



Post driver mounts in place of header. Hydraulics originally used for the reel lift raise and lower driver head, while the header cylinder raises the driver itself for transport.

Combine-Mounted Post Pounder

In eastern Washington State, worn out hill-side combines are a dime-a-dozen (or less). When Herb Walter picked up a working one for \$50, he knew it would be ideal for the post driver he had in mind.

"We were always switching the post driver from one tractor to another or trying to find a free tractor to use with it. I was also tired of always having to look over my shoulder," he explains.

Walter pulled the combine home, gave it a tune up, and tore off everything but the engine, operator's platform and grain tank. All the hydraulics and electrical harness were left in place.

To mount the post driver where the header had been required building a framework. Walter had a quick-tach unit from an old Deere tractor that he planned to use with the driver. He used 3 by 3-in. angle irons to build the arms, connecting them to the old header pivot points. The header cylinders were connected to the new arms half way between the pivot points and the quick-tach unit.

To reinforce the arms, Walter installed

cross bars and built a bridge over each arm with 2 1/4-in. steel strap. He welded the strap at either end of the arms. A piece of steel welded to the arm opposite the point where the cylinders connected to the arm spreads the strap away from the arm and puts it under tension, creating the bridge affect.

"The bridges keep the arms from buckling under the weight of the post driver," explains Walter. "Cross bars keep it from swaying or folding."

Walter used 2 1/2-in. steel pipe with a threaded rod in place of the top linkage for the 3-pt hitch. Turning the rod allows Walter to vary the angle of the quick-tach and thereby vary the angle of the post driver if needed.

He uses the hydraulic hoses originally used for the reel lift to raise and lower the driver head, while the header cylinder raises the driver itself for transport.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Herb Walter, 2194-N Schoonover Rd., Odessa, Wash. 99159 (ph 509 982-2257).

"Never Spill" Spout Prevents Grain Spills

If you hate having to check and recheck the level of grain inside a bin when filling it, you might be interested in John Gehrer's Never Spill Spout. It attaches to the auger instead of the grain bin (so you only need one) and has a loud alarm that signals when the bin is full.

"The alarm goes off when the lower part of the spout fills up with grain. This gives you enough time to empty the auger without spilling over the edge of the bin or plugging up the auger," Gehrer says, adding that grain continues flowing out holes in the side of the spout after the alarm goes off.

The 2-ft. long UV protected plastic spout simply bolts to the grain auger. A 12-volt halogen nightlight also attaches to the auger to help position it in the bin opening.

A double insulated electric cord connects both sensor and light to the lower end of the auger where the alarm is strapped in place. Another cord then connects everything to the tractor's 12-volt system.

Sells for \$385 (Can.) for the 10-in. auger model and \$425 (Can.) for the 13-in. auger model.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John & Angelika Gehrer, Box 781, Niverville, Manitoba, R0A 1E0 Canada (ph 866 860-6086; email: gehrer@ratrivercomm.ca; website: www.NeverSpillSpout.com).



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While working my way through exhibits at the recent World Ag Expo in Tular e, Calif., I spotted this new steam-powered weed killing machine made by an Australian company. The idea is to kill weeds without chemicals using steam.

The rig has a watertank, LPG gas tank, steam generator, and heat retention canopy. The main market for the new weed killer is organic vineyards and orchards. It'll be tested in the western U.S. this year. Contact D.J. Batchen Pty. Ltd. in Australia at ph 61 413 756 886; website: www.batchen.com.au. (Bill Gergen, Senior Editor)

Fluorescent Leak Detection Method

Finding leaks in engines, hydraulic systems, transmissions, and refrigeration equipment is easy with Tracerline fluorescent dye.

You just add a bit of the dye to the existing fluid, run the machine for a bit, and then use an ultra-violet light to spot any leaks. There's no need to clean off the equipment first.

In addition to diagnosing leaks, the company says you can also use it as preventative maintenance by adding it whenever you change fluids.

Tracerline leak detection can be used on virtually any fluid, including water and other clear liquids. One exception is brake lines, where it can't be used.

Different products are used on different systems. The process was invented back in 1955 but is not widely known among "shade tree" mechanics, according to the company.

Tracerline products are available at most automotive supply stores.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tracerline Products, 956 Brush Hollow Rd., Westbury, N.Y. 11590 (ph 800 641-1133 or 516 333-1254; email: info@tracer.com; website: <http://www.tracerline.com/whatisit.html>). The Canadian distributor is: Coast Valley Marketing, Kyle Anderson, P.O. Box 61554, Langley, B.C., Canada V3A 8C8 (ph 604-534-7168; email: kasaks@shaw.ca).



Tracerline leak detection can be used on virtually any fluid, including water and other clear liquids.

Power Washer Took A Piece Of His Foot

High-pressure power washers are great for getting things clean, but dirt isn't the only thing they can wash away in a second. When a 3,000-psi stream of water hit Dan Sowers' boot, it went through the boot leather, sock and deep into his foot.

"It happened so quick, there was no stopping it," he recalls. "The hole in the boot was about the size of my little finger."

Sowers had put his foot on a hog feeder to keep it from shifting under the pressure of the water. When the feeder moved anyway, his foot slipped into the path of the sprayer nozzle.

That momentary slip caused a lot of damage. An infection resulting from the hot water penetration caused the skin around the wound to begin sloughing off. Sowers also suffered from frequent sharp pain he describes as something that "just floored you." As a result of possible nerve damage, he doesn't have much feeling in the injured part of his foot.

Once the infection was under control, the skin stopped falling away. Ironically, the clinic used a derivative of pigskin to help heal the farrowing barn wound.

A year and a half later, the wound is still



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very tender. Sowers has been told he may never get more than 80 percent use of his foot back. If he stands on it too long, the skin turns purple around the wound, and the skin lacks flexibility.

"The foot is a long way from being back to normal," says Sowers. "If I had been wearing steel-toed boots, it might have saved me, but it could have hit somewhere other than the toe."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Sowers, 53403 134th St., Vernon Center, Minn. 56090 (ph 507 549-3680).