



Manning built a new beefed-up hitch for drills and mounted a pair of big dual castor wheels on it.

## He Added Strength, Flotation To Deere Drill Tandem

The tandem hitch on Ben Dechant's pair of Deere 750 drills wasn't strong enough and he needed extra flotation for soft ground. So the Manning, Alberta, farmer beefed up the hitch and added additional wheels to the front and back of each drill.

"We used the modified rig last year in very soft conditions with no problems whatsoever," Dechant says.

"We built a complete new hitch and mounted the castor wheel assemblies from the drills on the hitch. We replaced the wheels and tires with a pair of dual 21.5 by 16-in. tires and rims. The drills attach to the new

hitch with a hook welded to the back of the hitch frame.

"We added hubs and spindles to the rear and fitted them with the original wheels and tires from the front of the drills. This doubled the flotation on the back of the drills.

"Our roads are wide enough to allow us to transport the drills in field position. To store the drills, we built a two-wheel dolly onto which we set the yoke of each drill. Each drill can then be moved individually."

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For extra flotation he added hubs and spindles on back of drills and fitted them with the original wheels and tires from the front.



Kirk used a 6-row Deere planter toolbar and Deere dry fertilizer attachment to build rig. Lets him apply dry fertilizer and anhydrous ammonia at same time.

## Deep Placement, One-Pass Fertilizer Rig

After years of making two trips to apply dry fertilizer and knife in anhydrous ammonia in the fall, a Vinton, Iowa, farmer decided to combine the two jobs into one and to get the dry fertilizer placed deeper.

"It was on of those cases of 'why didn't I think of this sooner,'" says James Kirk, who solved the problem by putting together a deep placement rig from components he already had. He used a 6-row Deere planter toolbar and Deere dry fertilizer attachment to build the rig.

"I moved the fertilizer boxes from the front to the rear of the 7 by 7-in. toolbar," Kirk says. "The only problem in doing so was that the fertilizer driveshaft interfered with the wheel lift cylinder, so I built spacers to move

the boxes to the rear of the bar about 4 in. "I used the standard Deere dry fertilizer transmission and Deere plow coulters ahead of each anhydrous shank, which are on 30-in. spacings.

"Dry fertilizer falls by gravity from the boxes through a plastic tube to pipes welded behind the anhydrous shanks."

Although Kirk anticipated that moisture attracted to the anhydrous discharge might plug the dry fertilizer tube, it was not a problem, he says. The rig worked perfectly last spring and I plan to use it in the fall in bean stubble where possible," he says.

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Fertilizer boxes were moved to rear of planter toolbar. Deere plow coulters mount ahead of each anhydrous shank.

## His Combine Doubles As A Silage Chopper

Eugene Stoll of Stanberry, Mo., mounted parts from a Deere pull-type silage harvester on front and back of his Deere 4420 combine, allowing him to chop silage and blow it into a trailing wagon. At the same time the combine shells corn conventionally and delivers it into the grain tank.

"It lets me harvest silage and a cash grain crop in one pass through the field. We get a lot of low-cost feed that would otherwise be lost," says Stoll, who has a cow-calf operation and also grows 180 acres of corn each year, with 60 of those acres used for silage.

He designed and built a patent pending attachment that allows the forage harvester's header and cutter to be mounted on front of the combine in place of the regular cornhead. The harvester's auger and blower mount on back of the combine and deliver silage into a trailing wagon.

The header cuts stalks about 10 in. off the ground and delivers them into the cutter. The crop material is then delivered up the feederhouse conveyor and through the combine's cylinder and sieves where the kernels are screened out and delivered to the grain tank. Meanwhile, the remaining crop material continues past the straw walkers and sieves back to the auger and blower.

"I'm using the combine like a self-pro-

pelled silage chopper except that it's screening out most of the kernels. About 80 percent of the kernels are screened and delivered into the combine's grain tank," says Stoll. "The grain tank fills about once for every two wagon loads of silage. Last year in 170 bu. corn I got 12 tons of silage per acre, containing about 40 bu. per acre of grain. The rest of the grain - 130 bu. per acre - went to our bins for drying. I was able to sell that corn in early September and take advantage of higher early season prices. The combine does such a good job we've had no dockage at the elevator for foreign matter."

Stoll usually tries to harvest when grain moisture content is about 25 percent. At that level the grain can still be easily dried and stalk moisture content is about 50 to 55 percent. Normally, he would cut silage at 60 percent stalk moisture but silage will ferment even at a moisture content of 40 or even 35 percent.

"One of the biggest expenses of operating a cow herd is the cost of feeding hay during the winter. By using the silage from corn that's also harvested for grain we can cut that expense in half. Another advantage is that if we watch what kinds of herbicides we spray on corn ground, the early harvesting allows us to plant a wheat or barley pasture crop and end up with good growth before winter for



Stoll equipped his Deere 4420 combine with parts from a Deere pull-type forage harvester, mounting the harvester's header on front and the auger and blower on back. Lets him shell corn conventionally and chop silage into a wagon at the same time.

grazing. That also reduces the need for hay. Another advantage is that the bare ground will dry and warm up about 10 days earlier the following spring because there's no mulch to keep it wet, which allows earlier planting.

"At one time Deere offered a stalker header that was designed to mount on front of a silage chopper and be used after the corn had already been harvested for grain. The idea was to turn corn residue on the ground into silage. However, it got only the stalks and not the more nutritious cobs, husks, and

leaves.

"I've been trying to come up with a way to make this idea work for years. I tried the idea first on a Deere 6601 pull-type combine, mounting a 2-row 38-in. header on it. I still use it and it works good. It only takes about 30 minutes for two men to unbolt the attachment so that a corn or soybean head can be mounted," notes Stoll.

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