

Who Uses Their Snowplow Hitch In The Summer?

The pickup mounted grader/rake system -- keeping small jobs simple

Russ Lanoie of Conway, NH has spent a long time thinking how to setup a piece of equipment which could simplify general grading and site cleanup by being easily transportable and ready to work at a moments notice. He wanted something that could keep small jobs simple by eliminating the need to trailer a piece of construction equipment to work a site. Also, Russ wanted to use his existing equipment, if possible, to minimize costs.

The answer to Russ's problem was to specially mount a rake to the front of his pickup. "After all," says Russ, "if the pickup could plow snow, it should be able to handle a rake."

The pickup mounted rake has worked extremely well for Russ and he now has several rakes in service for loggers and road crews. The town of Conway owns one of the earlier model rakes and according to Bud French, town highway foreman (447-6661), the pickup mounted grader/rake "is a great piece of equipment." Recently, Russ announced the introduction of an adapter kit to fit the York Model RE 8' rake which he has found to be the rake most suited for pickup mounting. With his adapter and the standard York rake (originally designed for rear mounted tractor use) almost any 3/4 or one ton snowplow equipped truck can now be easily adapted for year round purposes.

According to Russ, some of the benefits of the new rake system are as follows:

1. **Mounts on existing snowplow hardware, using all components except plow blade** -- eliminates purchasing mounting and control hardware reducing costs to less than 1/4 of the cost for a rear truck mounted rake system and to about 1/2 the cost of a trailing rake.

2. **Mounts in front of truck** -- it can be easily seen by the operator and it allows debris removal without the operating vehicle having to drive over debris. Also, the debris can be pushed off the work area without the truck leaving the work surface.

3. **Total operation from drivers seat** -- using standard snowplow controls, the

system allows the operator to remain in the truck resulting in faster operation than trailing rakes. Also, the system assists with worker productivity by enhancing driver comfort in foul weather.

4. **Is carried by operating vehicle when not in use** -- allows for faster transport to and from work sites and simplifying turning around in confined areas.

5. **Can be power angled from side to side** -- using snowplow quick switch cylinders provides the operator with flexibility in the placement of windrow or debris.

6. **Can be used to plow heavy wet snow in the early and latter parts of the season** -- prevents damage to soft road surfaces.

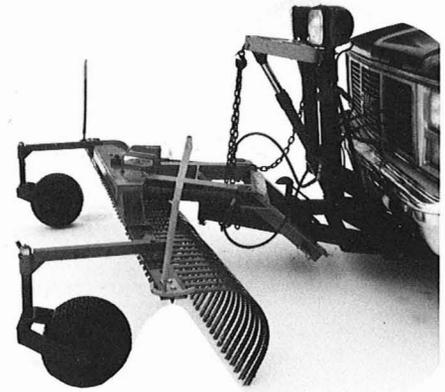
7. **Is easier on the truck than a snowplow** -- this is true in most cases because the rake is lighter and tines spring easily over obstructions.

8. **Components are standard** -- all of the components that are subject to wear are available through either the snowplow or rake dealer.

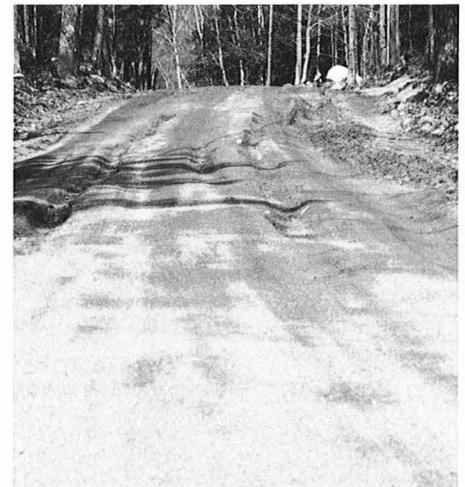
9. **Exclusive feathering action permits simple tine depth setting from the operators seat** -- provides control of weight on tines to create a unique grading action for varying conditions and materials. Also, makes it possible to finely spread material at the end of a pass rather than leaving a pile like a drag rake.

"Other things that make this system attractive," claims Russ, "are that the truck can still be used for other functions at the same time -- including pulling a trailing rake or carrying a load. It has proven very useful for emergency repairs by leveling tailgate spread loads in the place of a motor grader or loader. Finally, because the rake system is so simple to use, almost anyone who is familiar with snow removal operations will readily adapt to this new grader/rake system."

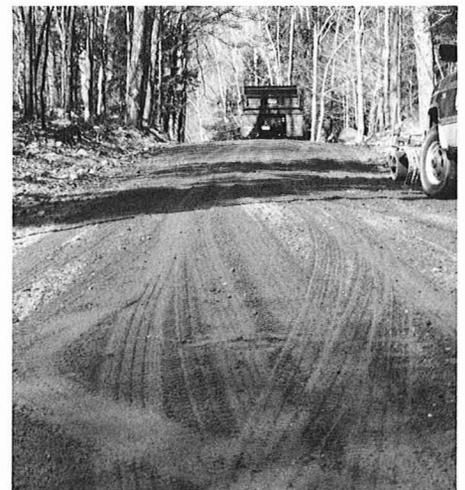
If you are interested in more information about the pickup mounted grader/rake system, Russ Lanoie can be reached by calling 447-5266 or by writing to: Alternative Systems Design/Construction, Conway, NH 03818. -- Do you have an invention or new approach to road maintenance and construction? We would like to hear from you, just call the Technology Transfer Center at 1-800-423-0060. ■



Above: A view of the pickup mounted grader/rake system.



Above: A gravel road before using the grader/rake.



Above: The same gravel road after using the grader/rake.