Clamshell Tie-Down Secures Big Pickup Loads

Hubert Smith recently came up with a secure new way to tie down big loads in the bed of his pickup.

"I bought a new utility tractor and I had to drive to Louisville, Kentucky, to pick it up. I didn't want to hook up my gooseneck trailer but I wasn't sure how I would tie it down in the bed of my pickup," says Smith, who came up with what he calls a "clamshell tie-down" that makes it easy to anchor big loads to the gooseneck ball in the pickup.

It consists of a couple pieces of 1/2-in. thick plate steel that fit on either side of the ball hitch and hook together with a lynch pin. There's a heavy chain hook on either end of the clamshell to hook to chains or ropes that tie the load down.

"You can turn it any direction. It'll hold anything the ball hitch can hold. Takes just a second to put on or off," notes Smith, who farms near Altamont, Ill. "It's the first really substantial way I know of to tie down a big load in the pickup."

Sells for $88 plus $15 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hubert Smith, 5730 N US Hwy 40E, Altamont, Ill. 62411 (ph 618 483-5081).

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Tag-Along Loader Made On Truck Frame

Loading farm equipment onto trucks is a lot less of a problem since Thomas Beene, Hughes, Arkansas, built a hydraulic-lift loader that tows behind a tractor.

Beene started with the frame of an old single-axle grain truck and stripped off everything from about 11 ft. in front of the rear axle. He pulled the two side beams of the frame together at the front to make a tongue. Then he added an 18-ft. boom on the frame, mounted on a pedestal he built in front of the axle. He made the boom from a used tillage toolbar.

A pair of 6-ft. hydraulic cylinders about 2 inches in diameter raise and lower the boom.

He cut off the axles so the differential doesn't turn, but left the dual wheels and tires to support his load.

Beene, who farms and runs a used machinery business, says when some of his customers saw his lift, they asked him to make them one like it. He's sold five or six a year since the early 1980's.

Frank Allman, who works with Beene, says they usually keep a couple on hand to use themselves and maybe another one or two to sell. "I make them in the wintertime when it's slow in the shop," he says. "Usually I just make up a few and sell them, but we've also made some to specifications for buyers."

Allman says they usually use a 3 by 6- in. toolbar, but have also made them from 3 by 5-in. bars. So far, they've been able to find used steel for every one they've made, and there's no shortage of truck frames.

He says it's getting harder to find hydraulic cylinders with a long enough stroke for the lift, so they're considering using new ones. They've also made some with just one larger lift cylinder.

Loader tows behind a tractor and is hydraulically raised and lowered by an 18-ft. boom.

Beene says they also have a manlift they can attach to the end of the boom so they can work in high places, trimming trees or working on buildings or grain bins. "We use it behind a tractor and it just plugs into the remote outlet. It's a handy piece of equipment," he says.

As long as they can find used cylinders, they can sell the lifts for under $3,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Thomas Beene, 9179 Hwy 38E, Hughes, Ark. 72348 (ph 870 339-3434).

To make their Owatonna swather more useful during the off season, Tim and Tom Nelson mounted a 3-stage forklift mast on front. A hydraulic cylinder mounted underneath tilts frame forward and back.

Owatonna Swather Fitted With Forklift

Tim and Tom Nelson, Carlinville, Ill., made their Owatonna swather a lot more useful during the off season by mounting a forklift mast on front.

They say it took very little modification to mount the 3-stage lift on front of the machine. A hydraulic cylinder mounted beneath the frame tilts the frame forward and back.

The Nelsons say the mower is a lot more maneuverable than a conventional forklift and it handles rough ground better. The Nelsons use it for all kinds of jobs, including construction work.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tim & Tom Nelson, 12656 Catholic Springs Rd., Carlinville, Ill. 62626 (ph 217 585-3857).

Modification requires bolting three pieces on front of rotor, just inside the feederhouse.

Combine Attachment Reduces Plugging

Crops like soy beans, flax, hemp, and even oats can be tough on combines, knotting up in front of the rotor and plugging it up. Joe Federowich, Asheville, Manitoba, solved the problem with a simple modification to his Case IH combine.

"I worked on this for several years before I got it right," he admits. "But it's a pretty simple modification that anyone can do."

The modification requires bolting three pieces on front of the rotor, just inside the feederhouse. "It bolts onto the impeller ears on the front of the rotor," he says. "It takes about four hours to put it on, but most of that is in taking the combine apart to get to the front of the rotor. The attachment itself requires only 16 bolts.

"We've used this for three years in all types of crops and it almost eliminates plugging," he says.

"Last year, we had it on combines on four farms and all reports were good. Wheat and canola don't plug as much, so it didn't seem to make as much difference in those crops as in hemp and flax. There were no reports of any negative effect on seed quality."

While he's used it in all crops in his area, Federowich hasn't yet tested it with either corn or soybeans. He has used it in dry beans with good results, though.

Federowich's attachment fits Case IH 1480 through 2388 model combines. He says it eliminates rumbling, rotor stress and a lot of belt wear.

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