Harry Thompson's tractor-mounted "stripper" harvester is designed to strip seed from any standing loose-headed grass or small grain crop.

Machine is equipped with a 20-ft. wide stripper head on front with a 3-pt. mounted grain tank on back.

By Bill Gergen, Senior Editor

Tractor-Mounted "Stripper" Harvester

Harvesting small grains under light load and green stem conditions is hard on conventional combines, and on their operators. Harry Thompson of Lohman, Mo., came up with an alternative - a tractor-mounted "stripper" harvester designed to strip the seed from any standing loose-headed grass or small grain crop. It then cleans and transfers the seed using a vacuum air system.

"I can use my machine on most warm and cool season grasses, and possibly on rice, oats and other loose-headed small grains," says Thompson.

Parts for the machine were scavenged from three combines, a row crop cultivator, a portable mix-mill, and brushes from three street sweeper brooms. Various sealed bearings, shafts, pulleys, belts and structural steel were bought new.

"My out-of-pocket cost was only about $1,600," says Thompson.

The machine is equipped with a 20-ft. wide broom stripper head on front and a 3-pt. mounted, pto-driven vacuum cleaning system on back. To make the stripper head, Thompson used discarded street broom wafers which he trimmed to a uniform 18-in. diameter, then mounted on a rotating drum. The drum is powered by a hydraulic motor and can rotate in either direction. The head attaches to the front weight block of an 80 plus hp tractor and is raised and lowered by a hydraulic cylinder.

Once seed is stripped, it's collected by a cross auger and vacuumed to the rear of the tractor by the 3-pt.-mounted blower. Seed is pulled into a tank mounted on the blower frame, and then the chaff is blown from the tank out the top exhaust damper. An auger unloads the grain from the tank.

Some of the adjustments that Thompson can make to the machine include varying ground speed, changing the stripper drum speed by means of a hydraulic motor, and adjusting the concave distance. For a more aggressive threshing action, the operator can reverse the stripper drum rotation and add an optional header hood.

Platform that stripper head mounts on folds to a transport width of 12 ft.

The platform that the stripper head mounts on folds to a transport width of 12 ft. "Using storage stands, I can remove the sweeper from the tractor in only about 30 minutes," says Thompson.

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Agracat imports low-cost Asian ATV's and tractors from China and South Korea.

Inexpensive Chinese ATV's

A company called Agracat has begun importing low-cost Asian ATV's and tractors from China and South Korea. Currently they have 50cc, 100cc, 150cc, and 250cc ATV's as well as three models of mid-size tractors.

"It comes from an Asian company that manufactures many of the cell phone and TV parts we use on a daily basis, and have been making ATV's and tractors for a couple years," says Darrell Pool of Agracat. "Already their tractors have a better quality rating than Deere, and because of the large quantities made, they can keep the prices down at the same time. Their ATV's are of similar high quality."

The 250cc ATV has an independent A-frame suspension with pre-load adjustable shocks, dual drum and hydraulic disc brakes, 5-speed manual transmission and a full instrument panel. "Most aftermarket products for ATV's will work with our models," says Pool. "The base model comes with equipment racks in the front and rear."

Several dealers and distributors already handle Agracat tractors.

Prices range from $999 to $2,999.

Agracat is strictly an importer. For the name of a local dealer, Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, (ph 866 AGRACAT (247-2228); website: www.agracat.com).

Pat Prom made this 5-ft. wide, 3-pt. mounted landscape drag by welding together a series of car wheel rims.

3-Pt. Mounted "Wheel Rim" Drag

Patrick Prom, Eden Prairie, Minn., made a 5-ft. wide, 3-pt. mounted landscape drag by welding together a series of car wheel rims.

The drag is made out of two rows of rims - three in front and two in back. He laid the rims on a concrete floor and welded them together edge to edge. He used rectangular tubing and flat metal to build a 3-pt. bracket that bolts to the front row of rims. The rims are connected to the 3-pt. hitch by three short lengths of drag chains, which allow the rims to float up and down over uneven terrain.

"I use it to grade my driveway. It does a super job," says Prom. "The nice thing about this design is that the rims can hold dirt. They scrape off dirt on the high spots and drop it into any low spots. Another advantage is that the rims are self sharpening. My nephew has even pulled my wheel rim drag behind his car and used it to level off gravel roads. It works best if all the rims are the same size. I use my Deere 485 garden tractor to pull it. However, it could be made much wider and pulled behind a bigger tractor. I made a Cat. 0 3-pt. hitch, but the same idea would work with a Cat 1 hitch. The important thing is that the rims are able to float.

"Another advantage of this design is that the front row of rims lift up before the back row, so I can use the drag while backing up. I drop the back row of rims just enough to contact the ground and then back up and push ground backward into a corner or up against a wall."

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