



Hydraulic-powered hitch is used to pull two Case-IH 8545 balers behind a Deere 4040. Balers hitch to hydraulically-operated arm on each end.

HITCH DOUBLES AS AN OIL RESERVOIR

Splitter Hitch Pulls Two Balers At Once

"It lets one man do the work of two," says Kyle Robinson who, along with his father Larry, built a hydraulic-powered splitter hitch to pull two Case/IH 8545 small square balers behind a Deere 4040. The hitch also serves as the hydraulic oil reservoir for the pump and motors used to drive the balers.

"Powering the balers hydraulically lets us turn shorter than we'd be able to turn with two pto driveshafts," explains Kyle of Robinson Farms, Amarillo, Texas. "Before we built this hitch, dad and I each pulled

one of the balers, leaving no one to 'mind the store.' This way, one of us can bale the same acreage in a day and the other can run the operation."

The hitch is 11 ft. wide. Each end is fitted with a 3-ft. long, hydraulically operated arm that the balers hitch to.

The body consists of three metal tanks made out of irrigation pipe. The top tank is an 8-in. dia. cylinder that runs across the width of the hitch. The bottom two tanks are 3 ft. long and 12 in. in dia.

The tanks are plumbed together with 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe and filled from a single cap on top. They hold 60 gal. of hydraulic fluid.

A 3,000 psi pump mounts in the center of the hitch, which attaches to the 4040's 3 pt., and a 50 hp motor mounts on each of the baler's tongues. The pump drives off the tractor's pto. Motors direct drive the balers' flywheels.

"We simply removed the pto driveshafts from the balers and put the motors in their place. No modification was necessary to power them hydraulically," says Kyle.

The hitch's arms, which are made out of 4-in. sq. metal tubing, are each fitted with a 20-in. dia. castor wheel to keep the hitch level over uneven terrain.

The hitch spaces the balers 16 ft. apart from center to center. They're equipped with 6-ft. pickup reels and produce about 200 3 by 3 ft. by-14 in. bales per hour. They pick up two 4-ft. windrows laid down by the Robinsons' Case/IH self-propelled 16-ft. swather.

For transport, the hitch raises up on the 3-pt. and the arms pull in so the balers come to within 1 ft. of each other for an overall transport width of 14 ft.

Since building it last winter, the Robinsons have made more than 100,000 bales with the patented hitch.

"It works better than we ever dreamed. What's more, the design will work for hooking three small square balers or two big round balers together as well," Kyle says. "We're building one that will look like a production unit. Case, Hesston and Vermeer are all looking at it."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robinson Farms, 8001 E. Farmers Ave., Amarillo, Texas 79118 (ph 806 373-9479).

BIG REEL MOUNTS ON CONVENTIONAL COMBINE WITH BEEFED UP HEADER

Down Corn Harvester Picks Up Loose Ears

"Preliminary tests this fall tell us this may be the best down corn harvester ever developed," says Gary Resch about a revolutionary "down corn" harvesting reel his company began field-testing late in October.

Long-time FARM SHOW readers may remember another down corn harvesting machine built by Resch 12 years ago and used successfully for several years to retrieve as much as 90 percent of down corn in any given field. The problem with the original machine was that it was too big and cumbersome to be hauled around the country.

Resch calls his new machine the "Corn Gleener". It consists of a large reel fitted with rubber fingers that rake the ground. It's mounted on a rebuilt grain platform designed to handle the mix of ears, stalks, dirt, and rocks that the reel pulls off the field.

The Corn Gleener reel mounts on a Case/IH 2166 combine, which has a beefed up feederhouse. The reel was built from a 30-ft. Case/IH 1020 grain header.

Flighting on the cross auger has been down-sized so it reduces the amount of rocks fed into the combine and also to better handle the increased flow of material.

Rocks that are picked up are augered to the center of the header and dumped by a rock dump.

Stalks are pulled out of the header before entering the combine by corn husking rollers mounted behind the cross auger.

The Corn Gleener operates at field speeds of at least 4 to 5 mph.

"We had one unit operating this fall, no problems," Resch says. "We want to build several more in time for next season."

The company picks up corn on a crop-share basis, keeping 2/3 of the corn recovered.

"All the farmer has to do is line up the semi" to haul his share of the corn," Resch says. "The farmer and our company each pay for their share of the hauling. Also, the farmer has to supply an auger or elevator to load the trucks.

"Most farmers are tickled pink to recover a third of their corn and not have to hassle with anything other than that. Plus, they like the idea of not having to fight a lot of volunteer corn the following year."

Contact: Corn Gleener Inc., 21952 Rausch Lake Road, St. Cloud, Minn. 55320 (ph 320 654-1658).



Inventor Gary Resch with down corn harvesting reel mounted on a Case-IH 2166 combine.



Flighting on header cross auger is downsized to better handle the flow of residue and crop material into combine.



Construction of Corn Gleener began last summer. Rocks that are picked up are augered to center of header over poly-lined floor and dumped by rock dump (shown at bottom right).



Resch first got into the down corn retrieval business 12 years ago when he put this big rig together. Rake wheels up front pulled loose ears and residue into a windrow that was picked up by a rock picker-type rig behind the tractor. It separated out stalks and rocks from the corn and augered the ears into a trailing wagon. Resch says the machine worked great but was too big to transport easily, and required a separate operation to shell the corn.

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