



Subject: Proper Mounting of Blade Coupler - 1995 - 1999

The mounting of the blade coupling on the 1995 cutter bars is quite different than in past years. In previous years the coupler was mounted to a coupling plate riveted to the blade assembly. With the 1995 cutter bars the coupling is mounted directly to the blade assembly by two bolts as seen in Figure 1 on the back of this page.

Note: All references to item numbers in this bulletin is referring to the numbers listed in figure 1 on the back of this page.

We have had reports from the field that some of the couplings have loosened from the blade assembly on the new '95 cutter bars. There are two situations that can cause this to happen.

1. The engine is running at too high RPMs. When a cutter bar attachment is installed on a BCS tractor the engine should be set at 1/2 to 3/4 throttle. When the engine is run at full throttle this causes the sickle bar vibration to be greatly increased, which causes the bolts throughout the sickle bar to loosen. Also when the engine is run at full throttle this also greatly increases the possibility of damage to the sickle bar if the blades come in contact with metal or stone.
2. If the mounting of the two bolts was not in the proper sequence this can cause the bolts to not be properly seated and allows them to loosen. If the standard hex head bolt (item 2) is tightened before the tapered hex head bolt (item 1) is tightened, it can prevent the tapered bolt (item 1) from being seated in the coupler correctly. The proper mounting sequence for the coupler bolts is listed below.

The proper mounting sequence of the coupler is as follows:

- 1) Install the two bolts securing the coupler to the blade assembly. Do not tighten.
- 2) The tapered head bolt (item1) should be tightened first. This will align the coupler to its proper position. Torque bolt to 20 ft.lbs.
- 3) The hex head bolt (item 2) should then be tightened. Torque to 20 ft.lbs. Once this has been completed the drive mechanism should be mounted to the cutter bar.

- 4) Loosen the hex head bolt (item 3) holding the adjusting screw in place.
- 5) With the blade pin in the coupler, tighten the adjusting screw (4) so the blade pin holders (item 5) are secure against the blade pin. The adjusting screw (item 4) should be tightened just enough for both of the blade pin holders (item 5) to contact the blade pin. Do not over tighten the adjusting screw.
- 6) Tighten the hex head bolt (item 3) to secure the adjusting screw in this position.

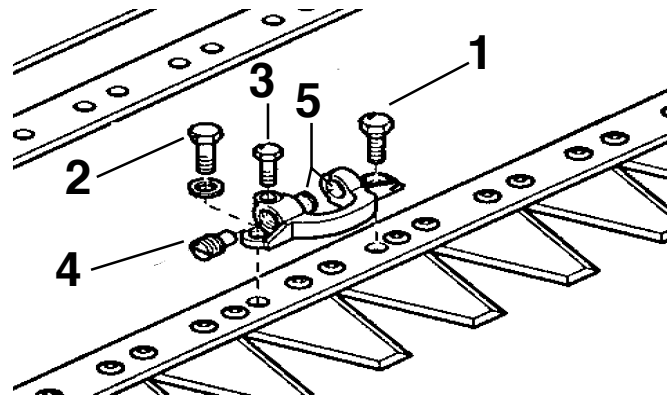


Figure 1