

Farmer and contractor Janne Siuvo from Nokia:

Pivoting front linkage on Valtra N and T Series tractors

Janne Siuvo from Tottijärvi in Nokia, Finland, has a lot of experience with the LH Link pivoting front linkage, which is fitted on both his Valtra N142 Direct and T174 Direct tractors.

“I have really enjoyed the benefits of the pivoting front linkage, which I use for mowing, snow ploughing and brushing, but really the only limit for finding different ways of using it is your imagination. My T174 has been driven around a thousand hours and the N142 around 1500 hours with the LHLink pivoting front linkage. I actually purchased the N142 used and had the LHLink retrofitted,” Janne tells us.

During the interview Siuvo is sitting in the cab of a New Holland self-propelled forage harvester. At the head of the harvesting chain is the N142 with pivoting front linkage doing the mowing, followed by a windrower and then the forage harvester. Three tractors with trailers follow behind to transport the forage. On the previous day five tractors and trailers had been used in Pori. In normal conditions and on small fields, the team can cover around six hectares an hour.

“A 320-centimetre Kverneland mower is fitted to the pivoting front linkage of the N Series, with a butterfly combination behind for a total width of 960 centimetres. This is specifically meant as a mower and not a mower-conditioner. If the grass is really thick we have to drop our speed to below 15 km/h and use all the power we have,” Janne says.

“I recently went to mow a field without the pivoting front linkage, and I found that I had to drive much straighter lines. The pivoting front linkage allows for much more curves. It really increases productivity when mowing by eliminating the need to reverse and covering the ground more efficiently. You don't have to go back and mow the places you missed on your first run,” Janne confirms.

T Series with LHLink but no PTO

Janne Siuvo's Valtra T174 tractor is fitted with the LH Link pivoting front linkage but without a PTO. However, the PTO would be easy to retrofit if needed.

“The lack of a front PTO prevents using the T Series for mowing, of course, even though it has a lot of power for the job. Mostly I have used the T Series with the pivoting front linkage with a 360-centimetre FMG snowplough,” Janne explains.

“With the pivoting front linkage, the snowplough follows nicely the inside line around corners, and there is no need to reverse all the time. When you do need to back up, for example in tight spaces in yards, you can do so faster and more safely by pivoting the plough and making it narrower. The pivoting front linkage is also good for pushing back snow banks that build up when ploughing, as well as for clearing snow well away from the curbs,” Janne adds.

In summertime Janne uses the pivoting front linkage with a rotary brush. The advantages are the same as for snow ploughing: the implement follows the curves nicely, reduces the need to reverse, and cleans effectively.

Less reversing

“The biggest advantage with the pivoting front linkage, in my opinion, is how it reduces the need to back up when mowing, snow ploughing and brushing. That saves time and reduces wear on the tractor too, since you no longer have to back up twice at every intersection.”

The only minus is that, on the fourth generation T Series, the pivoting front linkage limits the turning angle of the front wheels.

“It’s a good thing that the LHLift pivoting front linkage has become more common and is now available for all tractor brands. The more tractors are fitted with the pivoting front linkage, the more people become aware of the benefits and the more demand there is also for used machines.”



The pivoting front linkage works with rotating brushes the same way as with snow ploughs. By pivoting sideways the implement can follow the curve of the road, clean the sides of the road and the tops of curbs, and reduce the need to reverse at intersections.



Janne Siuvo has a farm in Tottijärvi in Nokia and does a lot of contracting work too. In summertime he works together with a forage harvester team in the Satakunta and Pirkanmaa regions of Finland.