



Delbert Logan welded a Shaver post pounder to one side of a Massey Harris pull-type swather frame, then added a home-built, 3 1/2-ft. wide wire roller on back.



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Swather Converted To Post Pounder, Wire Roller

Delbert Logan of Carroll, Manitoba, likes the combination post pounder-wire unroller he made out of an old Massey Harris pull-type swather.

He bought a new Shaver post pounder for \$1,200 and welded it to one side of the swather's frame, then added a home-built, 3 1/2-ft. wide wire roller on back. The tractor's hydraulics operate the post pounder, and the pto operates a gearbox that chain-drives the wire roller.

"I use it to build or take down fences on my

cow-calf operation," says Logan. "We bought another farm and had to get rid of an old fence that was in bad shape and then install a new one. The swather was retired but the frame was still good."

He cut off a 15-ft. length of steel tubing that originally supported the swather table, then mounted the post pounder on a home-built frame and bolted an 8-in. hydraulic jack sideways on it. The post pounder is free to slide 1 ft. in or out on a subframe, allowing Logan to get up close to the post.

He used the shaft and bearings from the cylinder off an old Massey combine to build the wire roller. The shaft mounts on a subframe that's bolted to the swather frame, and a pair of disk blades bolted onto both ends of the shaft hold the wire in. A sprocket attached to one end of the shaft is used to chain-drive it.

"I couldn't be happier with it," says Logan. "I pull it with a Case 2290. It takes a tractor with good hydraulics to operate it. I've rolled out to a half mile of barbed wire on one spool.

When the roller gets full of wire I drop it off and add a new sleeve for the next batch of wire. If the fence wire is still good I can roll it up and then use it to build more fence.

"There's room on the swather frame for storing up to 40 fence posts. I also bolted a homemade 3 by 2-ft. wooden toolbox to the swather frame where I keep fencing supplies."

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He Shells Butter Beans In Minutes

Wire screens with 1/2-in. openings are the important component that makes Bill Sydnor's bean sheller work so well.

"The 1/2-in. hole is exactly the right size for a green butter bean to go through," says the Beaverdam, Va., builder of a 4-ft. square unit that shells 5 gal. of beans in about 10 min.

The flat, soft beans are popular in the South and sell for about \$5/lb. shelled). But they are labor intensive. Sydnor's wife spends a good part of an afternoon picking a 5-gal. bucket (about 8 lbs. shelled), so Sydnor spent time and money to build a sheller that would last and do a good job of speeding up the shelling process.

The cabinet hinges open and the drum also opens to pour the beans into it. One side of the drum has wire screening.

A 1-in. cold steel shaft mounted on flange bearings in the 3/4-in. plywood cabinet runs through the center of the 2-ft. dia. drum. When it spins, the 1 1/4 by 18-in. long paddles on the shaft knock the shells off the beans. A second steel shaft above the drum

turns the drum with a pulley and belt. Shelled beans fall through the mesh part of the drum into a tray below.

Instead of building a bracket to hold the motor at the bottom, Sydnor reversed the 3 and 10-in. pulleys to turn the shaft and placed the 1/4 hp motor (from a washing machine) on top of the cabinet.

The beans fall into a 6-in. deep tray with 1/4-in. screen and steep-angle walls.

"The smaller screen holds the beans and lets the sand and particles go through. You can wash the beans easily on the cloth," Sydnor says. "It's 25 minutes from the start to putting them in pint bags in the freezer."

Because of the sheller, the Sydners increased the size of their garden to six to eight 100-ft. rows (for two bean plantings). They put up 30 lbs. for themselves and sell the rest in their roadside stand. Other bean growers also use the sheller.

Sydnor prefers the Thorogreen beans, but says other flat beans such as horticultural beans will work. He tried large sunflower heads, but didn't have good results.



Bill Sydnor can shell 5 gal. of green butter beans in about 10 min. with his home-built bean sheller.

Use the right size cloth, he emphasizes, and spend the extra money for the bearings, and you'll have a bean sheller that does a good job for many, many years.

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Zero-Turn Mower Gets A "Seat Raising"

"I'm 6 ft. 2 in. tall and wasn't happy with the seat on my Husqvarna zero-turn mower. It sits too low for a guy with long legs like me. So I made a metal bracket that raised the seat up about 12 in. and shifted it back over the engine," says Howard Aul, Saint Augustine, Fla.

The seat came mounted on a sliding bracket, but it would bump up against the engine. "I had to raise the seat high enough to clear the engine before I could move the

seat all the way back," he says.

He unbolted the seat's original mounting bracket from the deck and welded a new angle iron bracket onto the bottom. The bracket slants toward the back so that the seat is now located about halfway over the engine.

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Howard Aul wanted to sit higher on his Husqvarna zero turn mower, so he made a metal bracket that raised the seat about 12 in. and shifted it back over the engine.