Skid-Steer Chain Saw Trims Trees

When Merritt Symons, Gaines, Michigan, needs to cut brush and small trees or prune branches from larger trees, he hops on his skidsteer loader.

Symons says he was getting a little too old to handle a chaisaw while standing on a ladder.

So he put together a chainsaw attachment for his skidsteer. The first step was to find a hydraulic motor with the right speed and torque to power it. He made a quick-tach bracket and mounted a short length of 2-in. dia. sq. tubing to that. Then he mounted the hydraulic motor on a length of 2-in. solid steel bar.

He mounted a chainsaw drive sprocket on the shaft of the hydraulic motor and then mounted a 34-in. commercial saw bar on it. On the bar, he uses a heavy 3/4 pitch chain.

He wanted the bar and cutting chain to be able to stand up to any pressure the lift arms might put on them. He also added an automatic chain oiler, which he made by tapping the saw as he moved it into trees (and maybe dirt and rocks), so he made a support for his pipe frame from heavy 2 by 5-in. steel tubing. Chainsaw bar can be mounted in a short length of steel bar. Chainsaw bar can be used as a brush cutter, too.

Chainsaw attachment allows Symons to cut as high as his skid steer will reach. One end of a small tube into the hydraulic line and mounting the other end to the bar post.

“Drilled holes through the square tubing and through the 2-in. square bar so I can mount the chainsaw with a pin, like a receiver hitch. There are both vertical and horizontal holes in the tubing, so I can mount the chainsaw in either a vertical or horizontal position,” he tells.

To run the saw, he merely hooks the hoses from anything else on the market that he’s applied for a patent on it.

“I’ve been looking for someone interested in building them, but I’m planning to make a few for sale in the meantime,” he says. I think it should sell for under $2,000.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike Vereschagin, Vereschagin Farms, Inc., 3548 County Road P, Orland, Calif. 95963 (ph 530 865-4059).

Hydraulic-Powered Saw Mounts On Side Of Tractor

Vereeschagin’s brush-handling machine started out as a 1980 32-ft. diesel-powered motor home that he picked up at a wrecking yard.

Hydraulic-driven circular saw blade mounts on side of tractor in front of rear wheel. Gengler made the saw blade himself from a 20-in. coulter.

Gengler’s design is sufficiently different from anything else on the market that he’s applied for a patent on it.

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Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Melvin Gengler, RR 1, Beloit, Kansas 67402 (ph 785-738-2807).

Cedar trees seemed to be taking over Melvin Gengler’s pastures and those of a lot of other cow-calf producers around his Beloit, Kansas farm.

“I mentioned it to a neighbor and he said he was going to take care of his with a chainsaw,” Gengler says. “There are a lot of trees out there to be cut, but I just couldn’t see myself carrying a chainsaw all over the pasture.”

Gengler had seen tree cutters for skid steers and others that mounted on a 3-point hitch. “I didn’t like the idea of having to back into every tree to cut it, and I wasn’t going to try getting through some of the ditches in my pastures on a skid steer,” he says.

After giving the matter a little thought, Gengler figured the best place to mount a tree cutter on a tractor was on the side in front of the rear wheel, set far enough away from the tractor that he could drive by without backing up.

He decided to use a circular saw blade, powered by hydraulics.

He located an orbit motor to turn the saw blade and mounted it in a hinged pipe frame that’s raised or lowered by a hydraulic cylinder. “I used a cylinder with an 11-in. stroke, but a standard 8-in. cylinder would probably work fine on it,” he says.

He figured there might be some stress on the chainsaw sprocket, bar and chain from anything else on the market that he’s applied for a patent on it.

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Once he had the frame built, he went looking for a saw blade but found nothing he felt would work.

Finally, he decided he’d just make one himself. “I started with a 20-in. circle I cut out of a sheet of 1/4-in. plate steel. That didn’t work as well as I wanted it to. So then I cut teeth into a 20-in. rolling coulter from a plow,” he says. “I made several blades from coulters, with different sized teeth and different pitches on them. In testing them, I found a flat one with the finest teeth did the best job of cutting smaller trees.”

He also tested several different speeds for his hydraulic motor and found that 80 rmp was as fast as the blade needed to turn.

“I just cut about 700 cedars on a 250-acre pasture with a little four wheel drive Deere utility tractor. None of the trees were more than 2 ft. high and it worked great, even though I was cutting them off at or below ground level,” he says.

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