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Cab Kit Solves Problems With Ford Versatile Tractor

After experiencing repeated downtime caused by failed hydraulic hoses and cables on his Versatile 276 bi-directional tractor, Galen Travis, Burlington, Colo., says he finally came up with a successful modification for the tractor that totally eliminated the problem.

"Hoses, cables, and electrical lines are all jammed together through an opening in the center articulation area. On my tractor - which has front and rear 3-pt.'s, hydraulics and pto - the hoses and cables are so tightly packed together you can't even get a screw-driver between them. As you use the tractor, hoses wear against each other and against the frame," says Travis.

After the initial warranty period, Travis started having 2 or 3 problems a year with cables and hoses. Some of the repair jobs took as long as two days. "To replace some of the hoses, we had to drop the transmission down to get at them," he notes.

When the main hydraulic hose blew out, Travis finally decided to try to modify the tractor. His solution was to raise the cab up 3 in. and run some of the lines above the articulation joint so they lay between the bottom of the cab and the frame. He says the relatively simple solution has totally solved the problem. "We haven't had any problems since we made the change two years ago."

Hoses and cables beneath the cab can now be reached easily if a problem develops and Travis says there's enough room that there's virtually no problem with friction anymore. "It'll be much easier to make repairs if needed and it's now possible to make a visual check on the condition of the lines when doing routine maintenance."

The modification also solved another problem which Travis had experienced with the tractor. Hay and straw would pack into the area between the cab and the main frame. "It would pack in there so tight, you could hardly get it out. Shortly after we bought the tractor, while grinding hay, we had a fire in that area caused by a spark. We got it out without doing any damage but after that we put a rubber strip around the base of the cab to keep debris out. I think you could have a serious fire caused by friction between the pto and driveshafts that run through there and crop material that builds up in that area."

After raising the cab up 3 in., Travis says it's now easy to clean material out from under the cab. "You can just stick a blow gun in there to clean it out. There's no buildup at all."

Another advantage of the raised cab is that it improves visibility, especially when operating a swather on rear.

Travis made steel brackets to raise the cab. He did it with no welding, using existing bolt holes, bolts, and rubber mounts. The only cutting required was to remove a bit of sheet metal around the engine compartment to make room for relocated lines.

"The cab is solid as a rock. It feels no different than it did before. I'm considering marketing a kit that would make it easy for anyone to make this conversion," says Travis, noting that the kit would work on any 256 or 276 bi-directional tractor, whether made by Versatile or Ford New Holland after it took over the company. "This problem is worst on models fitted with both front and rear 3-pt.'s and hydraulics because there are so many more lines running back and forth," he notes.

Travis also manufactures a quick-tach forklift attachment for Ford-Versatile bidirectionals. Contact FARM SHOW Followup, Galen Travis, 44596 County Rd. P, Burlington, Colo. 80807 (ph 719 346-7680).

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Latest New Row-Cleaning Attachments

Two of the biggest complaints farmers have about trash-clearing row units are: 1) They're not spring-loaded so they tend to gouge the soil or bounce over clods, pulling planter units out of the ground; and (2) They plug up in heavy residue. Now, Dawn Equipment Co., Sycamore, Ill., says it has solved both problems with a pair of new products.

