



Brock Young modified his 8-wheel V-rake to mount on his tractor loader. It lets him rake and bale in a single pass whenever he's short on help.

Push/Pull Rake For Optional One-Man Baling

Brock Young turned his V-rake on a trailing cart into a push rake that mounts ahead of his baler tractor. When short on help, he can rake and bale in a single pass. When his wife is available to rake, his quick-tach adapter plate lets her hook up behind another tractor and go.

"My wife has our little girl with her in the tractor, but when she falls asleep, my wife stops and takes her home," says Young. "Then I put the rake on front of my tractor and bale by myself."

Young got his idea after seeing a baler in FARM SHOW modified to allow a rake to be mounted between it and the tractor. However, his older baler requires him to stop and back up to eject the bale. He needed a rake that could back up as well. His solution was to mount the rake on the tractor loader. When a bale is made, he simply lifts the rake off the ground and backs up.

The design of the older, 8-wheel V-rake on its two-wheel cart made the push/pull rake possible. The square beam frame at the front of the rake serves for both the front and

rear hitches.

"The front hitch is attached to the beam with four U-bolts," explains Young. "I replaced the U-bolts with four straight bolts and ran them through a 1/2-in. steel plate on the back of the beam, locking it in place."

The steel plate serves as the push plate for the rear hitch, which is a 10-ft. length of drill pipe. Young slipped a 4-in. pipe inside the 5-in. pipe to double wall reinforce it and butt-welded it to the plate.

At the other end of the pipe, Young fabricated a quick attach frame using 1/2-in. steel to match the loader on his baler tractor. On the front side of the frame, he welded a length of 6-in. channel iron with the channel facing out. The loader end of the pipe is butt-welded inside the channel iron. Steel plates (2 in. by 6 in.) welded to the sides of the pipe and the channel iron reinforce the joint.

When not being used, the front hitch pole and the rear hitch pole remain suspended off the ground when the other one is in use.

"I replaced the wheels on the rake cart with 'tail' wheels from a Bush Hog so they swivel



When his wife is available to help, she hooks rake up behind another tractor.



Front hitch is attached to square beam frame with 4 bolts (left). A 10-ft. long drill pipe runs from push plate on beam back to quick-tach frame on loader.



when I turn," explains Young. "The original wheels would drag into the turns."

Extended hydraulic hoses run from the baler tractor the length of the rear hitch pole to operate the wings and lift. Young says the hose extensions and a new set of tires and rims for the Bush Hog wheels were the main expense with the project, as the other components were left over from other shop projects.

"Eliminating the tractor on the rake saves enough in fuel to more than cover the cost of the modification," says Young. "I've been using it for three years without a problem."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brock Young, 6438 Joes Lane, Jennings, La. 70546 (ph 337 329-4398).

Old Deere Garden Tractor Gets "Loader Make-Over"

Mike Kanthak needed a small loader tractor for his mower repair shop. So he converted a 1974 Deere 140 garden tractor, adding a Kwik Way self-leveling loader and forklift pallet forks. He also added a self-contained hydraulic system so he could have power steering.

"I use it to load and unload equipment from the back of pickups, such as walk-behind lawn mowers, rototillers, welders, small crates, hydraulic pumps, 55-gal. gas barrels, and so forth. It'll handle loads up to 500 lbs.," says Kanthak. "I also use the loader to hold a portable work table, which consists of a big metal sheet with two tubes welded under it that the forks slide into."

He got the tractor from a customer as a trade-in. The engine was worn out so he replaced it with a Kohler 14 hp model.

"The engine belt-drives a gear pump that I mounted under the front end of the tractor," says Kanthak. "I also mounted a large hydraulic reservoir under the tractor and added a pair of control valves next to the steering wheel to operate the loader. And I mounted new tires all the way around, along with 125-lb. weights on each rear wheel."

He got the Kwik-Way loader from a friend. The loader was designed for a Deere 112 garden tractor, so he had to make new support braces for the loader uprights to fit the tractor frame. He also installed new valves and hydraulic hoses.



Mike Kanthak added a self-leveling loader and forklift pallet forks to his 1974 Deere 140 garden tractor.

To provide power steering he took a power steering unit and cylinder off a Simplicity Sun Star garden tractor. The input shaft on the steering unit was too short so he lengthened it. He replaced the tractor's original front spindles with ones off a Deere 317 garden tractor. The replacement spindles have an attachment point above the axle that the original spindles don't have. However, the attachment point on the 317's left hand spindle is weak so to make it stronger he installed a 3/4-in. dia. metal rod with a ball joint on each end to tie the 2 spindles together.

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Air Dancers Also Scare Off Birds

The same inflatable Air Dancers that attract you into car dealerships and grand openings are being used to scare away birds looking for a free meal at feedlots, vineyards, orchards and berry patches.

LookOurWay sells promotional inflatable products and the company's president, Patrick Dean, says customers continually come up with new uses.

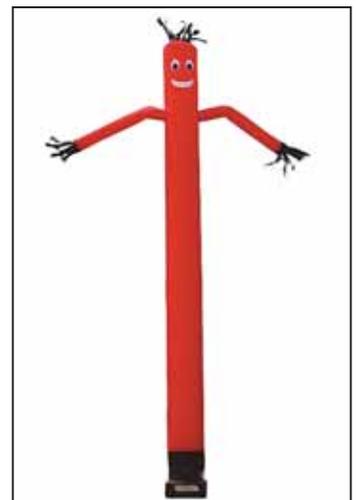
"About 3 years ago someone bought an Air Dancer to protect their vineyards as a moving scarecrow," he says. "They tried a couple and bought more."

Since then, other orchard and berry growers have purchased the inflatable tubes.

Air Dancers are 20-ft. tubes made of high strength polyamide nylon silk that are blown up by a 1 hp industrial fan. The tubes are connected with commercial grade Velcro fastener tape.

The tube and fan cost \$269 including shipping. Tubes typically last 6 months to a year and can be replaced for \$79. They are available on LookOurWay's website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, LookOurWay, 1737 Union Street, San



Air Dancers are 20-ft. long inflatable tubes that work great as moving scarecrows.

Francisco, Calif. 94132 (ph 866 586-3888; www.lookourway.com).



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