

Hitch adapter is designed for large Deere or Case IH row crop planters. It converts their 2-pt. mount to a drawbar mount.



Conversion Hitch For Large Row Crop Planters

Row crop farmers operating Deere or Case IH planters now have a single point hookup option for their equipment. Schnell Industries of Canada has developed a hitch adapter that converts a 2-pt. mount to a drawbar mount. The device works with 2-pt. mounted Deere 1770 and 1790 planters and doesn't require any modification on the machine. It also works on Case IH 1250 and 1255 planters. A Cat. 4 pintle hitch is standard on all hitches with a Cat. 5 version available as an option.

Jeremy Matuszewski of Thunderstruck Sales and Marketing says the conversion hitch meets a unique need. "The majority of those planters were built for 2-pt. hookup. As the planters got larger a farmer had to either purchase a larger tractor with a 3-pt. hitch or install a 3-pt. hitch on his larger tractor. Both of those options are far more pricey than this conversion hitch.

"When conditions are wet for planting, more flotation is needed, which means the farmer needs to use his 4-WD for flotation and traction. This simple pin-on hitch is less

expensive than any other alternative and can be easily taken off and converted back to a 2-pt. hookup on the planter if so desired."

The conversion hitch was invented and patented by Fred Dueck of Schnell Industries. Matuszewski says 90 percent of the parts are laser cut with tab and notch for precision and strength. A single cylinder on the hitch raises and lowers the parallel arm, which takes the place of the 3-pt. hitch lift arms on the tractor. He adds that because the hitch is always attached to a drawbar, a planter is pulled from a low point on the tractor for more stability in the transport position. The hitch fits 12, 16 and 24-row planters. A jack stand on each side of the back of the hitch holds the planter secure when it's unhooked from the tractor. The hitch weighs 850 lbs, providing plenty of bulk for strength and stability. Retail price is \$6,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Thunderstruck Ag, 201 S. Railway Ave., Winkler, Manitoba Canada R6W 1J9 (ph 204 325-8051; www.thunderstruckag.com).

Horst Wagons' Road Flex suspension produces a smoother ride that also reduces vibration at the drawbar.



High-Speed Wagons Designed For Faster Modern Tractors

Horst Wagons' Road Flex suspension has what it takes to keep up with today's high-speed tractors. With tractors racing along at 35 to 40 mph, conventional running gears often can't keep up.

"We've offered our Road Flex suspension on header wagons for about 5 years, but with tractors getting bigger and faster, we felt the time was right to expand the market," says Ryan Frey, Horst Welding.

The Road Flex suspension uses shock absorber blocks mounted to fabricated steel cases. The cases float on pivot pins, allowing each wheel to respond independently. The four-wheel suspension eliminates the need for rocking bolsters.

"Road Flex suspension with its smoother ride helps with fatigue of the box or rack," says Frey. "It also takes out vibration at the drawbar, which is a lot easier on the tractor. Road Flex also offers more clearance with a tighter turning radius than with standard suspension."

Road Flex is available with 4 wagon models from Horst, the 12-ton 205RF, 15-ton 285RF, 20-ton 365RF and 24-ton 485F. It is also available on three 4-wheel, steel header carriers for 30 to 45-ft. headers. Wagons and



Shock absorber blocks mount on steel cases that float on pivot pins, allowing each wheel to respond independently.

carriers equipped with Road Flex suspension generally run from \$1,500 to \$2,000 more than the same wagon with conventional suspension.

Horst wagons are available at local farm equipment dealers throughout Canada. In the U.S. they are most commonly available from the Northeast to the upper Great Plains. Check with the company website to find a local dealer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Horst Wagons, 8082 Road 129, RR no. 3, Listowel, Ontario Canada N4W 3G8 (ph 519 291-4162; toll free 866 567-4162; www.horstwagons.com).

Computerized Lift Offers New Option For Injured Horses

There's a new high-tech option for healing from fractures and other musculoskeletal problems with horses, thanks to a new computerized horse lift that reduces and redistributes a horse's weight while it is healing. The harness attaches to an overhead rail. As the horse gets better, the system allows the horse to carry more weight and build up strength.

"It allows the horse to move around so we don't have issues with muscle wasting," says Dr. Julia Montgomery, a large-animal internal medicine specialist at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) in Saskatoon, Sask., and research team leader.

RMD Engineering Inc. developed the system and consults on the trials. Montgomery's job is to test it, which she did literally – putting herself in the harness. "It helped me understand horse behavior," she says.

During the first phase, healthy horses were used to test the system, which allows the animal to move in a figure 8 in a two-stall area.

With overhead rails becoming more common, the horse lift could be adapted to veterinarian hospitals, arenas and other facilities.

"It really could be custom-made for the space," Montgomery says. "The new and exciting part is the lift itself. It's a computer program to dial in weight compensation. The thing I like about it is that it senses changes in movement. So if the horse stumbles, it catches the horse."

For the second phase, Montgomery is working with a farmer/seamstress to sew a new blanket-style harness that has pickup points at the front and rear legs instead of the



Computerized horse lift reduces and redistributes a horse's weight while it's healing.

abdomen, and that uses a sheepskin insert to prevent pressure sores.

After fine-tuning the harness on healthy horses, the final phase will be testing it on horses with acute injuries and musculoskeletal problems. Potential customers include owners of racing horses, high-level competition horses and breeding stock all over North America.

There's a video at www.farmshow.com of the harness in use.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Julia Montgomery, University of Saskatchewan, Dept. of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, 52 Campus Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. Canada S7N 5B4 (ph 306 966-7025; www.usask.ca/wcvm; julia.montgomery@usask.ca).

"Gro-Tunnels" Make Early And Late Planting Easy

The DeWitt Gro-Tunnel includes water tubes, fleece-covered hoops and weed-barrier landscape fabric. Tubes, hoops and landscape fabric are sized to protect a 10-ft. length of plant row with a tunnel that is 3-ft. wide and 18 in. high.

"The fleece material covering the hoops raises the temperature under the hoops by 6 to 8 degrees," says the company. "Additional heat is provided by the water tubes and landscape fabric."

Landscape fabric is laid down alongside the intended plant row. Once seeds have been planted or seedlings transplanted into place, the plastic tubes are placed on top of the landscape fabric to either side of the row. The fleece-covered hoops are installed over the row and through the landscape fabric, with tubes on the inside and about 8 in. of landscape fabric outside the hoops. Once the tubes have been filled with water, they're tied to the hoops. The ends of the fleece-covered hoops also are closed off.

The fleece row cover is designed to diffuse sunlight for improved photosynthesis. It lets rain in while holding in heat. The black plastic tubes hold 10 gal. of water each. They absorb heat during the day and release it as ambient temperatures fall. The black plastic landscape fabric also absorbs heat during the day, storing it in the soil around the plants.

When plants are ready, simply slide the fleece fabric up the sides of the hoops for harvest.

Gro-Tunnels can be found for sale on the internet for as low as \$19.50 each plus shipping.



Fleece-covered hoops, water tubes and weed-barrier landscape fabric are sized to protect a 10-ft. length of plant row.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, DeWitt Company, River Birch Mall, 905 S. Kingshighway, Sikeston, Mo. 63801 (ph 573 472-0048; toll free 800 888-9669; info@dewittcompany.com; www.dewittcompany.com).