Made It Myself

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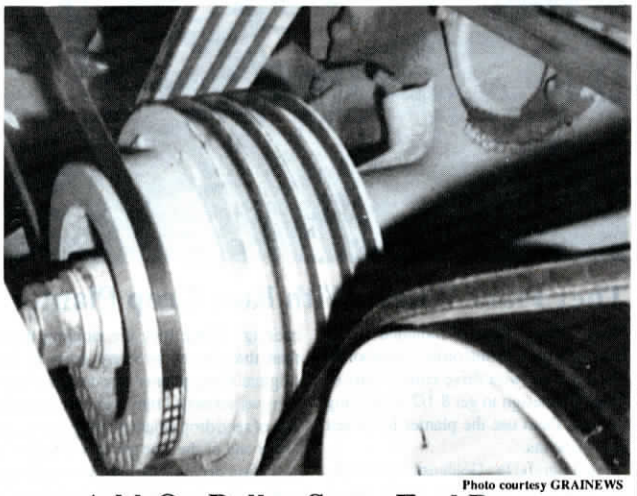

Photo courtesy GRAINEWS

Add-On Pulley Saves Fuel By Slowing Down Combine Engine

A Manitoba farmer who wasn't satisfied with the fuel economy on his 1977 New Holland TR 70 combine solved the problem by installing a larger 9-in. dia. pulley over the original drive pulley off the flywheel to slow the engine down, saving him 1 1/2 gal. of fuel per hour with no loss of power.

"The Caterpillar 3208 engine has a reputation for blowing up because it runs fast at 2,730 rpm's," says Yokimas. "Adding the larger pulley reduced rpm's to 2,400. The New Holland TR 70, 75, and 85 combines all have the same engine and the same problem. The TR 95 combine has the same engine, but it's equipped with the larger pulley so the engine runs slower. The company offers larger pulleys for the TR 70, 75, and 85 combines, but they cost $600 to $800. I bought my pulley at a salvage yard for only $20. Engines on International 1460 and 1480 and Massy Ferguson combines also run fast, but they're smaller so you might lose some power by slowing them down. I've never had problems with the engine, but I doubt that the manufacturer would honor the warranty after such a modification," notes Yokimas.

The 9-in. dia. cast iron pulley Yokimas bought was designed for a 3-in. dia. shaft so he used a lathe to enlarge the center for the combine's bigger shaft and tach welded it in place with a welding rod over the original pulley.

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"Swing Boom" Machinery Trailer

"It's so handy all my neighbors want to borrow it," says J.B. Mangus, Renick, Mo., about his "swing boom" tandem axle machinery trailer equipped with a telescoping lift arm that reaches out up to 12 ft. from the trailer, which requires no outside hydraulics. Two 8-ton hand jacks provide lifting power.

The 4-ft. high base post is bolted to the right front corner of the 24-ft. long, 8-ft. wide trailer. The lift arm is mounted at the top of the boom and equipped with a chain and hook. The arm telescopes from 7 to 12 ft. and its base is free to pivot 180°. The 8-ton hand jacks mount at the base of the boom and are pumped by a single handle.

"It'll lift objects up to 10 ft. high, and even at its maximum 12-ft. reach it can lift up to 3,000 lbs.," says Mangus, who notes that the trailer was built for him by Richard Everhart, Clark, Mo. "It really comes in handy for loading implements such as planters and cultivators that can't be driven onto the trailer. I've used it to pick up a 4-bottom plow weighing 2,500 lbs. Because the arm telescopes I can use

it to place two implements on the trailer floor at once."

The lift arm is built from 6 by 6-in. sq. tubing and 5 by 5-in. sq. tubing that slides inside it. By removing bolts Mangus can remove the boom in 15 min. The 7,000-lb. tandem axles are equipped with 7.50 by 16 tires on Chevrolet truck wheels.

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Sprayer Makes Three Applications

"My 3-in-1 homebuilt spray cart and hooded bander lets me control all of my weeds in one pass," says Mike Jorgenson, Montevideo, Minn., about his one-of-a-kind 3-way sprayer. He mounted a 300-gal. polyethylene tank on an old wagon frame that he pulls behind his 3-pt. mounted, 12-row hooded sprayer.

The system lets Jorgenson control weeds three ways: By banding Pursuit herbicide inside the hoods, by using drop nozzles to spray Roundup between hoods, and by broadcasting Pursuit with a 30-ft. wide "boomless" nozzle mounted behind the spray cart. A 15-gal. tank mounted above the spray boom itself contains Roundup and the 300-gal. tank on the wagon frame contains Pursuit. Jorgenson pulls both rigs with an old 1954 Fordson 40 hp diesel tractor.

"I've never been so pleased with my weed control," says Jorgenson, a wheat and soybean grower who built the sprayer system with the help of Mick Abner, Benson, Minn., and employee Luther Peterson. "I band Pursuit to control wild sunflowers and cockleburs and I spray Roundup between the rows to control quackgrass and other grass weeds. In heavy patches of wild sunflowers or cockleburs, I turn on the boomless nozzle to broadcast Pursuit at 1/3 the normal rate while I continue to band, resulting in overall coverage of Pursuit at 1 1/3 the normal rate over the row. I had tried everything I could think of to control sunflowers and cocklebur cost, but nothing worked to my satisfaction. My system is cheaper and offers more effective control than broadcasting Basagran with a pickup sprayer. Pursuit is a failsafe herbicide, and by banding the primary application I don't have to worry about carryover on wheat. My system cost about $3,000 to put together, but I've already paid for it in the money I saved by banding Pursuit.

"A big advantage of my spray set-up is that I can pull it with a small tractor. Many farmers who use 3-pt. mounted sprayers mount a 200-gal. or larger tank on top of the sprayer so you need gauge wheels and a large tractor to pull it. Also you can't see the sprayer as well because the tank blocks the view. My wagon-frame spray cart lets me pull a larger, 300-gal. tank with a small tractor and I've got great visibility."

The hooded sprayer is made by Custom Ag Products, Benson, Minn. A spray wand mounted on the 3-pt. hitch lets Jorgenson reach over the tractor fender to spot spray Roundup around fencelines and tile intakes.

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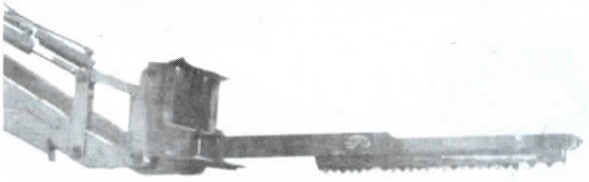

"Sickle Knife" Round Bale Cutter

Two rows of overlapping sickle sections mounted on a front-end loader solved the problem of cutting up round bales for Manitoba farmer Jacob Thiessen of Stuartburn who also uses his big bale knife as a single-spear bale carrier.

Thiessen riveted two 3 1/2-ft. long rows of non-serrated sickle sections onto a 5-ft. long bar that mounts on the front-end loader of his Deere 2755 tractor. The base of the knife is welded to a frame built from 6 by 6 by 3/4-in. steel tubing that quick-taches to the bucket.

"Even without any moving parts it cuts bales like a knife slicing through butter," says Thiessen. "The two rows of mower sections are on 1 1/2-in. centers and staggered to overlap. The sections are back to back, with the sharp edges inward and touching. To make the cut I push the bale knife down on one half of the bale, then drive to the other side of the bale and cut the remaining portion. I don't cut all the way through bales to avoid dulling the knife. It's a lot easier and safer to use than the chain saw I had been using. However, the knife should be about 6 in. longer so that I could cut the entire bale in one pass."

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