

Harrow/Mower Combo Keeps Pastures Healthy

By Jim Ruen

Using a harrow to bust up manure patties and a rotary mower to clip weeds at the same time makes pasture maintenance a lot easier and saves time for Dale Pocock, Nipawin, Sask.

He hangs a chain harrow from his front-end loader while pulling a 15-ft. wide rotary mower. He says a 50 hp tractor can easily handle the load.

"I use a chain harrow made especially for grassland to break up manure clumps and dead plant material," explains Pocock. "Ideally, harrowing should be done in the heat of the day, but even then sometimes you can't get everything. The mower picks up most of what the harrow misses, and the difference in plant height from the mower cut also helps you stay on track."

Pocock attached the harrow to the loader using Farmhand quick-attach shafts designed to carry pallets. Then he slips 1-ft. long, 2 1/2-in. dia. pipe sleeves with set screws over the two 4-ft. Farmhand shafts.

Adjustable chain hooks fasten the harrow tow bar to the end of the pipe sleeves. They extend out far enough to keep the chain harrow out in front of the tractor with at least a foot of clearance between the harrow and the tractor's front tires, even while turning.

Mounting the harrow on the loader provided Pocock with several added benefits. Moving between fields or across roads is simply a matter of lifting the harrow off the ground. It's also easy to clean trash out of the harrow between fields.

Pocock also modified his 15-ft. Bush Hog rotary mower. He replaced the constant velocity (CV) joint on the pto with a standard

universal joint. Although that means the mower can no longer be engaged while making sharp turns or used on steep inclines, life expectancy and replacement costs were significantly improved. He points out that CV joints have a short life expectancy and cost six to eight times more than standard joints. In addition, the CV joint is significantly heavier for one person to attach.

Other adaptations included cutting a slope onto the rear mower shoes. Before making the change, the shoes prevented the mower from being used when backing up. They're now slanted from front and rear so the mower can be used around buildings and in other tight areas where backing up is necessary.

Pocock has one more modification to make. He plans to hook a rubber tire harrow behind the mower to spread out fresh manure that can't be broken up by the harrow. Keeping his pastures well maintained is important for this experienced grazer and grass seed producer. Pocock cites one pasture that has been in production for 14 years and is as productive as the year it was seeded. He credits harrowing with maintaining productivity and controlling weeds.

"I haven't used herbicides on that field since 1986, and there are no weeds to be found," says Pocock. "When you don't spread the manure out, you get dead spots and the cattle eat around it. Then when the manure rots away there is a place for weeds to start up."

Contact: FARM SHOW Follow-up, Dale Pocock, Box 749, Nipawin, Sask., Canada SOE 1EO (ph 306 862-9184).



"It makes pasture maintenance a lot easier and saves time," says Dale Pocock, who uses a front-mount harrow to bust up manure patties and a 15-ft. wide rotary mower to clip weeds at the same time.



He attached harrow to his front-end loader using Farmhand quick-attach shafts designed to carry pallets. A pair of pipe sleeves slip over the two Farmhand shafts.

Rancher Turns Pickup Into Forklift

Richard Eddings, Coalgate, Oklahoma, builds all-steel buildings and runs a few cattle, too. When he needed a forklift to use at job sites he decided to build one himself.

He started with a late 1970's Chevy Luv 4x4 pickup that he bought for \$100 at an auction. "The engine was shot, but my brother-in-law had one that would fit it," he says.

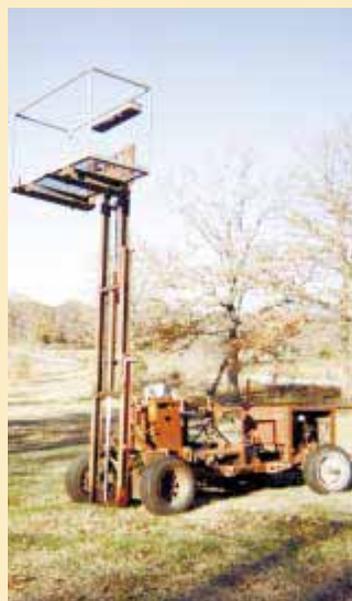
Eddings then bought an old hydraulic forklift mast from a neighbor who had adapted it to fit on his tractor's 3-pt. hitch. "It's a 3-stage lift, and even though it's only about 5 1/2 ft. tall, it will lift about 12 ft. into the air," he says.

He cut the pickup frame off just behind the rear wheels, then took off the rear springs and welded a 10 in. wide length of 3/8 in. plate steel to the spring mounting and to the frame. "I had to take the bounce out of the rear end," he explains. He fashioned a mounting bracket for the mast from a steel plate.

He mounted a hydraulic pump on the engine to raise and lower the lift. "There was a place to mount it so it could run off the fan belt," he says.

To see the rear-mounted forklift, Eddings moved the seat, steering wheel and pedals for the clutch, brake and throttle 90 degrees to the right, so the driver faces the passenger side. "You can't look straight ahead, but by turning your head either way, you can easily go forward or backward with it," he says. He left the floor gearshift lever for the standard 4-speed transmission where it was, but now has to shift with his left hand.

Eddings says his forklift pickup is quite maneuverable, but does wish it had a slower reverse gear. "Even in low range, when



Eddings started with a late 1970's Chevy Luv 4-WD pickup and mounted a 3-stage forklift mast on it. "The mast lifts 12 ft. high," he says.

you're trying to position it just right, sometimes it's a little too fast," he says.

"It's small and lightweight, so we can haul it easily on a trailer," he says. "Or if you need to, you can drive it short distances."

"It'll easily lift a couple thousand pounds, too," he adds. And it's stable, too. He's had no problems with it rocking or tipping.

One of the best ways he uses it, Eddings says, is as a moveable scaffold. He built a cage of expanded steel that attaches to the



Chain harrow hangs from front-end loader during transport.



To see the rear-mounted forklift, Eddings moved the seat, steering wheel and controls 90 degrees to the right, so driver faces passenger side.

With this, one or two people can work safely and easily as high as it will lift them.

"It works as well for me as any forklift," he says. "And in total, I probably don't have more than \$500 invested in it."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Eddings, Rt. 4, Box 1605, Coalgate, Okla. 74538 (ph 580 927-2409).