

Little Ford Tractor Has Hydraulic Power To Spare

Don Haacke's hydraulic posthole auger is almost bigger than the Ford Jubilee it's mounted on.

"I refurbished the Ford, but when I wanted to add a hydraulic posthole auger, I knew it couldn't handle it," says Haacke. "The tractor hydraulics could handle the up and down, but they were too small to power the auger. I also wanted the options of variable rate and reverse controls on the auger."

To give him the power he needed and the control options, Haacke removed the mechanical pto drive on the auger and mounted a hydraulic motor directly to the gearbox.

"I put a 21 gpm pump on the tractor's pto with a pto extension that lets me use both the pto shaft and hydraulics without disconnecting either," he says. "I put a flow divider on the system with variable speed control of 1 to 18 gpm. When I want power, it's there. When I don't, it just recirculates."

Haacke also installed a pressure release valve and a pressurized breather. If pressure builds too high, the control valve goes back to neutral so the tractor won't kill.

"With the pressurized breather, you don't need to worry about oil coming out of the breather when on a steep slope," says Haacke.

While he admits the 30-gal. hydraulic reservoir he mounted on the side of the tractor might be a bit oversized, he wanted more than sufficient cooling capacity. "It has worked real well, even in the heat of the summer, with no overheating issues," says Haacke.

The reservoir mounts to brackets that fit on the tractor's belly mower mounts. At 12 by 14 by 48-in., it's big, but not in the way for the operator. Haacke does admit that when filled with oil, steering becomes more difficult.

"My wife uses this tractor for raking, and she doesn't care for the effect on the steering," he says.

He figures the pump, flow dividers, 35-gal. reservoir and other options installed bring the full cost to a little over \$1,000. He says he could have gone with a smaller pump, but he wanted as much flow as he could get out of the little tractor.

"We've worked the heck out of it, and it has held up well," he says.

Haacke, who is in the custom hydraulics business, built the unit for himself but says he's had requests from other N-Series Ford owners and is open to building them for these and other tractors.

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Don Haacke wanted to add a hydraulic posthole auger to his Ford Jubilee, but the tractor's hydraulics were underpowered. So he put a 21 gpm pump on tractor's pto (right) and mounted a 30-gal. hydraulic reservoir on the side of tractor (above).



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Flax Logs "Last Longer Than Oak"

Flax logs have more btu's than oak and create less creosote. Best of all, they'll burn for up to 15 hours and sell for right at \$2 apiece.

The 10-Hour Power Log is different than other manufactured logs on the market, says Manitoba entrepreneur Kevin Lumb. He and Grant Shabaga worked for three years to develop equipment and a technique to densify flax shives, which is the residue left over after straw processing, into long-burning logs.

"Other logs are made with baler types of machines, but they don't macerate the material together. They're not intertwined," Lumb explains. "They expand and crack and burn up more quickly. Because ours is twisted together there are no divisions, so these logs stay intact throughout the whole burn."

There are no additives in the new flax logs. Natural lignins bind them together extremely tightly. When tested by OMNI-Environmental Services, Inc. in Beaverton, Oregon, they burned for 15 1/2 hours, outlasting same-size oak logs.

Power Logs come with a small fire starter (a small cup of beeswax) and burn with a brilliant flame for two to three hours, then continue to radiate heat for 10 or more hours as red hot coals. They can be used in wood stoves, fireplaces, outdoor boilers, patio burners or open fire pits.

Power Logs are 4 by 10-in., weigh 4 1/2 lbs., and have one flat side so they won't roll around and are easy to stack.

Lumb and Shabaga expect to start shipping logs by late July for the 2009 to 2010 heat-



Flax logs burn for 10 hours or more, have more btu's than oak, and create less creosote.

ing season.

The Power Logs will be sold in a four-pack with fire starter or in bulk with 400 logs to a pallet. It will be available in Canada and the U.S. Dealer inquiries welcome.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Power Log, 512 - 23rd Street, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada R7B 1V9 (ph 877 797-5647 or 204 727-8111; Kevin@ThePowerLog.com; www.thepowerlog.com).



The flax material is twisted together, so the logs stay intact throughout the whole burn.