

Brad McCarty built this windrow hay fluffer from the bean head reel off an old Deere 55 combine. "It didn't cost much to make," he says.



Bean Head Reel Hay Fluffer

"It works great for picking up wet, flattened windrows," says Brad McCarty, Kinmundy, Ill., about the low-cost windrow hay fluffer he built from the bean head reel off an old Deere 55 combine. The reel is mounted on the frame, axle and wheels off an IH culti-mulcher, and chain-driven by the hydraulic pump off an IH bean head.

The 12-ft. wide fluffer picks up a wet, matted alfalfa windrow and gently lays it back down in the same place. "It doesn't knock leaves off and, by fluffing the windrow, reduces hay drying time by a day," says McCarty. "My 86-year-old dad helped me build it. We used parts off International Harvester and John Deere machines, so we call it our InterJohn."

McCarty says he grows 3 acres of alfalfa and couldn't justify a commercial fluffer. "I sell most of the hay I grow to horse owners. They don't want moldy hay, so I have to put it up right. A tedder would scatter the hay and knock too many leaves off."

He got the Deere bean head free from a local farmer who had parked the combine in a pasture years ago. "The hydraulic pump and control valve came off an old IH 715 combine owned by another farmer, and I bought the IH culti-mulcher as scrap metal," says McCarty.

The windrow fluffer doesn't have a pto or gearbox. Instead, it relies on the hydraulic pump that drove the reel on an IH bean head. "The pump chain-drives a big 50-tooth sprocket that controls the speed of the tines. As the tines lift the hay up, it falls off gently onto the ground," says McCarty.

He started with a 12-ft. Deere bean head reel and cut 4 ft. off it to make the reel 8 ft. wide. He turned the reel around to face

backward, since the reel is now being pulled instead of pushed. Then he replaced all the reel boards and turned the teeth to face in the same direction as they did on the combine. He also removed a 50-tooth chain-drive sprocket from one end of the reel and welded it onto the opposite end so that it would rotate in the right direction to keep the crop moving backward.

McCarty cut the frame and tongue off the culti-mulcher and welded it along with the wheels and axle to metal riser tubes on both sides of the reel. He mounted the pump and a control valve on the frame just ahead of the reel, and mounted a control valve on front of the frame that's used to control reel speed.

The reel is raised up or down by cranking a handle on back of the reel. "To make the handle, I drilled a hole through the multi-culcher frame and then ran an Acme all-thread rod down through it and into a nut I welded to the riser. The Acme rod has a coarser thread, so it takes fewer cranks to raise the reel up or down," says McCarty. "I can't raise or lower the reel hydraulically because my Deere 3010 tractor has only one set of remotes, and I needed them to operate the pump."

He removed the wheels and axle from the culti-mulcher frame, then turned the frame upside down, remounted the wheels and axle, and welded their upright supports to the frame.

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LeRoy Momper wanted an ATV wagon with a shorter turning radius, so he built one that allows the front axle to swivel 360 degrees.

ATV Wagon Built With 360-Degree Swivel Steering

LeRoy Momper, Fredonia, Wis., couldn't find a 4 by 8-ft. ATV wagon with a turning radius as short as his ATV, so he decided to build his own.

"Wagons with conventional-style steering don't turn sharp enough, so when turning, the front wheels have to slide sideways," says Momper.

He solved the steering problem by making the wagon "reach" part of the wagon frame, and welding a 1 7/8-in. trailer coupler on the front end of the reach. On the front axle he welded a 1 7/8-in. ball, 2 in. forward of the axle centerline.

"This innovation allows the front axle to swivel 360 degrees, plus up and down to adapt to any height hitch. The reach also supports the wagon bed," says Momper.

After using his new wagon, Momper discovered other advantages such as better maneuverability through wooded areas. Also, the tongue can be swiveled back under the wagon for storage. He plans to use the same steering concept on a much larger wagon, using a 2 5/16-in. coupler and ball.

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Pvc tool holders U-bolted to tractor fenders make it easy to carry various long-handled tools.

Hand-Pumped Sprayer Converted To Electric

Gene Boehler converted a 1 1/2-gal. handfield sprayer to a battery-powered sprayer, eliminating the need to pump the sprayer by hand.

"I use it to spray insecticides indoors or outdoors. It'll shoot a stream 25 to 30 ft. out, depending on the spray wand that's used," says Boehler.

The Farmersville, Ill., farmer mounted a 12-volt Radio Shack battery on the tank, as well as a small 12-volt pump that puts out 40 psi. He also installed an in-line filter between the tank and pump to keep from clogging the wand's nozzle. All components were strapped on with no. 10 sheet metal screws.

He removed the tank's original hose but left the fitting on to serve as a vent. He also screwed a rectangular aluminum plate onto the bottom of the tank to keep it stable while filling it. A rocker switch is used to activate the pump.

"It'll do a lot of spraying - I can go through several tankfuls before the battery has to be recharged," says Boehler. "I use it primarily to spray insecticides around my shop, house, trees, and garden. I use a Radio Shack trickle charger to keep the battery charged."

"The tank weighs about 8 lbs. when



"I use it to spray insecticides indoors or outdoors. It's handy to use and weighs just 8 lbs.," says Gene Boehler, who converted his hand-pumped sprayer to electric.

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"Handy Ideas For My Loader Tractor"

"Instead of trying to hold onto a log turner and a shovel while operating my tractor, I decided to make a couple of pvc tool holders. Makes it easy to carry various long-handled tools with me anywhere," says Philip Lawrence, Gordonsville, Tenn. "I started with 3-ft. lengths of 3-in. dia. pvc pipe and glued a cap onto the bottom of each one. Then I drilled small holes through the tractor fenders and U-bolted the pipes on."

"I wanted an easier way to pound metal fence posts into the ground, so I welded a short length of 2-in. dia. galvanized pipe to the bottom frame that supports my loader-mounted bale spear. My loader tractor has hydraulic downpressure, so I just place the top of the post inside the pipe and use the loader to push it down into the ground."

"I also came up with an easy way to convert a grab hook chain to a slip hook chain. I just cut off the top 1-ft. section of a slip hook chain and slip the bottom link on the grab hook. It eliminates the need to carry a second chain around."

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Lawrence uses short piece of pipe welded to bottom of bale spear to push metal fence posts into the ground.



Lawrence converted a grab hook chain to a slip hook chain by cutting off the top 1 ft. of a slip hook chain and slipping the bottom link onto the grab hook.