

He Built A 9-Row Cornhead And Cultivator

Howard Streeter, Alpha, Ill., built his own 9-row corn head and cultivator after buying an 18-row, 30-in. Deere planter and finding out that the company had no plans to make a 9-row corn head or cultivator.

"For a few years, Deere made 18-row planters. I was sure they were going to make a 9-row corn head but they never did. Most farmers who bought the 18-row planters combined with 6-row corn heads. However, I wanted a 9-row head and no commercial ones were available," says Streeter.

Streeter bought an 8-row wide Deere corn head, traded its 36-in. wide snouts for 30-in. wide snouts, and added a row unit. He then cut 12 1/2 in. from each end of the head and 24 in. from the auger. One side of the head drives five rows, and the other side drives four rows as well as the cross auger.

Streeter built his own 9-row hydraulic-fold cultivator from scratch by buying 9 row units and building his own toolbar.

"It makes an excellent cultivator," says Streeter, who pulls the rig with a Deere 4450 tractor.

The 9-row configuration allows him to set his tractor tires 90 in. apart instead of the normal 60 in. "To cultivate, I scoot each tire out 15 inches, using a special hub extension available from Deere. The 90-inch spacing lets the tractor straddle three rows instead of two, and makes it more stable on hillsides. It also helps for baling hay. I can lay a wider swath with my 10-ft. mower conditioner because the tractor won't drive over it. The wider swath dries out faster."

Streeter installs duals for planting and combining, running the inside tires at 60 in. and the outside tires at 120 in. "During planting, one row runs between each set of duals and two rows run under the tractor itself. That way I never drive over ground to be planted."

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Bucket Attachment Lifts Tractor Up To Second Story

Home-built bucket attachments let Larry Oddan, Coaldale, Alberta, lift a 28-hp tractor up to the second story of his poultry barn to clean out manure.

Oddan, who operates a 50,000 broiler poultry farm, has two 2-story barns. "We use a Kubota 7200 4-WD hydrostatic tractor to clean manure from the second floor, pushing it through holes in the floor," says Oddan. "Before we built the bucket attachment, we had been using a ramp built onto a wagon to drive the tractor onto the second floor. However, the ramp's steep grade made this a dangerous practice, especially if the ramp was wet or covered with snow. It's safer and faster to lift the tractor with our Case

loader."

Oddan used 10-in. wide channel iron to build 7-ft. long forks that attach to the underside of the loader bucket. A set of wider tracks, which accommodate the tractor's rear tires, fit inside the bucket. "We back the tractor right onto these tracks and set the parking brake," says Oddan. "Then we attach chains to adjustable slots on the front of the forks and hook them to both corners of the bucket. One person can bolt or unbolt the forks in 5 minutes or less."

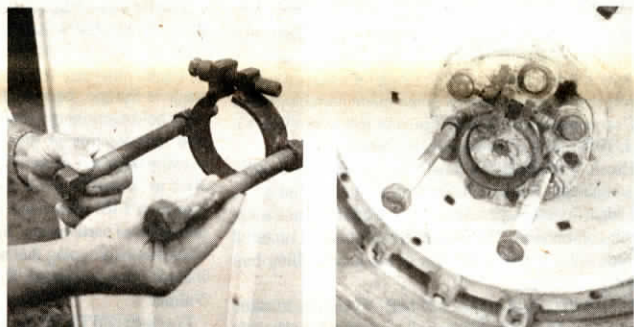
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Harold M. Jonsson, Editor-in-Chief



"Axle Clamp" Moves Tractor Wheel Easily

A home-built "axle clamp" designed for his Allis-Chalmers 7040 tractor lets Verne Schlueter, Arlington, Minn., move the right wheel inward in five minutes or less using a wrench.

"It saves time and eliminates a lot of hard work," says Schlueter, who uses the "axle clamp" mainly to move the right wheel inward after plowing. "We use duals for field cultivating and disking. But for plowing, we remove one wheel on the right side and move the remaining wheel out so that it runs in the plow furrow. We pull the wheel out by attaching a hydraulic jack to the axle and chains to the wheel casting. That's relatively easy. However, to switch back to duals, we must move the single wheel in again and that was the problem. Before, we had to park the tractor near a tree or other stationary object and set the hydraulic jack between the tree and the tractor wheel. Now we simply attach the clamp and turn a pair of 9-inch long bolts to force the wheel in. It takes five min-

utes or less and it's easy."

Schlueter used 4-in. dia. pipe to make the axle clamp's collar. He cut out a 1-in. cross section of pipe and then split it, pulling it far enough apart to fit around the axle. On the split ends of the collar he welded two 1/2-in. dia. square nuts. A 4-in. long bolt pulls these nuts together. Then on each side of the collar he welded two 1 1/4-in. dia. hex nuts.

To move the wheel inward, Schlueter removes a safety clip from the axle and places the collar on the end of the axle, fastening it in place with a 4-in. long bolt. Using a 3/4-in. impact wrench, he turns both 9-in. bolts against the wheel casting to move it inward. After the wheel is in position, he removes the clamp and tightens the wheel hub as normally.

Schlueter says his homemade axle clamp works on any tractor equipped with straight axles.

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