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## LETS YOU HITCH, UNHITCH WITHOUT LEAVING CAB

# New "Cab Operated" Hitch For Tractors

"We think it's better and safer than any other automatic hitch system on the market," says inventor Brian Olson, a Tompkins, Sask., farmer. "You don't need help and you don't have to leave the cab to hook or unhook implements. And, by moving all hydraulic hoses to a manifold type hookup within reach from the rear window, you can make the entire hookup—hitch and hydraulics—without leaving the cab."

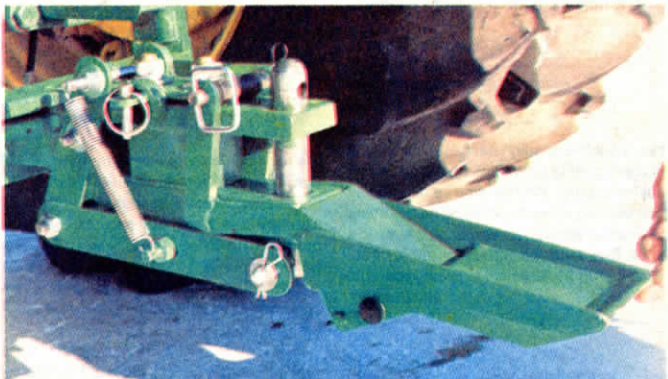
Brian's initial prototype was a hydraulically-operated version which we told you about in FARM SHOW last fall (Vol. 12, No. 4, 1988 issue). Since our report, Brian has developed a lower cost, hand operated, cable controlled model that sells for \$290. Called the Power Pin, it's patented and comes equipped with a "lift ramp" that automatically lifts and guides the tongue of an implement into position for hookup with the Power Pin, which is activated manually from inside the cab.

The hitch for Deere tractors attaches with 8 bolts and requires no cutting or drilling of holes and mounts below the drawbar so it

doesn't interfere with a pto or the swinging drawbar. If you're stuck in the field and the 1-1/2 in. dia. hitch pin binds tight in the hole, you can unlock the control lever in the cab and manually pound the pin straight down to remove it. The pin, which enters from the bottom, has a smooth base to eliminate trash accumulation.

"The agricultural industry standard of the future will be single tongue implement hitches and double tongue tractor drawbars. Some older implements still have the double tongue, which the Power Pin can work on with the use of the top tractor drawbar hole. To achieve a single tongue standard on my farm equipment, I removed one tongue and welded it to the other tongue, thus keeping the same amount of steel in the hitch," Brian points out.

For more information, including the name of your closest Power Pin dealer, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Olson Ag Innovations, 3018 Gordon Road, Regina, Sask. S4S 2T8 Canada (ph 306 586-0046).



"Lift ramp" automatically lifts and guides the tongue of an implement into position for hookup with the Power Pin.

# Thermal Cultivator Zaps Weeds With Fire

Latest new way to control weeds in corn and other row crops without chemicals is the Thermal Cultivator, developed by Wisconsin crop consultant Ronald Jones, of Neilsville, and implement dealer Scott Roehrborn, of Cadott.

They're working together and hope to have "at least 100 four and six row Thermal Cultivators—a Lilliston rolling cultivator equipped with liquid propane burners—in the field this spring throughout the Midwest."

"Thermal weed control isn't new but the idea has never been commercially refined," notes Jones. "Machines were on the market in the early 1960's but they got put on the back burner when selective new herbicides came along. Most everyone thought they were the real panacea. We think the time now has come for a serious second look at flame cultivation. Farmers are desperately searching for alternatives to chemical weed control, which generally was very poor last year. What's more, herbicide carryover has severely limited 1989 cropping options for many farmers."

Jones and Roehrborn feel that, by using flames to zap weeds growing in the row, they can significantly boost crop yields—without the use of chemical weed killers. "One pigweed plant per 10 in. of row is enough to reduce corn yields 15 bu. per acre, or soybean yields 8 bu. per acre," Jones points out.

"The rolling cultivator will aerate the soil and wipe out weeds between rows. Propane burners will kill weeds in the row by heating them up to pop water cells in the leaves. Corn in the pre-emergence to 1.5 in. tall stage isn't harmed by the flames since the



Propane burners trail behind rolling cultivator gangs. Heat is controlled by angle of burners and ground speed.

growing point of the plants is still below ground. If needed, we'll go back a second or even a third time during the '8 in. through layby' stage. Heat is controlled by angle of the burners, and by ground speed, which will average about 5 mph.

"Farmers who'll be working with us this spring on flame cultivation will be laying the groundwork when they prepare the seedbed. In no-till, for example, we'll equip the planter with a shoe so as not to get too much trash in the rows."

The cost to equip a 4-row Lilliston rolling cultivator with propane burners, hoses and controls is \$2,499, according to Jones. He estimates that in corn it will take 4 to 5 gal. of propane per acre per treatment, and that most fields will be treated twice and some of them three times.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jones Consulting Co., Rt. 2, Box 197, Neilsville, Wis. 54456 (ph 715 743-4163).

# New Way To Fix "Junked" Case/IH Tractor Wheels

"IH tractor wheels are one of the highest-demand parts at salvage yards all over the country because they break down so often. A new wheel costs about \$800 while our new repair kit costs less than \$200 and restores existing wheels to better-than-new condition," says Dave Steiner of Steiner Tractor Parts, manufacturer of a new Wedge Lock wheel repair kit for IH tractor wheels dating from 1960 to present Case/IH models.

According to Steiner, the problem with IH tractor wheels is that the cast wheel and hub are all one piece. That means the steel axle is "wedge locked" into a keyway in the cast iron wheel/hub. Because the steel axle is much harder than the cast hub, it wears out the keyway to the point where the entire wheel has to be junked. A new replacement wheel costs around \$800.

"We machine out the old keyway and replace the original wedge lock with our own patented steel wedge lock which has a keyway to fit the axle. The old keyway is machined out to the diameter of the axle, the round side of the axle is cradled into it, and the new wedge lock and keyway is bolted into place. The repaired wheel is stronger than new. We've got more than 3,200 hrs. on 7 tractors equipped with our rebuilt wheels and we haven't had any problems," says Steiner.



Steiner machines out the old keyway to accept the round side of the axle and replaces the original wedge lock with a new wedge lock which has a keyway to fit the axle.

The new Wedge Lock repair kit is designed to fit any 3 1/4 or 3 1/2 in. dia. axle, which includes the 806 to 1066 tractors (3 1/4 in.) and 1466 tractors (3 1/2 in.).

Steiner manufactures hundreds of "better than new" replacement parts for tractors and sells them both direct and through salvage yards around the country.

The new wheel repair kit sells for \$185.

Steiner suggests farmers have their local salvage yards or repair shops contact him for more information. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Steiner, Steiner Tractor Parts, G-10096 S. Saginaw Rd., Holly, Mich. 48442 (ph 313 694-5314 or 313 695-1919).