Chainsaw at end of 2-section boom is chain-driven by a motor that operates off the remote outlets on Mickley's skid loader.

Skid Loader-Mounted Tree Trimming Saw

After looking unsuccessfully for a tractor-mounted saw to trim trees, Robert Mickley of New Springfield, Ohio, designed and built a pole saw to mount on his Mustang 2054 skid loader.

"We needed a way to trim trees around my brother's farm. I wanted to get away from the old tried-and-true method of standing in a bucket," says Mickley. "So I went on a search. I found several pole saws designed to mount on a skid loader or tractor, but they weren't built heavy enough or big enough. Mine has a maximum reach of about 22 ft. and works fast. On an average day I can clear about 200 ft. per hour trimming around fields."

The saw mounts on a 2-section boom built from 3-in. sq. tubing, with the first section 10 ft. long and the second one 4 ft. long. The boom is welded to a steel plate that quick-taches to the skid loader.

The chainsaw is operated by a hydraulic motor. Mickley connected a drive hub to the motor's output shaft and then mounted a chain sprocket between the hub and the chainsaw's bar. He also added an automatic chain oiler that's controlled by a needle valve. Oiling is accomplished by tapping into the return hydraulic line and controlled by a needle valve. Both the motor and needle valve are contained by a rectangular metal box mounted at the end of the boom.

To run the saw, he hooks hoses from the motor into the remote outlets on his skid loader.

"It reduces the risk of injury by eliminating ladders, ropes and standing in the tractor bucket. And since it runs off the tractor's hydraulics, there's no gas engine noise or exhaust," says Mickley. "I built it 2 years ago and have trimmed a lot of trees with it. I even use it to trim tree branches around fields during the winter."

Skid loader-mounted saw has a maximum reach of about 22 ft.

He spent about $900 to build the unit. "My brother had some 3-in. sq. tubing which I used for the boom, and a neighbor donated the hydraulic motor. The drive and chain tension components were robbed from a Stihl .056 chainsaw. I spent $125 for the metal plate that the boom mounts on. Commercial units sell for about $1,600 or more and have a smaller chainsaw bar and a shorter reach," says Mickley.

At first Mickley welded the boom to the center of the mounting plate, but the boom obstructed his view so he moved it over to one side of the plate.

Go to FARMSHOW.com to see a video of the saw in action.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Mickley, 11631 Unity Rd., New Springfield, Ohio 44443 (ph 330 509-3951; zugzub@zoominternet.net).

Charles Hardenburger uses large flotation tires and scrap metal to build big tire mineral feeders for his cattle.

Big Tire Mineral Feeder

Charles Hardenburger, Haddam, Kan., builds big tire mineral feeders for his cattle using large flotation tires and scrap metal.

"This feeder is virtually indestructible and can be easily towed or carried to new locations in our pasture. It keeps most of the rain water out of the feed and will last a lifetime," says Hardenburger.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Charles C. Hardenburger, Jr., 1995 Concord Rd., Haddam, Kan. 66944.

Home-built fertilizer side dress machine allows Larry Tombaugh to gain the benefits of split-applying nitrogen to his corn.

"Made-It-Myself" Rig Sidedresses Crops

"I built my own fertilizer side dress machine last winter to gain the benefits of split-applying nitrogen to my corn," says Streator, Illinois farmer Larry Tombaugh. "The 12-row machine has parts from a row-crop cultivator, re-manufactured spike wheel anhydrous applicators, and a John Blue ground drive pump." Liquid is supplied to the toolbar from a 1,600-gal. tank that's mounted on an E-Z Trail all-steer wagon pulled behind the toolbar.

Tombaugh and two of his employees started the project by dismantling the cultivator, then adding a hitch and building new brackets on the front for two gauge wheels. They built a complex bracket to mount a John Blue pump and its drive wheel to the front of the bar. The wheel has a large sprocket which connects to a smaller sprocket on the pump with #30 roller chain.

Tombaugh and his crew then attached the spike-wheel applicators to the tool bar with U-bolts. They're mounted 30 in. on center so they can apply liquid about 8 in. to the side of the growing crop. In 2013, Tombaugh used the rig to sidedress 20 gal. of 32 percent nitrogen per acre.

Tombaugh says he built the machine because he had been applying 200 lbs. of anhydrous per acre with a stabilizer, but he knows that heavy rains early in the growing season may have washed away nearly 40 percent of that full application. "After 20 years of farming I've learned it's important to apply some fertilizer in the fall, some in the spring, some at planting and some as a side dress when corn needs it the most during early to mid-summer," Tombaugh says. His machine will apply up to 38 gal. an acre traveling 5 to 5 1/2 mph, although he doesn't anticipate using that high of a rate.

"The spike wheel injectors put the nitrogen about 1 to 2 in. into the ground and 8 in. away from the growing plants" says Tombaugh, "and that's ideal placement. The roots are just beginning to take off and I'm putting the nutrients where the roots have immediate access." Tombaugh says the spike wheels inject the liquid into the ground when the wheels rotate 7 degrees from dead center. He's also excited about using Soil Biotics XL with his nitrogen, which has shown excellent results in several trials around the country. "Last year irrigated corn had 8 yields over 235 bu. per acre and 2 over 250 bu. per acre."

Liquid is supplied to machine's toolbar from a 1,600-gal. tank mounted on an all-steer wagon.

John Blue ground-driven pump is mounted at front of toolbar.

In the fall, Tombaugh hopes to use the same rig to apply 10 to 12 gal. of 3-18-18 along with another shot of Soil Biotics and stay completely away from anhydrous. "I know that anhydrous isn't good for soil microbes and earthworms, so I think this new setup of mine with split fertilizer applications will show big benefits." Tombaugh spent only $200 for the used tool bar and, together with the remanufactured spike wheels, the used pump and new liquid cart figures he's got a custom applicator for about a third the cost of buying a new one.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Tombaugh, 32815 N. 200 E. Rd., Streator, Ill. 61364 (ph 815 673-1449; www.tomkatroofing.com).

How To Reach Us

To submit a "Made It Myself" Story Idea, New Product, Shop Tip, "Best or Worst Buy", or other information, send a note along with photos, drawings and literature, if available. We'll get back to you later if we need more details. Send to: Editor, FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665; fax 952 469-5575); email: editor@farmshow.com. You can also submit information at our website: www.farmshow.com.

To change your address, renew your subscription, take out a new subscription, order videos or books, or for other information regarding your subscription, contact: Circulation Department, FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665; fax 952 469-5575; email: circulation@farmshow.com).