

Tire Grabber Has 3-Way Action

Darcy Goossen had an idea for a way to lift, tip and rotate the big tires he used on his high clearance sprayer. He built it, patented it and now he is selling the Tire Grabber.

"It took a while, from drawing it on paper, cutting it out on cardboard, and then finally starting on steel with a cutting torch," says Goossen, an Alberta, Canada farmer. "The first one was crude, but we built it up from there. It took a couple of years. We wanted to make it strong, but not clumsy."

Goossen succeeded. He patterned the movements of the Tire Grabber after the way a wrist moves. The telescoping arms are attached to plates mounted to the Tire Grabber's hub. The arms act in unison as they are driven by a single hydraulic cylinder. As the ram extends, all 3 arms extend to reach the desired diameter. As the operator moves the skid steer-mounted Tire Grabber forward, he retracts the ram and the 3 arms clamp down on the tire, holding it securely.

Goossen wanted to avoid the problems he had using a pallet fork to change tires. All too often as he drove forward, the tire's lower edge would bite into the ground, and the tire would pitch forward.

"The rotation of the plates help keep all the arms even," says Goossen. "They move simultaneously and clamp the tire evenly 3 ways. Once the tire is held, the operator can unlock one side of the Tire Grabber and swing the tire to the other side."

Using the Tire Grabber to attach the tire to the wheel hub couldn't be easier. The operator

simply drives up to the wheel hub, aligns the height and then rotates the tire to match the bolt holes to the hub bolts.

One of Goossen's goals with the Tire Grabber was to leave plenty of room for a worker to access the hub of the wheel. He managed to do so by making the rotating hub of the Tire Grabber small. At the same time it is substantial, as it rides on a 3-in. shaft made from 4140 steel with a 36,000-lb. breaking point.

Everything about the 700-lb. tire grabber is heavy duty. The tubing the shaft sits in is 1/2-in. thick material. The arms can extend outward to handle an 88-in. dia. tire or retract to grab a 52-in. tire.

"After we built it, it was reverse engineered," says Goossen. "It was given a 3,300-lb. load rating. We have made our new ones even stronger, and they have a 4,000-lb. load rating."

The Tire Grabber is priced at \$7,995 with a skid steer plate. Goossen is currently working on an attachment for a forklift, as well as one to mount the Tire Grabber to knuckle booms.

"The Tire Grabber is a lifetime investment for a farmer," says Goossen. "If you're not a tire shop, I don't expect you will ever wear it out."

One feature that Goossen is especially proud of is the Tire Grabber's ability to lay a tire down flat on the ground or in a stack and then later pick it up again.

Check out the Tire Grabber video at FARM SHOW.com.



Tire Grabber can lay a tire flat on the ground or on a stack.



Skid loader-mounted Tire Grabber uses 3 telescoping arms attached to plates mounted on a hub. A hydraulic cylinder extends the arms in unison.

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Smart Phone Used To Adjust These Row Cleaners

For many farmers, planter row cleaners have all the benefits of a warm tractor cab on a cold day: they just make farming easier, with the added benefit of dramatically improving plant emergence. Their one big drawback is they need to be adjusted for field, soil and residue conditions.

Martin Industries says it has taken a great idea and made it better by introducing the Smart Clean™ system, which makes manual row cleaner adjustments a thing of the past. Smart Clean is an air system mounted on each row cleaner that regulates down pressure. A

directional control valve lets a farmer adjust his cleaners from a simple smart phone app while he's in the tractor cab. That app raises or lowers row cleaners by changing the amount of air pressure in the cylinders. A directional control valve selects for raising, lowering or floating right from the phone. Better yet, there aren't any air lines or manual valves in the tractor cab.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Martin Industries, P.O. Box 428, Elkton, Ky. 42220 (ph 800 366-5817; www.martintill.com).



Smart Clean system lets you use a smart phone app to adjust planter row cleaners from your tractor cab. It works by changing the amount of air pressure in a cylinder.

Modified Top Bar Hive Keeps Bees Healthier

Manzer Apiary beehives include a special vented bottom board to control in-hive humidity and keep bees healthy.

"The ventilation system controls condensation, which is the big killer of bees," explains Shayna Wagner, Manzer Apiary. "Our beehives have a window on the back of the hive where condensation can be seen. The beekeeper just opens a hole in the bottom or one of 3 holes at the top to increase ventilation."

Brian Manzer began work with his brother-in-law on improving the traditional top bar beehive when his brother Owen was having problems with death loss in his hives. In the 6 years since trying the new design, he hasn't lost a single hive due to condensation, notes Wagner.

Manzer has been selling the beehives to small beekeepers in eastern Canada and the U.S.

"Most of our customers are small beekeepers, buying 1 or 2 hives," says Wagner.

Manzer beehive bodies come fully assembled. Features include an insulated metal covered lid, inspection window with

cover, screened bottom vent system and covers, upper sliding vent system, and chain support for the lid. Other features include an inside open feeder, sugar cake holder, top bars, landing board with sliding gate and legs.

The company also offers spring workshops for beginning beekeepers and a fall workshop for those who have one or more hives. The 3-hour session workshops are priced at \$50 per person or \$75 for a couple, with a \$25 credit toward a future Manzer beehive.

"We had 2 spring workshops and one in the fall with about 14 attendees at each," says Wagner. "We already have names on lists for spring and fall workshops in 2018."

The beehives sell for \$485 (Canadian). Manzer Apiary also sells bees and other common supplies for keeping bees. This includes a food-grade extractor to press the honey out of the top bar honeycomb. It is priced at \$50.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Manzer Apiary Inc., P.O. Box 1115, 35 Industrial Dr., Digby, N.S. Canada B0V 1A0 (ph 902 245-1052; manzerapiary@gmail.com; www.manzerapiary.com).



A special vented bottom board on the Manzer Apiary beehive lets you control in-hive humidity and keep condensation from forming.