



"It handles cotton gently which results in a better grade of cotton going to market," says Randy Thompson about his new "vacuum" cotton header.

Air-Operated "Vacuum" Header For Cotton Pickers

"We recently introduced a new vacuum-powered replacement head for cotton pickers that's causing a lot of excitement in the industry. It has far fewer moving parts than the heads on conventional cotton pickers, which results in much lower maintenance costs and much higher quality cotton," says Randy Thompson, Sycamore, Ga.

The patented "Harvac" header is equipped with four rotating drums with vacuum ports strategically placed along their length. A specially designed fan sucks cotton lint off the plant and then blows it through a large tube to a storage hopper on back. The rotating drums are pto-powered.

"The only thing that touches the cotton is air. The gentle handling results in a better grade of cotton going to market," says Thompson. "Conventional cotton pickers use metal spindles which rotate at a high rate of

speed. The harsh treatment can damage the cotton, and there are many moving parts. My header has only four moving parts. I think it will put \$100 more per acre in the farmer's pocket. Conventional cotton pickers require \$1,000 to \$2,000 per row every year just for maintenance. They also require a major overhaul every four to five hours at a cost of about \$10,000 per row.

"My system also weighs less than a conventional row head, allowing you to mount four rows on a two-row cotton picker. A big advantage is that you can use the row head on your existing cotton picker instead of having to buy a whole new machine," notes Thompson.

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Glen Christen and his father, Don, combined a deep ripper and a chisel plow to come up with this one-pass tillage rig.

They Combined Tools For One Pass Tillage

Glen Christen and his father, Don, knew that deep rippers do a great job opening up compacted soil and that chisel plows do a good job breaking up chunks. They decided to combine the two tillage tools into one machine.

"We had tried combining a harrow with our 3-shank DMI ripper, but it was too light to break up the chunks," explains Glen. "We had the ripper and a chisel plow sitting next to each other one day, and we just decided to marry them up."

They started by cutting off the rear section of the 9-ft. Schwartz chisel plow. This left two steel arms extending out from the rear section. Steel pins with bushings that are used with 3-pt. hitch connections were welded to the ends of the arms.

To prepare the ripper, they welded a length of 4-in. sq. steel tubing to the back frame of the ripper. At a width to match the chisel plow section arms, they welded 3-pt hitch couplers from an old Deere mounted moldboard plow.

When connected, the 3-pt. hitch pin and coupler allow the chisel plow arms to pivot freely.

Above both "ears," they welded a heavy steel bar at about a 45° angle to mount hydraulic cylinders. Matching mounts were welded in place just ahead of the main frame of the chisel plow.

"We connected the hydraulics to the ripper hydraulics, so the chisel plow floats when in use," says Glen. "But when we raise the ripper, it picks up the chisel plow too."

After using the unit last fall, the Christens modified the unit a little further. They added a rigid harrow on the back of the chisel unit to break up soil chunks even more.

"It is basically a bar with teeth on it," says Glen. "We mounted it on the chisel plow, so it lifts with it."

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People Love Her Turkey Tail Art

Heather Honeywell of Baker City, Oregon is an artist who paints wildlife on the tail feathers of wild turkeys.

Honeywell likes the challenge of working on the big tail feathers because they leave very little room for mistakes.

"I've painted on paper, wood, metal saw blades, T-shirts, clay and glass ornaments, but none are as enjoyable or rewarding as feathers," she says. "It's a delicate surface, so I first spray them with a clear coat of polyurethane to keep the feather's fine blades from separating."

Family members and friends supply Honeywell with the colorful reddish, bronze and green-tinted feathers. She paints them with wildlife scenes featuring deer, moose, bighorn sheep, elk and even horses.

At the top of the tail feather, she glues a downy feather, which covers the quill.

She has done paintings in watercolors as well as acrylics, and displays them in oak frames that she makes with the help of her husband, Todd. Prices for her framed, matted feathers start at \$85, and are in big de-



Heather Honeywell paints wildlife scenes on the tail feathers of wild turkeys.

mand primarily through word-of-mouth. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Double H Art, Heather Honeywell, 2400 - 19th St., Baker City, Oregon 97814 (ph 541 523-0884; email: doublehproductions@hotmail.com).



Loader-mounted "vertical spinner" is designed for smaller operators who want to peel off just part of a bale and leave the rest until it's needed.

Spinner Unrolls Big Round Bales

Unrolling big round bales inside a shed or other tight areas is a pain. That's what prompted Dennis Nebgen to come up with his "vertical spinner".

Most bale unrollers work with the bale in the horizontal position. The problem is bales are seldom equally weighted, so the heavy side always spins to the bottom. That problem can be avoided if a bale is in an upright position.

"It's designed for smaller operators who want to peel off just so much and leave the rest of the bale until it's needed," explains Nebgen. "We used to peel hay off a bale, and then everything else fell off to the other side. This way you have control of when you want to stop."

The spinner consists of a bale spear seated on a hub mounted to a 4-ft. by 5-ft. mainframe. The frame is made from 2 1/2-in. square steel tubing. The hub is heavy duty, constructed with tapered roller bearings to handle the stress of tipping a bale from a horizontal to a vertical position. The 2-in. sq. drop forged steel spear is mounted to the center of the hub and tapered at the bale end.

When first attached to the loader arms, the spear is in a vertical position. To load a bale, the operator tips the bale spinner down to spear the bale. The operator then tilts the spinner frame back down so the bale points up. Once the bale has been carried into the area where it will be used, the spinner can be unhooked from the skid steer. Four stub feet on the framework keep the bale and spinner up off the ground, ready for more material to be peeled away by hand as needed.



Spinner attaches to loader arms and is used to pick up bale.

"The main stress is when you first pick the bale up and flip it up on end," says Nebgen. "The key was finding the right size hub, but there was nothing on the market heavy duty enough to hold a big spear."

After some trial and error, Nebgen fabricated what he needed. Since building the first one, he has sold some to neighbors and is retailing them for \$650.

"One neighbor has even used it for lifting 2,000-lb. silage bales," he says. "And he has no problem spearing even those dense bales."

Although his unit was designed with a standard skid steer mounting plate, Nebgen suggests it could just as easily be fitted with quick-attach couplings or standard tractor loader connections.

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