



## Tractor Packer Wheels

"I got the idea when I read in FARM SHOW about a Scottish farmer who put packer wheels on the front of his tractor," says Bob Stewart, Zillah, Wash. Instead of the front, he mounted four wheels on the back of his tractor to pack the ground behind the two sets of duals on his Deere 5020 tractor.

The idea is to evenly pack ground between tractor tires so that trailing tillage equipment or drills work level ground.

"I didn't like the idea of mounting packer wheels up front because they'd be in the way and make it hard to steer. These are out of the way and I can raise them hydraulically," says Stewart.

He used crazy wheels and lift arms off an old 275 IH swather to make the wheels. Heavy "down springs" attach to a frame he built under the tractor. Two hydraulic cylinders apply more or less pressure to the down springs to pull the wheels toward the ground applying enough pressure to

actually lift the rear of the tractor. In soft ground he raises the wheels to increase traction to the tractor tires.

Stewart says the packer wheels save a trip through the field with his roller harrow. "Without the packer wheels, dirt builds up in the center of the roller harrow and it doesn't work deep enough in the tracks on the outside. I'd have to run through the field a second time to get the job done right. Now it works at the same depth all across the rear of the tractor."

To accommodate the wheels he had to extend the rear drawbar 2 ft., a modification that also helps keep implements from hitting the outer duals on corners. He also built a platform and a set of steps above the packer wheels that provide easy access to the tractor and a place to carry spare parts, chains, rocks and so on.

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## Do-It-Yourself Stone Trap

"No forage harvester has a good stone trap so we built our own," says Leonard J. Digney, Raymore, Sask.

Digney raised the existing pickup on his harvester 5 in. off the ground to keep it from picking up rocks and then mounted another pickup in front of that. Stones fall back to the ground through the 4 to 5-in. gap between the pickups as material is picked up and passed into the machine.

"You lose a little forage through the gap but the little you lose is more than repaid by stopping the rocks," says Digney. He used an old Massey 21 pickup cut down to size for the job but says he's experimenting



with other belt-type pickups. He says the old-style pickup has a tendency to wrap. The add-on header is belt-driven off the forage harvester pickup.

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Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? (Send to: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, MN 55044).

*Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director*



## Home-Built Snowthrower

Reinhardt Preheim, Mountain Lake, Minn., built his own "snowthrower" using a Melroe skid steer loader that he's had for more than 20 years. He added his own homemade snowthrower, which is powered by a 26-hp., 4-cyl Wisconsin gas engine mounted on the snowthrower frame.

Double "V" belts power the snowthrower auger off the engine and turn the auger at more than 1,600 rpms. The 54-in. wide, 18-in. dia. auger is fitted with a center paddle that throws snow up and out of the 10-in. dia. spout. Preheim notes that

he can throw snow up to 50 ft. away without using a blower.

The engine has electric start, a 5-gal. gas tank and operates independently of the skid steer loader except for the fact that it fits on loader arms. By raising and lowering the snowthrower, Preheim can tackle snowbanks up to 8-ft. high. The discharge spout swivels 360° and has an adjustable top flap for directing snow flow.

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