Remote-Operated Electronic Flow Control Valve

"Our new remote flow control valve lets you adjust hydraulic flow by using a toggle switch inside your cab. It comes in handy on any equipment where you change hydraulic flow and motor speeds frequently. It keeps heat, noise and potential hydraulic leaks away from the operator, resulting in added safety and comfort," says Mike Vandehey, Banks, Oregon.

The valve is designed to replace the machine's existing manual control valve and can be installed anywhere on a machine. The valve measures 5 in. wide and 18 in. long and consists of an electric actuator that mounts on a metal bracket that has a valve bolted to its bottom side. The actuator has a 4-in. stroke and moves a metal arm that hooks up to the valve. The unit requires a double throw, double pull switch which reverses the polarity.

The valve operates off a toggle switch and can be wired into most ag and industrial monitoring systems such as chemical and fertilizer monitors. It eliminates the need to have a manually-operated valve inside the cab.

The valve can also be used as a stand-alone unit, by wiring it to a toggle switch for manual adjustments on chemical pumps, agitators, fans, augers, and any other hydraulic-powered device, says Vandehey.

Vandehey got the idea a few years ago when he bought a Deere self-propelled windrower. "We wanted variable speed on the reel so we converted the machine to hydraulic drive, since at that time an OEM version wasn't yet available. However, we soon learned that an electronic flow control valve wasn't available as a complete unit from Deere. We looked for a valve that would work with the rig's factory wiring, but we couldn't find anything at a reasonable price."

He spent a few nights lying awake "thinking about ways to get the job done myself". With a few phone calls to some local industrial parts suppliers, and some machining and fabricating, he was able to get the job done. "The valve worked perfectly, and the installation was so clean that when Deere introduced its new electronic flow control valve for its swathers, my neighbor had me install my pump and valve because it looked so much better than Deere's."

He installed two of the new valves on his home-built, self-propelled sprayer - one for the Hypro pump to control spray pressure, and one to operate a hydraulic pump that lets him change agitator speed from the cab via a toggle switch. He also sold a unit to his local spray monitor dealer, who uses it on a dry fertilizer monitor to control the draper chain. "I've also sold valves for use on windrowers, both Hesston and Deere, where the operator uses the factory switches in the handle."

Other potential on-the-farm uses include on a variable speed unloading auger, hydraulic fan conversions for combines, and to control the draper chain on semi trailers equipped with a live floor.

Remote flow control valve lets you adjust hydraulic flow by using a toggle switch inside your cab.

"Our valve also works great for adjusting fan speed on combines, where it eliminates the need to adjust any belts or pulleys. The valve can be hooked up to existing wiring in the combine for the actuator that changes the shiv position," says Vandehey.

Sells for $360 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike Vandehey, North Valley Farms, LLC, 39595 N.W. Wilkesboro Rd., Banks, Oregon 97106 (ph 503 577-9457; fax 503 324-7014).

Lester Langeland made an ATV carrier that mounts on back of a pickup, allowing him to transport an ATV even with a topper on the pickup bed.

Safe, Easy-To-Use ATV Ramps

Driving your ATV up a pair of angled ramps into the back of a pickup can be a dangerous job. You're several feet off the ground so you don't want to fall off - or have the ramps fail.

To solve the problem, Lester Langeland, Marne, Mich., made an ATV carrier that mounts on back of the pickup, allowing you to transport an ATV even if you have a topper on the pickup bed. He says it's easy to load and also safe because there are no high ramps.

"It's a safe and convenient way to move an ATV. It eliminates the need for a trailer, and your pickup bed is always available for other uses," says Langeland.

The ramps bolt onto two metal brackets that mount permanently on the pickup frame. The ramps simply slide into the brackets.

The brackets are made from 3-in. sq. tubing, with vertical lengths of 2 1/2-in. tubing serving as stops for the ATV's front wheels. The two ramps are formed from 8-ft. lengths of 2 1/2-in. sq. tubing mounted inside 8-in. wide, 6-ft. long aluminum decking. The extra 2 ft. of sq. tubing is slid inside the brackets on the pickup when transporting the ATV. A circular bracket on the front edge of the 8-ft. sq. tubing acts as a stopper for the ramp, with a small pin used to keep the ramp from coming out.

The ATV is strapped down to the ramps for safety. The ramps can be stored in or on the side of the pickup when not in use.

Once the ramps are in place, you back up the pickup to a small depression, or back up to a raised area of ground until the rear edge of the ramps contacts the ground. Then drive the ATV on.

Langeland estimates his total cost, including work done by a local welding shop, at about $300.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lester Langeland, 2796 Hayes, Marne, Mich. 49435 (ph 616 677-9951).

Ramps slide into a pair of metal brackets that mount permanently on pickup frame.

Track Operating Hours And Save Money

Good intentions of changing oil and servicing engines are great. But few people will keep a log on every truck or tractor, much less every lawn mower or chain saw.

"On-time servicing of equipment from oil and filters to coolant and belts will extend equipment life and reduce down time," says Herb Ley, SenDEC Corp. "Knowing when to service is the key, and for that you need an hour meter."

SenDEC markets an inductive input hour meter that makes it easy to capture "actual" engine run time. The meter uses a"pick-up" wire that wraps around a spark plug wire. The inductive circuit senses when the engine is running based on the spark plug's firing and triggers the meter to count.

"It can be installed on any gasoline engine, one to eight cylinders," says Ley.

Models vary based on function and type of engine. Simple, surface-mounted, inductive hour meters start at $36.95.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, SenDEC Corp., 151 Perinton Pkwy., Fairport, N.Y. 14450 (ph 585 425-3390; sales@sendec.com; www.sendec.com).

Inductive input hour meter makes it easy to capture "actual" engine run time.

Inductive circuit senses when engine is running based on spark plug's firing.

"Sub Trigger" Improves Shooting Accuracy

Anyone who uses a rifle or shotgun will be interested in this new"sub trigger" that provides a smoother trigger action than you can get using only your finger, resulting in more accuracy.

The "E-Z pull trigger-assist" is made from non-corrosive aluminum. It's designed to reduce trigger pull by up to 50 percent.

The unit bolts onto the trigger guard and has a roller bearing cam built into it that provides compound leverage when you pull on it. When you squeeze the adapter, it touches off against the trigger twice as fast. "Trigger squeeze is critical to accurate shooting, regardless of the gun type. By slowly and smoothly squeezing the trigger, you won't flinch in anticipation of the recoil or sound of the gun firing," says Mike Revzon, Hoffman's Gun Center, Newington, Ct.

The adapter is offered in black or clear anodized finishes. It's designed to fit on most single trigger rifles and shotguns. Fits Winchester, Ruger, Remington, Savage, Browning, and other rifles with a trigger guard width of less than .595. Browning A-Bolt, Weatherby, and rifles with a trigger guard between .595 and .630 are available upon request.

The unit attaches to the trigger guard with four small set screws.

"Sub trigger" provides a smoother trigger action than you can get using only your finger, resulting in more accuracy. It bolts onto the trigger guard.

Sells for $39.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, E-Z Hoffman's Gun Center, 2585 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, Ct. 06111 (ph 860 666-8827; ezpulltriggerassist.com; www.ezpulltriggerassist.com).