IT TURNS ON A DIME

Home-Built Hydrostatic Feeder-Mixer Truck

“It’s low-cost, trouble-free and maneuverability is terrific,” says Dave Schmittjer, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, about the hydrostatic self-propelled feeder-mixer truck he made from a stripped-down IH 403 combine.

Schmittjer bought the combine’s drive axle and steering axle, motor, and cab at a salvage yard. Here mounted the 70-hp motor crossover to make room for the mixer and cut 18 in. out of both axles to make the machine narrower enough to work through his feedlot. He also lowered the frame in front of the motor so the cab is positioned only 2 ft. off the ground.

Schmittjer fashioned a 2 by 6-in. box beam frame above the rear axle to support the Knight mixer box, removed from a trailer rig his uncle had owned. He installed a new chute under the mixer, which can hold 6,000 lb. of grain or 3,000 lb. of silage. The mixer is driven by an orbit motor powered by the combine’s hydraulic system. The combine’s steering axle mounts at the front of the self-propelled machine. Steering is hydraulically controlled.

Schmittjer uses the rig to fill feed buckets in the feedlot, and to fill two overhead bulk bins. Auxiliary hydraulic outlets on the self-propelled rig drive hydraulic motors that power augers to fill the bins.

Schmittjer says his home-built feeder-mixer easily outperforms the 4-WD Ford truck he previously used. “We ran that rig until there was nothing left of it. I couldn’t afford the $18,000 the dealer wanted for a new truck, so I built this one for about $4,000. We’ve used it for three years, four hours a day, and haven’t spent a dime on it.”

The rig is equipped with individual brakes for each wheel, just like on a tractor, so you can hold the inside tire and bring the rig around quickly. The short wheelbase - the

LET YOU MAKE ON-THE-GO ADJUSTMENTS TO PICK UP DOWNS CROPS

Reel Control System Moves Header In Or Out

You can modify your combine reel to move in or out on-the-go thanks to a new pickup reel control system from Yetter Manufacturing.

The new do-it-yourself kit, which lets you quickly adjust to changing crop conditions, consists of two electric screw actuators that mount at either end of the reel. The actuators mount in place of the manual reel position control brackets, sliding the reel in and out on the mounting arms as needed. No welding or cutting is required. The units simply bolt into place.

“If you run into down crops while harvesting a field, you can easily adjust the reel forward as needed from the cab and then roll it backwards again when you’re back in standing crop. It’ll easily pay for itself in time and crop saved,” says Jay Shoemaker, company representative, noting that an easy-to-read graduated scale on the actuators lets the operator tell at a glance how far the reel has been moved in or out.

Deere Upgrades Popular AMT Utility Vehicle

Popular demand has prompted Deere to upgrade its five wheel AMT600 (“Almost A Truck”) utility vehicle, which has been on the market about two years.

The just-introduced new version, called the AMT625, sports the following new features:

- A steering wheel (instead of handlebars), two seats (instead of one), a 10 hp Kawasaki

engine (instead of 8 hp), foot-operated controls, console shifting, dual headlights and a bigger (manual-tight) bed (48 by 48 by 11 in.) rated at 625 lb. capacity.

- Suggested retail is $4,199. The original AMT600, still in production, sells for $3,399.

- For more information, see your nearest Deere dealer.

Deere’s upgraded AMT has a steering wheel, two seats, a larger engine and more.

‘ALMOST A TRUCK’

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Schnittjer built his self-propelled feeder by mounting a stationary mixer box on a stripped-down IH 403 combine. He says the rig turns round.

The new reel control allows the operator to adjust the reel to a glance how far the reel has been moved in or out.

A graduated scale on the actuator tells the operator at a glance how far the reel has moved.

One model fits all Deere flex heads built since 1979. Next year the company will have units available to fit other heads. Sells for $750.

For more information, contact FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Schmittjer, Rt. 1, Box 51, Hopkinsville, Kentucky 42247 (213 922-2524).