also eliminates a lot of hand trimming around trees on buildings.”

The front of the deck is equipped with a home-built gooseneck ball hitch that allows the mower to swivel 360 degrees when turning or backing up.

Reynolds started with a 60-in. AcrEase mower that he bought new for \$1,600 (Kunze Engineering, Mendota, Ill. ph 815 539-6954). The mower came with three blades and a 12 1/2 hp engine. It was designed to be pulled off to the side of a small riding mower. The deck rides on the original four pneumatic wheels - two rigid wheels on back and two castor wheels on front.

Reynolds made a gooseneck hitch out of 2-in. dia. steel pipe. To make the ball hitch on the deck, he removed the tongue and then cut off part of a trailer ball hitch and welded it to a 1/4-in. thick steel plate that he bolted to the deck. He bent the pipe to clear the

engine on top of the deck. The gooseneck attaches to the tractor with a 1-in. dia. pin that extends horizontally through steel plates bolted to both sides of the tractor. It allows the hitch to pivot up or down with the terrain.

The gooseneck pipe spins freely on the ball hitch, so whenever Reynolds makes a turn or backs up, the mower deck is free to swivel left or right.

“I came up with the idea two years ago and use it to mow my 5-acre lawn and also my horse pasture. It works great for mowing in fence corners because as soon as I turn, the mower deck automatically swivels 90 degrees. There’s only a little unmowed grass left in the corner. It also works great for mowing back and forth along ditches. If the ditch is too steep to drive into it, I can shove the mower into the ditch for a ways and then back out. As I back out the mower will make a 180 degree turn.

“The 60-in. deck cuts a little wider than the tractor wheels. The only problem is that the front castor wheels could be little bigger, because in soft ground the wheels tend to bog down a little.”

He stores the mower’s original tongue on



The 60-in. AcrEase mower deck mounts on front of Reynolds’s Lo Boy tractor. Gooseneck ball hitch allows mower to swivel 360 degrees when turning or backing up.

one side of the mower. “If I want, I can remove the gooseneck hitch, re-install the original hitch, and pull so the mower behind the tractor. It works great at an offset angle to mow ditches. It takes only about 10

minutes to make the switch,” he notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Reynolds, 15826 Shermanville Rd., Linesville, Penn. 16424 (ph 814 683-4890).



Post puller uses a pair of angled “tooth bars” to bite into post before pulling it out of the ground.

Skid Steer-Mounted Post Puller Also Works On Trees

“It’ll pull a big wood post in as little as 25 seconds. It’ll even pull posts set in concrete,” says inventor Steve Snapp about his new Snapco skid steer-mounted post puller.

The “Snap Jack” was introduced at the recent National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky. It weighs 900 lbs. and is designed to quick tach to the loader arms. It consists of a large steel frame with a three-sided base that encloses a pair of angled “tooth bars”. The tooth bars are mounted about 1 ft. off the ground and are equipped with a series of 2-in. long tapered teeth at the top. The bars are raised or lowered by hydraulic cylinders. Big steel springs on both sides of the frame apply constant side pressure to the bars as the teeth bite into the post.

“It works fast, with a breakout force of over

40,000 lbs. of pressure so it has amazing pulling power,” says Snapp. “I used it on my farm to pull 200 posts in only about one hour. It also works great for pulling out small trees. In fact, I originally designed it to pull trees but discovered it works great on posts, too. It pushes against the ground around the tree or post - the skid loader itself doesn’t lift anything until you’ve loosened up what you’re pulling. As a result, it can pull out 6 to 10-in. dia. cedar trees. It has a maximum opening width of about 12 inches.

“The teeth bolt on so they’re replaceable, and can be sharpened.”

Sells for \$2,900.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Snapco Incorporated, 3060 U.S. Hwy. 27S, Cynthiana, Ky. 41031 (ph 859 234-8267; Website: www.snapco.net).



Kit turns any ATV into a self-propelled weed wiper. Crank shown above is operated manually and lets you raise or lower height of wiper on-the-go right from the seat.

ATV Weed Wiper Kit

“It’s a cost-efficient way to control weeds anywhere unwanted vegetation grows, especially in areas that might otherwise be difficult to get to,” says Ron Lubke, Quality Metal Works, Stanford, Ill., about his company’s new kit that turns any ATV into a self-propelled weed wiper.

The kit consists of a bracket that supports a Speidel weed wiper, which mounts horizontally on the ATV’s front or rear rack, or vertically on the front bumper. A crank U-bolts onto the bracket directly ahead of the ATV handlebars and can be operated either manually or with an optional electric lift that operates off the ATV battery. The crank lets you raise or lower the height of the wiper on-the-go right from the seat.

The kit handles wipers from about 6 ft. wide up to about 13 ft. The range of vertical adjustment is 32 in. for the hand-cranked model and 40 in. for the electric lift.

“It’s a low-cost alternative to pull-type carts, and lets you go faster and also get into tighter areas or rougher terrain,” says Lubke. “A lot of farmers have told us they don’t want big, expensive pull-type carts which sell for up to \$3,000 or more. Mounting the wiper on the ATV keeps the cost down. The ATV’s suspension system absorbs bumps and allows you to go much faster than is possible with



Optional electric lift operates off ATV battery.

pull-type carts. Many farmers tell us they go up to 15 or even 20 mph in row crops. The speed depends on the height variation between the weeds and the crop.

“The canvas-wrapped, valve-controlled Speidel wick doesn’t require a tank, pump, or ropes, making it simple to mount and easy to use. Enough herbicide is carried inside the wick to last for most of the day,” notes Lubke.

Sells for \$225 (wiper not included). The electric lift model sells for \$410.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Quality Metal Works, Box 358, Stanford, Ill. 61774 (ph 309 379-5311; Website: www.qualitymetalworks.com).