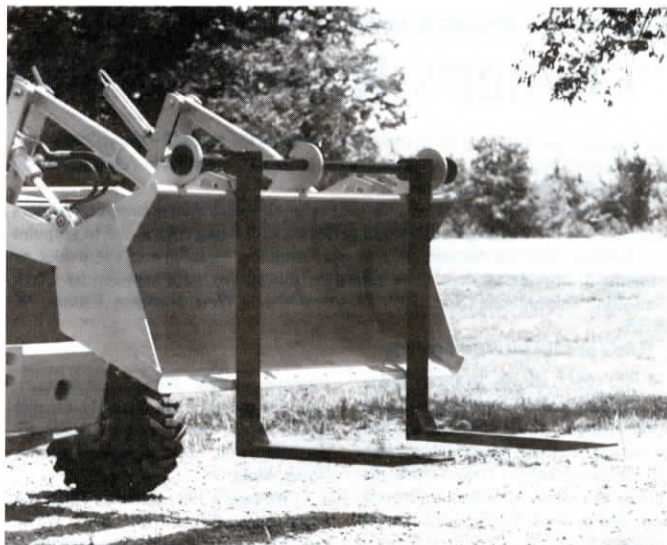
The first is a spring-loaded, floating Trashwheel unit that mounts on any fertilizer bar or 7 by 7-in. toolbar. It floats totally independent of the planter row units. Any of Dawn's Trashwheel configurations can be used.

The second new product is a heavy-duty

parallel linkage replacement kit for Deere 7000 planters. It moves the planter row unit back 12 in. to improve residue flow around Trashwheels and provides additional room for fertilizer attachments. Also provides clearance necessary to mount the company's coulters attachment as well as a heavy duty spring kit. Includes two heavy-duty parallel linkage bars, made out of 5/8-in. steel, that are longer and stronger than the original bars.

Sells for \$329.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dawn Equipment Co., Box 497, Sycamore, Ill. 60178 (ph 815 899-3296).



Quick-Tach Forklift Fits Loader Bucket

You'll like this quick-tach forklift that makes it easy for anyone to take advantage of price discounts available for seed, chemicals and other supplies purchased in bulk but which require the use of a forklift.

Hooks weld to the upper lip of the bucket and, when needed, you simply tip the bucket down and slip the round forklift bar into the hooks. The forks dangle from the bar, backed up against the lower lip of the bucket. To change spacing of the forks, you just slide them back and forth on the bar. When no longer needed, you can quickly set the forks aside and use the bucket normally.

"Most farmers only use a forklift occasionally, they don't need it all the time. Unlike 3-pt. mounted forklift masts, or forklift attachments for skid steer loaders, you can mount these forks in seconds and then set them aside when you're done," says James Dowdy, sales manager for Brandt Mfg.

Available in 4,000-lb. (sells for \$695) and 6,000-lb. (\$895) capacity models.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brandt Mfg., Inc., P.O. Box D, Carlisle, Ark. 72507 (ph 800 825-1708).

Kit Turns Planks Into Ramps

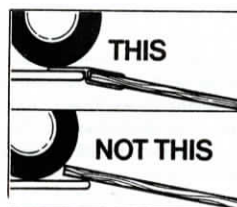
You'll like this new ramp kit that turns wood planks into all-purpose ramps.

The kit consists of two extruded aluminum ramp ends, mounting bolts and hardware. They simply slip over the ends of 8 to 12-in. wide planks and bolt in place.

Optional ramp bottoms have a patented rocker for added gripping action while loading heavy equipment.

Ramp kit sells for \$20 per set.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ramparts, 53 Belcher Road, Blairstown, N.J. 07825 (ph 800 342-7267).



Plastic Mailbox/Post

"We tell people it's the last mailbox they'll ever buy," says Dale Stambaugh, Claypool, Ind., manufacturer of the the "Post-Box" - a first-of-its-kind plastic mailbox-post combination that consists of a single unit molded together.

It's made of heavy-gauge (18-in. thick) poly and is available in 6 different colors that are impregnated in the plastic so they'll never fade and requires no painting. It won't dent and, to set it up, you just fill the base with sand or gravel. No hole to dig. Weighs 100 lbs. when filled. If it gets knocked over, you just set it up again.

Sells for \$59.95 (\$7 S&H). Comes in black, white, rust, fern green, grey, and chocolate brown. Free lettering of name and address on box (up to 15 characters).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale Stambaugh, Davi's, 9321 So. Packerton Rd., Claypool, Ind. 46510 (ph 219 839-0082).

