"Made It Myself" ATV Attachments

High school senior Kyle Sand loves to find new ways to use his Honda 450 ATV. Working with his dad, David, he came up with unique front and rear hitches that let him operate a variety of attachments not normally seen on an ATV.

"We pick up a lot of things for not much money and modify them to our needs," says Kyle.

Assembled on this page is a sampling of Kyle and David's handiwork.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kyle Sand, 11080 Lynn Rd.,Avon, Minn. 56310 (ph 320 363-1060).

Modified walk-behind sickle mower mounts on front hitch.

Front-Mount Sicklebar Mower

An old walk-behind sickle mower purchased for $20 was modified for use with the front hitch. A 1/2 hp Briggs and Stratton motor with a 1 to 6 reduction gearbox provides the power. It's mounted on a length of 8-in. channel iron that fits the receiver hitch so the winch can lift and lower the mower.

The motor, with a 6-in. pulley on the gearbox, mounts directly over a 3-in. pulley on the mower's driveshaft, further reducing speed. A bracket for an idler pulley and a handle for engaging it were fabricated from flat stock and angle iron.

A length of 3/8-in. rod from the inside of a wire spool mounts to the front of the mower. It serves to bend tall grasses and stalks away from the mower as it cuts.

A 1/2 hp engine provides power to sickle.

Modified straw chopper tows behind ATV to chop corn stalks.

Straw Chopper Chops Stalks

A $10 straw chopper picked up at auction does a great job chopping stalks. All the Sands had to do was mount it on Category I brackets and power it.

"We built framing out of 2 by 2-in., 1/4 in. thick steel tubing to match existing brackets on the straw chopper and the hooks on our 3-pt. lift cart," explains Kyle. "The biggest expense was a $250 engine we bought to power it. We mounted it on a stand at the end of the chopper to match up with existing drive pulleys."

Kyle fabricated an idler pulley mounted to an arm that can be locked in place under tension to engage the chopper. The arm pivots on the end of the chopper. A short piece of strap attached to it rides on a piece of angle iron also bolted to the end of the chopper. When the arm pivots to engage the idler pulley, the strap fits into a slot on the angle iron. When the handle on the arm is pushed down further, the strap end jumps out of the slot, and the arm can be released to disengage the idler pulley.

Power is supplied by a gas engine, mounted at one end of chopper.

Engine belt-drives existing drive pulleys on chopper.

Quick-tach front hitch bolts to protection plate on ATV.

Front Quick Hitch

The front hitch consists of 2 by 1 1/2-in. steel tubing that is attached firmly to the frame beneath the Honda engine with U-bolts. The tubing is also welked to 3/16-in. flat stock that is bent to match the bolt holes for the protection plate that attaches to the front of the ATV frame. The flat stock is in turn welded to a length of rectangular tubing with quick tach jaws fabricated from 1/2-in. bar stock. The length of the rectangular tubing and the size of the jaws are designed to match a standard Cat. I 3-pt. hitch. Spring-loaded pins on each jaw hold attachments in place. Pegs on the pins lock them in place.

To lift and lower implements, the Sands made a 2-in. receiver hitch that fits the front hitch. The shaft pivots in the jaws of the front mount. An eyebolt welded to the top of the receiver lets the Sands attach the hook from the Honda's winch to lift and lower attachments.

Pivoting receiver hitch quick-taches to front hitch.

Tow-behind 3-pt. hitch is lifted by an electric winch.

Tow-Behind 3-Pt. Hitch

To handle heavier-duty attachments and add even more versatility to their ATV, the Sands decided to build a tow-behind, 3-pt. lift cart. However, instead of hydraulics, an electric winch provides lift to the Cat. I hitch.

The main frame is designed to telescope from 4 1/2 to 8 ft. wide. Holes at 4-in. intervals in the shafts offer multiple widths.

"Just pull the pins, and slide the wheels in or out," says Kyle.

The main beam also serves as a mounting point for the 2000-lb. winch, which will provide the lift, and a simple jack.

A battery mounted on the top cross bar of the front frame provides power for the winch. The cable from the winch runs to a pulley mounted behind the battery. It then travels down to a second pulley on the lower cross bar of the rear frame. The final run of the cable is to an anchor point directly above the first pulley.

Made from two 12-in. sweeps off an old chisel plow, 1-row push-type cultivator rides on gauge wheels. Winch lifts cultivator out of ground.

Push-Type Cultivator

A one-row cultivator was made from two 12-in. sweeps off an old chisel plow. The sweeps were bolted to a 2 by 2-in., 1/4 in. thick steel tube toolbar that fits into the receiver hitch. H-brackets were fabricated for gauge wheels that mount to the toolbar with U-bolts so they can be adjusted for the desired depth. Activating the winch lifts the cultivator out of the ground for transit on row ends.

Sand also mounts a mini field cultivator on the tow-behind 3-pt. hitch.