

Loader Made From Deere Combine

When Ron Grismer bought an old Deere 55 combine several years ago, he was mainly interested in the grain header on it.

"I already owned a 55 combine, and I needed that head," says the Dorintosh, Saskatchewan farmer.

"My combine was in good shape. The platform head on the one I bought was just about the only part that wasn't worn out," he continues. "The inside of the combine itself was completely rusted out."

A couple of years ago when he needed a new loader tractor, Grismer decided he could make one out of the old 55. "The frame was still good," he says. "I stripped the combine down so the only things left on the frame were the engine, the operator platform, and the axles."

His next step was to move the steering axle forward 18 in. to shorten the turning radius. Then he took the motor off, made new mounts from 2 by 6 steel tubing, and set it crossways on the frame, just in front of the rear wheels behind the platform.

He moved the operator's platform down onto a new 2 x 6 frame just 2 ft. in front of the engine.

"It was surprising how easy it was to move all the controls down to just 6 in. above the frame and hook it all up again," he says.

Because the combine had hydrostatic drive, there was no need to redo the driveline.

Using square steel tubing, he made a frame on which to mount a front-end loader.

Then he went looking for a good used loader to put on it. "I couldn't find one, so I bought a new one with a quick-detach bucket that fit the frame I made," he says.

Then he had another problem. The 55 Deere combine had a two-stage hydraulic pump with two control valves, designed for the power steering and the hydrostat. He could have added controls for his loader, but the old pump didn't have enough capacity to handle the loader.

So he decided to add another hydraulic pump and reservoir. He located a used 20-gal. per minute pump from an old Case 580 backhoe.

"I made a double groove pulley to replace the single groove main drive pulley on the engine. I ran the belt to drive the second pump to a double bearing splined shaft and attached the shaft directly to my new pump, so there'd be no belt torque on the pump," he says.

For a hydraulic oil reservoir, he sealed up one of the square tubes on the frame.

Finally, he decided he needed a cab over the old combine operator's platform. To fill the need, he salvaged one from an old IH



When he needed a new loader tractor, Ron Grismer decided to build one out of an old Deere 55 combine.

combine in a junkyard.

"Everything went together really well," he says. "I can't think of anything I'd do different on it right now."

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Combine's engine belt-drives add-on hydraulic pump off an old Case backhoe.



Self-Propelled Sprayer A Result Of A Combine Breakdown

Steve Kizer was harvesting corn with his 7700 Deere combine last fall when the feederhouse auger snapped on one end. Everything up front twisted out of shape before he could get it shut down.

When his Deere dealer wouldn't take the old 7700 in trade for a newer 7720, he wasn't surprised. "It had more than 5,000 hours and it was going to cost \$3,000 to fix the problems in the feederhouse. We bought the 7720 so we could finish harvest. The dealer told us to take the 7700 to a junk yard," Kizer says.

But Kizer had other ideas because the engine and drive train were still in good shape. Then last winter, he stripped it down, leaving the engine and cab in place, and turned it into a self-propelled sprayer like others he'd seen over the years in FARM SHOW.

"The conversion took about two months, working on and off," he says.

To make a 60-ft. boom, Kizer bought some new steel tubing and salvaged more from a couple of Glencoe field cultivators that had long since been retired.

He used 2-in. square tubing for the center section, which is just wider than the combine itself, and added folding wings on the sides of the center section, which he made from 1 1/2-in. square tubing.

He used hinges from the folding wings on the Glencoe field cultivators on the wings so they can fold back alongside the combine.

The boom is positioned so it tilts forward as it's raised. Then, it folds hydraulically up and back over the tops of the tires on the drive axle.

Kizer relocated the fuel tank directly behind the cab. Behind that, he built a frame from parts of the old field cultivator toolbar to hold the 1,000-gal. tank he'd bought for the sprayer. He also built a catwalk along the side to give him easier access to the tank. A ladder up the back lets him get on the catwalk from the ground and also gives him access to the cab.

Where the fuel tank had been, he mounted a new Hypro sprayer pump. "It's driven by the same hydraulics that powered the variable speed header reel, so I can use the reel speed control to control the sprayer pump speed," he says. "I can change spray pressure by speeding up or slowing down the pump. And there's a butterfly valve in the spray pressure line that gives me a second way to vary pressure to the nozzles."

He divided the nozzles on the boom into three sections, and he has a controller in the combine cab that allows him to turn any of the three on or off independently of the others. He bought new controllers for the sprayer.

"We also added a 25-gal. Richway Foam Marker, that we picked up at an auction for \$60," he continues. "It was only 2 years old and works great."

The outer 6 ft. on each end of the boom are fastened on with a hinge so they can flex. "On each end of the boom, we added a wheel from an old garden tiller," he continues. "In a hilly field or if you hit a hole, the boom flexes up and the wheel rolls, protecting the boom, nozzles and foamer."

On his new boom, he installed nozzles that



After the feederhouse auger on his Deere 7700 combine got damaged, Steve Kizer converted the combine into a self-propelled sprayer. It's equipped with a 60-ft. boom.

allow him to use lower volumes. "We can cut volume down to just 10 gal. per acre and still get good coverage. With a 1,000-gal. tank at 10 gal. an acre, I can cover close to 100 acres before I have to stop and refill," he says.

With his old sprayer, he had a 500-gal. tank and was applying 20 to 25 gal. per acre, so he was spraying only 20 to 25 acres per fill.

With all the new and salvaged parts he used, Kizer figures his self-propelled sprayer only cost him about \$2,000.

He didn't waste the good parts left from

the old 7700, either. "During the winter, I bought a newer model 7700 at a farm sale for \$1,300. It was in pretty good shape, but needed parts we already had. I've put the two together, so I had two combines to use this fall," he says.

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Scope-Mounted Light Helps Find Pesky Varmints

Varmint hunters who need to go out at night will like the Optronics Varmint Hunting Light which mounts on the scope and sends a bright beam out an amazing 350 yards.

It snaps onto a 1-in. or 30 mm scope without tools and can be precisely adjusted to match the scope.

A push button on-off switch can be attached with Velcro anywhere on the gunstock for quick one-finger operation.

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The Optronics sells for \$93.29 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kenneth Smith, Optronics, Inc., 401 South 41st St. East, Muskogee, Okla. 74403 (ph 800 364-5483 or 918 683-9514; fax 918 683-9517; email: sales@optronicsinc.com; website: www.optronicsinc.com).



Hunting light mounts on scope and sends a bright beam out 350 yards. It snaps onto a 1-in. or 30 mm scope without tools and can be precisely adjusted to match the scope.