

Farm-Tested, Farmer-Built Parts

Hizey Farm Service makes replacements for parts that don't work like they should, makes them better, and makes them for less than OEM manufacturers. Owner Bob Hizey knows they're better because he uses many of them in his farming operation. He sees no reason to pay \$735 for a Deere no-till drill seed boot arm when he can repair it for \$12.

"The first machine shop job we did was to bore out a no-till coultter pivot and install a hardened steel bushing in a Great Plains drill," recalls Hizey. "We started advertising it and soon added a similar service for Case IH drills and other brands. We would get calls from people about a problem, wondering if we could do something about it."

Today, 80 percent of the company's business is with Deere equipment. The remaining business is spread across a wide variety of brands. In addition to a full line of aftermarket replacement parts, they also machine many of their own.

Upgrades include replacing bushings on parallel linkage for Deere/Kinze and other brand corn planters. Cast seed closing wheels for Deere/Kinze planters and Deere no-till drills are reconditioned for only \$10 each, a quarter of the replacement part cost. The list goes on, with reconditioning of worn parts with superior after-market components and fabrication. The key is to be able to do it at a lower cost than OEM replacement.

"We look for opportunities where we can improve on the original part and update it for 25 to 30 percent of the OEM replacement," says Hizey. "As long as the companies keep making their equipment the way they do, we'll have business."

Currently, Hizey Farm Service is experimenting with transforming worn out, cast iron closing wheels into spiked closing wheels. Hizey notes that manufacturers are charging as much as \$130 for a spiked closing wheel.



In addition to a full line of aftermarket replacement parts, Hizey Farm Service also machines many of their own parts.

"We can make them out of the cast iron wheels for as little as \$25," says Hizey.

In the case of the \$735 seed boot arms, Hizey sends customers a repair kit that includes 24 of the \$12 parts. "Because we farm, we can relate to the customer service we like to receive," says Hizey. "We don't take credit cards. We ship on a guy's word. We just shipped \$8,000 in parts to a customer

in Texas. We had spoken with him by phone twice."

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Home-built, 3-pt. mounted service lift lets Jerome Webb work under his riding mower without removing the deck. A pair of square lift frames support mower's front wheels.

3-Pt. "Service Lift" For Riding Mowers

Jerome Webb keeps his riding mower in great working condition, thanks to his home-built, 3-pt. mounted service lift. It lets him access the blades and change the belts or motor oil without having to remove the deck.

He used steel tubing to build a frame that pins onto the 3-pt. hitch on his compact

tractor. A pair of square lift frames support the mower's front wheels. Webb simply drives the riding mower's front wheels onto the lift and then raises the tractor's 3-pt. hitch.

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Battery Pack Solves 6-Volt Starting Problems

Kevin Lehnert's frustration with starting older 6-volt machines led him to a better idea and his own business. He supplies custom CNC-machined battery packs that include a pair of Optima 6-volt AGM Red Top batteries harnessed together in parallel to provide 2,000 cranking amps (1,600 CCA) of 6-volt power.

"Any vehicle or machine with a 6-volt system can benefit from our battery packs," says Lehnert. "Optima AGM batteries are ideal for older cars and equipment because they're more vibration resistant, are spill-proof, and last up to 3 times longer than conventional batteries."

The battery pack includes a base plate, top plate, 2 stanchions, removable carry strap, custom positive and negative parallel cables, and assembly hardware.

Two models are available – one with the batteries mounted side by side and the other end to end – depending on the size and shape of your battery box.

"Harnessing 6-volt Optima batteries together in parallel doubles the amperage, which results in a lot more cranking power without changing the voltage," says Lehnert. "It's less expensive than converting from 6 to 12 volts because you don't have to replace the original 6-volt equipment."

He says you need to determine if his battery pack will fit in your battery box. "Measure your battery box/compartment and compare to the measurements listed on our website," he says.

The harness is machined to fit only Optima batteries. "I also sell kits without the batteries," says Lehnert, "but if you only have one Optima battery, you can't buy another one and use the 2 batteries together because the older battery will draw the new one down."



Custom CNC-machined battery pack includes a pair of Optima 6-volt AGM Red Top batteries harnessed together in parallel. They provide 2,000 cranking amps of 6-volt power.

The side by side model sells for \$409 plus S&H, and the end to end model for \$429 plus S&H. He ships the battery packs throughout the continental U.S. and Canada from his machine shop in Henderson, Minn.

Lehnert also sells Optima batteries and made-to-order cables, and plans to offer custom built battery boxes and trays. "We recommend using 2/0 gauge cable because it can handle the higher amperage. Most 6-volt systems have a fairly heavy cable, but if the cable is worn we recommend replacing it," he notes.

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All-terrain creeper has large pneumatic wheels and a reclining seat that can be set at different angles.

Creeper Works On Rough Terrain

"The All-terrain Mobile Creeper is necessary for a person with a disability and convenient for the rest of us," says Ned Stoller of Disability Work Tools. He designs and manufactures the creepers along with other adaptive tools.

"I work with the AgrAbility Project. For people who have hip, knee or leg impairments, there was a need for a creeper with large enough wheels to serve as a crawling mechanism. But it's ideal for anyone who wants to work on rough terrain. It has larger pneumatic wheels and a reclining seat to go at different angles. It has higher ground clearance (2 1/2 in.) to go across obstacles,"

he explains.

A wide wheelbase and 1-in. steel tubing frame make the creeper stable and strong enough to support 350 lbs. A lever on the side controls the angle of the foam padded vinyl bench.

The all-terrain creeper sells for \$419 (plus shipping) and is available on the Disability Work Tools website.

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