

Self-Contained Hydraulic Top Link

This new top link is completely self-contained and needs no outside hydraulics to operate.

The HydrauLink is a self-contained air-over-hydraulic top link that uses a combination of air pressure and hydraulic fluid to hold the cylinder in place. The pressure adjusts using a hand-adjustable valve that you can reach from the tractor cab. One person can install the unit without tools in about 3 min.

According to the company, the air-over-hydraulic system greatly reduces the need to adjust the top link frequently. The air creates a cushion on which the implement rides, causing the cylinder to act like a shock absorber for the implement. The operator can make larger adjustments by simply opening and closing the valve.

To install, simply attach one end of the HydrauLink to the existing pin on the tractor. Then open the valve, pull the end of the ram to the desired length, and pin it to the implement. Close the valve and you're ready to go to work.

"There's no need to use large pipe wrenches or long steel bars to adjust or install the unit as you often have to do with conventional screw-type top links. And the unit is very easy to adjust, as you can reach back from the cab to turn the valve without having to get on and off the tractor," says Adam Crozier, Ford Distributing, Marysville, Ohio.

"Also, the HydrauLink is much less expensive than hydraulic rams that have to be permanently installed to the tractor, and



HydrauLink is a self-contained air-over-hydraulic top link that uses a combination of air pressure and hydraulic fluid to hold cylinder in place. It needs no outside hydraulics to operate.

it can easily be moved to different tractors." Available through dealers. Suggested retail price is \$249.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ford

Distributing, Inc., 10784 Industrial Pkwy., Marysville, Ohio 43040 (ph 614 873-4620; acrozier@forddistributing.com; www.hydraulink.net).

Easy-To-Adjust Harrow

"It's built so tough it's almost like having a heavy-duty drag on steroids. The front and rear halves of the implement can be hydraulically raised or lowered to prevent gouging and to allow trash to flow through," says Jeff Peter, Bertha Mfg., about the company's new multi-tool harrow.

The Bertha harrow is built with 5 steel bars that support a series of clamp-on, 1-in. heavy steel drag teeth. The drag measures 7 1/2 ft. from front to back.

What makes the tillage tool unique is that the front and back halves of the unit pivot in the middle and can be hydraulically raised or lowered independently, allowing you to set each half at whatever angle you want.

"It's built extremely stout and heavy and should last a long time," says Peter. "The independent front-to-back construction is ideal for trash clearing, aerating and leveling seedbeds, and the drag teeth work great for breaking up manure and busting up clods. There's a hitch on back so if you want you



Harrow is equipped with 5 steel bars that support a series of clamp-on, 1-in. heavy steel drag teeth.

can pull a seedbed leveler behind it."

Available in widths of 14, 20, 24, 26 and 30 ft. The 30-ft. model starts at \$25,000 depending on options.

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The front and rear half of the Bertha harrow can be hydraulically raised or lowered to prevent gouging and to allow trash to flow through.

Heated hose keeps flowing even when temperatures drop below zero. Thermostatically controlled, it shuts off automatically during warmer weather.



Energy-Efficient Heated Hose

When temperatures drop below zero, this new heated hose will keep flowing. Simply keep it plugged in all the time — it's thermostatically-controlled and shuts off automatically during warm weather — or plug it in 20 to 30 minutes before you need to use it.

The difference between the patent-pending ThermoHose and other heated hoses is that the heat element runs through the hose instead of outside, according to Larry Cobb, VP of sales at K&H Manufacturing, LLC.

"It uses less electricity (100 watts) and is more efficient inside the hose," says Cobb. He helped test the hose on his own farm, and the company modified the thumb grip to connect the hose so it's easy to use with gloves. The heater effectively thawed water up to 27 degrees below zero, and the rubber hose stood up to being driven over.

The hose is 5/8-in. double wall and has

solid brass couplings. Hoses are sold through dealers listed on K&H's website. Prices range from \$69 for a 20-ft. pvc hose and \$159 for a rubber hose. Hoses also come in 40 and 60-ft. lengths. All have a 2-year warranty.

"ThermoHose is great for people who have livestock or a pond to top off. Or for contractors who need to clean equipment or anyone who wants to wash their car," Cobb says. "It works for anything that needs to be done in cold weather."

The hose is the company's most recent addition to its line of energy-efficient heated pet beds and kennels, stock tank deicers and other equine and animal products.

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Push Away Grapple digs into compacted feed and then pushes skidsteer back to keep its wheels from tearing up the ground.

Push Away Grapple

Storing forage in bags is popular with cattle feeders, but removing the packed feed can be challenging. Fritsch Equipment Corp. has come up with a solution — the Push Away™ Grapple that attaches to a bucket on a skidsteer or front-end loader.

Auxiliary hydraulics are required to hook up the twin hydraulic grapple, which digs into the compacted feed. After reaching the end of the stroke an adjustable hydraulic valve automatically energizes another set of hydraulic cylinders, which pushes the loader away with 12 tons of force, and separates the feed in the bucket from the pile.

"You're letting the hydraulics do the work your wheels used to do," says Ron Fritsch, owner of the company, noting that small skidsteers can't get traction on the plastic and often tear up the ground. His grapple provides the breakthrough force to get away.

"Some producers say they load feed in

half the time, because they are getting full buckets with the grapple," Fritsch says. "A nice side benefit is that you can use it on packed bedding to remove manure. It's so much faster. The grapple rips through it."

He emphasized that the grapple and bucket need to be washed thoroughly afterwards, but since packs are only cleaned out a couple times a year it's not a big problem.

Fritsch uses hardened, replaceable teeth on his patent-pending grapple. A grapple can be customized to fit on any size bucket, and prices range from \$2,200 to \$3,100. The company also makes buckets with a built-in grapple and standard grapples (without the push-away hydraulics).

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