

IMPROVED HARVESTING METHODS

EQUIPMENT SURVEY NOTES

HYDRAULIC SKIDDING ATTACHMENT



A hydraulically-controlled skidding attachment built by a logger has been observed in effective operation on tree-length skidding in Minnesota. The attachment performs the same function as an arch in raising the forward ends of logs to reduce friction when skidding.

The attachment consists of a horizontal draw bar, a vertical brace, and a movable arm (fig. 1). It is easily mounted the same way as other agricultural attachments, and does not interfere with the use of the tractor for other purposes. This feature is particularly advantageous to farm woodlot owners.

Two lower arms of the regular hydraulic system support the attachment, and are connected by links to upper arms operated by the hydraulic pump. Movement of the arms thus raises and lowers the draw bar and the load attached to it (fig. 2).

Although the described attachment is designed specifically for the hydraulic system peculiar to Ford Ferguson tractors, attachments for other farm tractors having different hydraulic systems may be able to use the same principle.

Chain chokers are used because their used length can be varied as log size and skidding conditions dictate. After the choker is attached to the log, one of the links on the loose end is dropped into a slot on the draw bar, thus securing the load (fig. 3).

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† Maintained at Madison, Wisconsin in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin

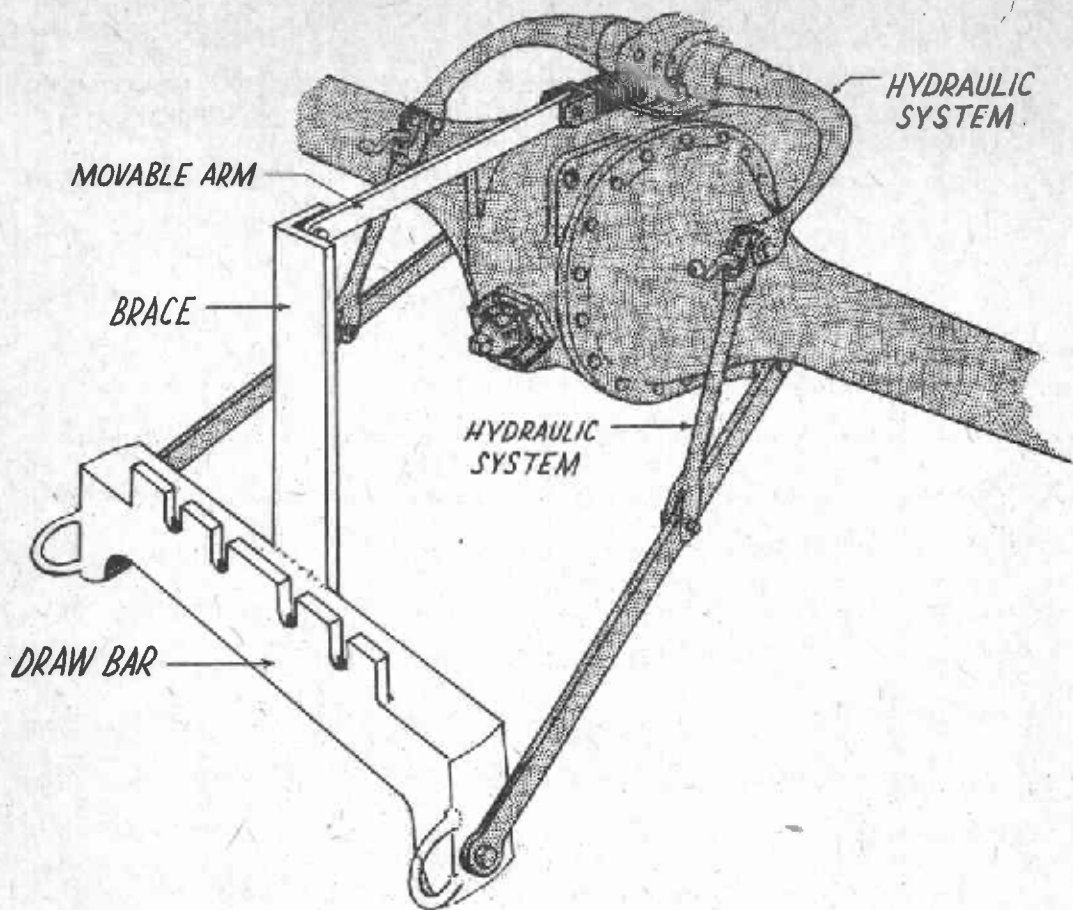


Figure 1.--Skidding attachment.



Figure 2.--Skidding attachment raised to skidding position.

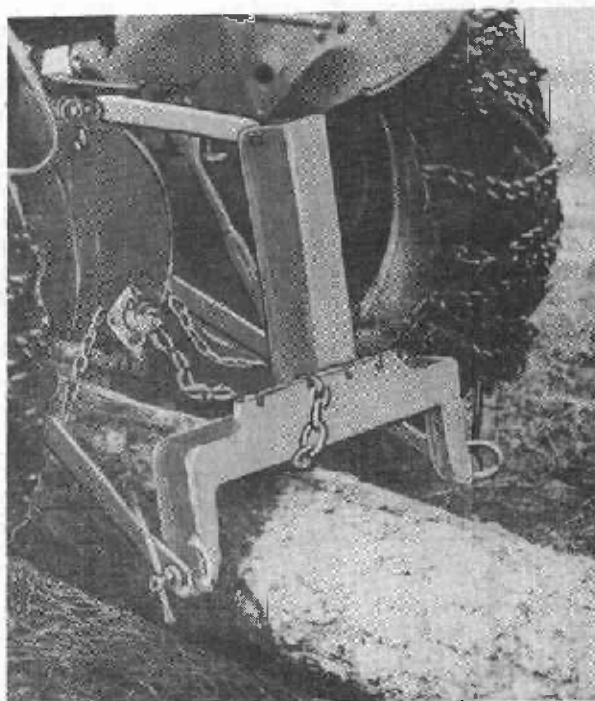


Figure 3.--Skidding attachment lowered for hooking up.