

## Made It Myself

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### On-The-Go Tilt Control For Swather Header

"The trouble with our 1982 IH 4000 swather was that we couldn't adjust cutting height on-the-go and still make use of the gauge wheels," says Harold Bjornson who installed a hydraulic adjust system that lets him tilt the header forward or backward on the swather's gauge wheels to adjust hay-cutting height on-the-go.

"We cut about 500 acres of timothy a year," says the Riverton, Manitoba, farmer. "Now I can adjust cutterbar height from 0 to 10 in. on-the-go and still have use of the gauge wheels. We find it allows us to cut hay with much less effort, and it's especially helpful for inexperienced operators who haven't yet learned how to judge proper cutterbar height."

Bjornson simply replaced the top link

on the header lift arms with a 2 1/2 by 8-in. hydraulic cylinder. He had to plumb in a 12 gpm hydraulic valve between the swather's existing pump and valves. The cylinder was fitted in place with a 5-in. extension made of flat iron that flexes so the header can tilt forward and back and from side to side.

A height gauge marked in 1-in. increments attaches to the side of the cylinder. It allows operators to tell at a glance how high they're cutting to within an inch, Bjornson says.

Out-of-pocket expense was about \$300 (Canadian).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harold Bjornson, Box 388, Riverton, Manitoba, Canada ROC 2R0 (ph 204 378-2473).

### Aluminum Dump Box Supported By Tag Axle

If you've got a compact pickup that you like but find it often "just won't carry enough", you'll want to take a look at what FARM SHOW reader Jim Hughes did to his 1985 Nissan.

Hughes constructed a high-sided aluminum dump box that dumps hydraulically and is supported by an add-on tag axle that drops down when needed to carry a full load.

"We mostly use it to haul firewood, tree limbs, and chipped material. The truck will carry a full load easily. Total weight of the truck empty is just 430 lbs. more than the original truck weight," says Hughes.

The box is made out of sheet aluminum riding on a 3-in. channel iron frame that fits over the original steel frame rails, and also provides enough strength to carry a full load. The rear axle and wheels from a Chevy Citation car support the back end of the big box when full. The wheels ride about 1 in.



above the ground when the box is empty. When full, the wheels run on the ground.

Total cost of materials for the dump box was \$500.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Hughes, P.O. Box 1011, Cartersville, Ga. 30120 (ph 770 382-9487).

### Wheeled Gate Works Great On Slopes

If you've got gateways on hillsides or rough terrain you'll like this telescoping, wheeled gate that's designed for uneven ground.

"I built it three years ago because my corral is on downward sloping ground, making it impossible to use conventional gates with fixed hinges," says Charles Erfle of Morse, Sask. "I looked everywhere - even in the FARM SHOW Encyclopedia - and didn't find anything like it. So I gave it a whirl and it works great."

The frame of Erfle's 16 by 4-ft. gate is built out of 2-in. dia. pipe. It's braced horizontally and vertically with sucker rod and band iron across the middle.

He uses two universal joints cut off the driveshafts of old swathers as hinges. The top driveshaft extends about 2 ft. inside the top rail of the gate so it can telescope in and out. Universal joints weld to a 1-in. dia. shaft through the gate post. The universal joints act as pivot points, allowing the gate to move up and down. When it does, the shafts extend inside the gate frame allowing it to telescope in and out.

Erfle mounted a "space saver"-type spare tire he got for \$1 on an axle in the side of



the gate to allow it to simply roll down the hill when opened.

Because Erfle's gate rolls down a slope, he made it so the top rail telescopes. If the gate rolled uphill, he'd make the bottom rail telescope.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Charles Erfle, Box 35, Morse, Sask., Canada SOH 3C0 (ph 306 629-3713).



### Front-Mounted 3-Pt. Boosts Productivity

"It gives our tractor the versatility to do a lot more jobs," says Mike Bennett about a front-mounted 3-pt. hitch he and his father, Jim, use on their Deere 7600 2-WD tractor. It allows the Monticello, Ill., farmers to spray, cultivate, carry big round bales and push snow with equipment that's out front and easy to see.

The Bennetts also own a Versatile 276 tractor which comes factory-equipped with a front hitch. They liked it so much, they decided to mount a LaForge front hitch on their Deere 7600 (4480 Treat Blvd., Suite No. 230, Concord, Calif. 94521; ph 800 422-5636 or 510 827-2010).

They use it to push their 16-row (30-in.) sprayer with 40-ft. manual-fold boom. The sprayer uses a Mid-Tech direct injection system with two 15-gal. tanks up front and a 500-gal. tank mounted on the tractor's rear 3-pt. Meters underneath the two front tanks meter rates for the Bennetts' post herbicide applications.

The Bennetts built mounting brackets to fit the front 3-pt. out of angle iron and square tubing.

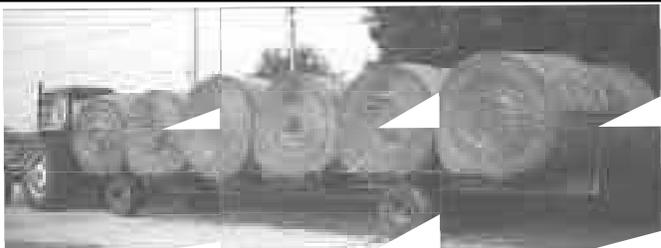
"Having the boom up front evens out the load a little between front and back," Bennett says, "but mostly it provides much better visibility."

In addition to spraying, the Bennetts use the front hitch for their 8-row Deere RM cultivator. In order to push the cultivator rather than pull it, the men simply turned shovels around and remounted them backwards.

"We also use it to carry one or two 5 by 6-ft. bales on front with a Gehl unroller mounted on back," he says.

They also use the hitch to mount a 15-ft. blade on front of the tractor for snow pushing in winter.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim or Mike Bennett, Monticello, Ill 61856 (ph 217 762-3101 or 3196).



### Trailer Hauls 12 Bales At A Time

"When we were hauling two bales at a time with our front end loader and rear grapple, it used to get downright discouraging driving back and forth between the field and the yard. Plus, we were just tromping our alfalfa to pieces," says Gordon Andersen who solved his problems by building a big bale hauler that carries 12 bales at a time.

Since he and his brother Charles built the 36-ft. long by 9 1/2-ft. wide trailer, it's become a popular rental item in the Andersens' neighborhood.

The trailer's frame consists of two 10-in. I-beam stringers and 4-in. I-beam crossmembers. There are two crossmembers per bale. Bales are placed end-to-end, six

per side.

The running gear is a 12-ton Westendorf bought new for around \$400. Its tongue was reinforced with iron.

Another problem at first was "blowing 11L by 15-in. tires right off the rims" when the trailer was fully loaded with 5 by 6-ft. bales, he says. The Andersens solved the problem by equipping the trailer with heavy duty 16-ply 39 by 13-in. airplane tires.

Out-of-pocket expense was about \$1,200.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gordon W. Andersen, R.R. 2, Box 48, Northboro, Iowa 51647 (ph 712 534-2250).

### Handy Dog Gate

If you've got a dog that's normally fenced in - or if you have a working stock dog that you have to let in and out of fenced pastures - you might like this "dog gate" from England.

Spotted by Mike Donovan, editor and publisher of Practical Farm Ideas, it consists simply of a 2 by 3 in. board that slides up and down through a couple uprights. A knob lift handle is cut into the upper end. When lifted, there's plenty of room for most dogs to pass through.

