



Modifications to the dethatcher include caster wheels for maneuverability, a hitch for towing behind a mower with an extended throttle cable, and a turnbuckle for height adjustments.

Dethatcher Converted To Tow-Behind

Earl Line wasn't getting the results he wanted from his Husqvarna DT22 dethatcher so he made several modifications, including a hitch to tow it behind his riding mower.

"When I began using it, I found it to be very cumbersome and hard to turn," recalls Line. "The holes for height adjustment were too far apart for good depth control. If the thatch was moist, it would stick to the rear wheels, increasing the height of the machine and affecting the working depth."

Line got busy making improvements. He removed the front wheels and built a framework for 3 caster wheels. He bolted it to the original front wheel mounts.

"The caster wheels solved the maneuverability issue," says Line.

Line made dethatching even easier by rigging up a small hitch to connect the dethatcher to his riding lawn mower. He ran a steel rod through the lawn mower's rear lift arms, extending it half the width of the dethatcher to his mower's left side.

A hitch plate pins to the center of the caster wheel framework and to the rod through the lift arms. Line also extended the throttle control cord, so he can adjust it from the riding lawn mower's seat.

To solve the height adjustment problem, he cut out a section of the height adjustment rod.



Small scrapers that rest on the rear wheels and are pinned to brackets he mounted to the dethatcher.

A turnbuckle welded in place to reconnect the rod gives Line near infinite height adjustments.

Line also dealt with the wet thatch problem. He fabricated small scrapers that rest on the rear wheels and are pinned to brackets he mounted to the dethatcher.

"I purchased the wheels at our local hardware store," says Line. "I had everything else on hand. It was a low-cost fix, and now it works great with no issues."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Earl Line, Box 366, Melita, Man. Canada ROM1L0 (ph 204 522-5046; eline@mymts.net).



Kits from Bryant Combine Parts repair worn reel pipes. The bearing and holder are removed, the worn pipe is cut and the section slides into the OEM pipe, and is pinned in place.

Kit Makes Pipe Reel Repair Easy

Combine reel pipes worn thin at their bearings are easy to fix with a repair kit from Bryant Combine Parts. Instead of replacing the pipe, just cut out the worn section and splice in a new one. The kit comes with everything needed except for a tool to cut the pipe.

"We started selling replacement pipe reels, but shipping a 30-ft. reel is not efficient," says Ryan Davidson, Bryant Combine Parts. "The kits are a way to save farmers money. Since introducing them, they have gone everywhere, all over the U.S. We have a distributor in Australia, and some kits have gone to Canada."

The company has kits to match common pipe styles used by major manufacturers for different models. Each kit includes pipe sections to splice into place and new pins to lock it in place, as well as a new bearing.

Installation is easy, and videos on the



company website make it even easier. The first step is to remove reel fingers to either side of the bearing to verify the pipe style, should the original reel have been replaced previously. Combine models with their OEM pipe reels in place can be checked against the kit "fit" list.

Once the bearing holder and bearing have been removed, the worn pipe is cut and removed. The new section simply slides into the OEM pipe and is pinned in place. With the new bearing installed and the bearing holder and reel fingers returned to their places, the combine is ready to go.

Kit prices vary from \$28 to \$30 each. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bryant Combine Parts, P.O. Box 176, Bryant, Ind. 47326 (ph 260 997-6940; toll free 800 255-1071; parts@bryantcombineparts.com; www.bryantcombineparts.com).

Portable Scale Lets Cattle Weigh Themselves



The Hencol portable scale provides accurate weight to producers by tracking RFID tags that are read as they pass over the scale placed in an area the cattle frequent.

Cattle producers don't have to guess how much their animals weigh or how many lbs. they're gaining per day thanks to a new 24/7 weigh station introduced by Hencol of Sweden. CEO Johan Karlberg says the new scale provides accurate weights for individual cattle or a group. The sturdy metal scale weighs about 770 lbs. and can be set up in a barn or field to accommodate several cattle during the course of a day.

The scale is part of a web-based service called LiveStock Planner that works from a computer or mobile device. Information collected by the scale is transmitted to the computer automatically. The scale is placed so animals with an RFID tag pass through and over it during their daily routine. Each time an animal steps on the scale its weight is registered without human intervention.

Karlberg says getting animals used to walking across the scale is done by placing the unit in an area where the cattle walk during their normal daily routine. A mineral block or food source can be helpful so animals learn to walk across the scale.

Using the scale and LiveStock Planner benefits cattle producers by providing accurate rather than estimated daily gain. Producers get data for individual animals or a group and can adjust feeding rates and easily predict finishing weights and dates.

During testing, the scale was providing from 6 to 12 readings per day per animal in a Swedish cattle operation with 350 animals. By using the scale Karlberg says producers

should be able to keep and market 15 percent more animals annually because they have better control over feed consumption, actual growth rate and know exactly when animals are ready for market.

Karlberg says the Planner really simplifies animal management and takes the guesswork out of feeding and when to market the animals. Hencol is responsible for installing the system and providing training and support for the system. Contact the company for pricing.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hencol AB, Nedra Langgatan 48, Itr, 457 72 Grebbestad, Sweden (e-mail: info@hencol.se).



Dave Adams extended his Cub Cadet garden tractor to allow for a metal dump bed and added dual-wheels.

Garden Tractor "Dump Truck"

Dave Adams of Irwin, Penn., had an idea years ago to convert a garden tractor into a dump truck. After his first attempt ended up on the junk pile, he finally got the job done using a 1996, 1863 Cub Cadet tractor.

"To begin with, I extended the frame about 30 in., had to make another driveshaft for it, and fit the hydraulic lines to lower and raise the cargo box," he says. "There is a shaft on the passenger side of the tractor that works the blades and the hydraulics. Well, I ran an arm down off that, bent the floorboard up just a wee bit, and came back with a series of levers that went up through the frame to lift the bed hydraulically."

He built the 40 by 40-in. metal bed with 11-in. metal walls including a tailgate completely from scratch. Dual wheels were added using sections of corrugated spacers from an old truck, welded so the 4 bolts between the rims would hold securely to the original heavy-duty hydraulic axle.

Adams found and installed a Craftsman Briggs and Stratton 18-hp. motor to replace the stock Kohler engine. "It purred like a kitten, fit right in there, and bolted up nicely."

The original hood was a damaged

3-piece fiberglass panel and with winter coming on, he made a trip to his boneyard to find a replacement.

"I just wanted to cover the motor up over the winter, and I found this hood, threw it on and it fit perfectly. I painted it and it looks like it was made for it," he says.

He explains the driveshaft was the hardest part to adapt as he needed to extend it 30 in.. His first effort using welded 3/4-in. black iron pipe blew apart but when he adapted a harder steel pipe of 9/16 in. dia. it worked fine after a center carrier bearing was added for support.

After building the dump truck, Adams wasn't sure how much weight the box would lift as he had to extend the stroke on the hydraulic piston that raises the deck from 3 to 11 in.

"I had to move 5 tons of topsoil and loaded the cargo box until it wouldn't hold another shovel and it dumped the loads no problem. It only goes up to a little less than a 45-degree angle but it's enough. It was fun to build and is a really useful machine."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Adams, 2305 Robert Street, Irwin, Penn. 15642.