



Steel mud spades are welded to a hexagon-shaped steel wheel that bolts to tractor's wheel rim and hub. Each wheel has six mud spades.

“Mud Spades” Mount Between Tractor Duals To Boost Traction

“It creates enough traction to pull a tractor through more mud than a big 4-WD can handle,” says Richard Willette, Medford, Minn., about the home-built “mud spades” he made for his Deere 4320 2-WD tractor.

The steel mud spades are welded to a hexagon-shaped, 1/2-in. thick steel wheel that bolts to the tractor's wheel rim and hub. There are six mud spades. Each consists of a length of channel iron with a telescoping length of rectangular tubing inside it that digs into the ground between the dual wheels. Each piece of channel iron has a series of holes spaced 2 in. apart, and each piece of tubing has a matching set of holes. The rectangular tubing is held in place by a set screw attached to a steel rod. The rod is inserted through a loop welded to the top of the channel iron. To adjust the depth of the tubing Willette loosens the set screw and pulls it out, then slides the rectangular tubing in or out.

“They give me traction like you wouldn't believe and make a huge difference whether I'm plowing or harvesting peas or sweet corn,” says Willette. “I can mount them between the duals of any tractor or on the outside of single wheels. I can set them to run up to 1 ft. deep so they penetrate the subsoil which is hard and firm, providing the push to go ahead. If I'm in mud and take them off one side of the tractor, the tractor will turn right around in a circle.



Each spade consists of a length of channel iron with a telescoping length of rectangular tubing inside it. The tubing digs into the ground between the dual wheels.

“I can set them to go only 1 in. deep in the winter for extra traction on snow or ice or pull them all the way in for road travel. The tubing goes into the ground at a slant so it doesn't put a lot of stress on the set screw. They're built very heavy - rocks won't bend them”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Willette, 6500 270 St. E., Medford, Minn. 55049 (ph 507 455-1831).



Ladder mounts at right angle to back of truck, making it easy to climb in.

Portable Ladder Attaches To Truck

David Shupe was tired of climbing up into the back of the grain truck that he uses to haul crop chemicals and seed in the spring.

So he built this simple ladder that fits into the stake pockets at the back of the bed. The ladder mounts at a right angle to the back of the truck. The first step is low to the ground.

When he's done or needs to move the truck, he just lifts the ladder out of the stake pockets and slips it in the back of the truck.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Shupe, 797 Co. Rd. 1100 E., Toledo, Ill. 62468 (ph 217 849-3240).



Kit consists of two 28-in. long adjustable, hardened steel rollers with 1/4-in. machined grooves that install under the cab and just above the cutterhead.

“Silage Processor” Kit For New Holland Self-Propelled Harvesters

Conversion kits for pull-type forage harvesters have been on the market for a few years. The kits let you roll corn kernels while making silage. Now a Pennsylvania company has come out with a new silage processor for self-propelled models.

“It will process everything that a 6-row head can feed into it, with no loss of horsepower,” says Georgetown Mfg., Christiana, Pa. The company previously made conversion kits for New Holland pull-type forage harvesters (Vol. 22, No. 5).

The kit consists of two 28-in. long adjustable, hardened steel rollers with 1/4-in. machined grooves that install under the cab and just above the cutterhead. The rollers turn at different speeds to provide a shearing action that results in better breakage of kernels. The unit is powered by a big hydraulic pump mounted inside the machine. A stainless steel pan replaces the original screen and directs the chopped silage up between the rollers

where it's sheared to final length. It's then directed into the blower with another stainless steel pan.

When you're harvesting haylage you simply remove the first pan so that the haylage bypasses the rollers altogether.

“Processed silage is more digestible with less waste, which results in more milk. The rollers can be adjusted to vary the crimp spacing. While the primary drive is hydraulic, a set of heavy duty belts reduces the rpm's of the secondary roll by 20 percent, creating a shearing action that results in silage processed with great efficiency,” says the company. The unit fits only New Holland self-propelled forage harvesters.

Sells for about \$18,000 plus S&H. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Israel Beiler, Georgetown Mfg. LLC, 343 Christiana Pike, Christiana, Pa. 17509 (ph 610 593-2753).

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are “made it myself” inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our web site at www.farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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