



Frambach's modified moldboards still dig as deep. Rear "beavertail" breaks up soil slabs.

LEAVE 30 TO 50% OF RESIDUE ON TOP

"Cut-Off" Moldboards Break Up Soil Slabs

"I've sold 160 sets of these new cut-off plow bottoms within 10 to 15 miles of my home and I've never had a set returned yet," says Jim Frambach, farmer-inventor of a new cut-off moldboard plow that busts up soil as it turns it, eliminating soil "slabs" and leaving 30 to 50% of residue on the surface.

Frambach says he chisel-plowed fields on his farm near Emmetsburg, Iowa for 15 years before he decided there had to be a better way. "Chisel plows leave grooves that can cause erosion and they often don't break up the ground enough, particularly in wetter soil," he notes.

Frambach cut away the rear-end of the moldboard except for a rounded "beavertail" wing at the top. The plow's cutting edge, or "lay", remains the same width. When the plow starts to roll over a slab of soil it breaks up and crumbles together as it goes over the beavertail, leaving a nearly level soil surface with soil and residue mixed together.

Frambach made his first prototype models by cutting the moldboards with a torch. The plow bottoms are now being manufactured by Wiese Corp. in Perry, Iowa. He stresses that

installation of the cut-off bottoms requires no modification of the plow. They simply bolt in place of the regular bottoms.

"You can cut down your own moldboards and try the idea yourself, but we're selling the bottoms for about \$30 apiece, much less than the cost of conventional moldboards so we think it makes more sense to buy a set of these — you can convert a 6-bottom plow for about \$180 — and keep your old moldboards in case you ever want to convert back," says Frambach.

Frambach says the cut-off bottoms pull much easier than conventional bottoms and stay in the ground better because the lifting action of the soil-turning moldboard is gone. "It leaves anywhere from 30 to 50% of the residue on the surface. If you want it blacker, you lightly disk the field before plowing."

Cut-off bottoms are available to fit most plows, including Deere, White, Case-IH, and others.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wiese Corp., Box 39, 1501 5th St., Perry, Iowa 50220 (ph 515 465-9875).

Moldboard Plow Converted Into Low-Cost Chisel Plow

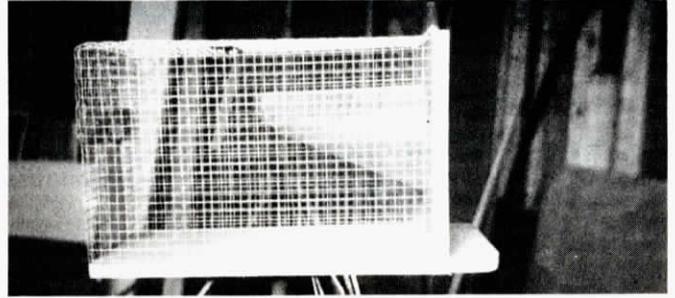
"I needed a 10-ft. chisel plow, but most chisel plows with coulters were selling in the \$2,000 to \$4,000 range. Large moldboard plows were selling pretty cheap so I bought an Oliver 7-16 semi-mounted plow at a farm sale for \$250, then modified it into a moldboard/chisel plow combination," says Paul Anderson, Mineral Point, Wis.

"With a torch, I cut down the moldboards on all seven bottoms. I cut straight down close to the frog. Halfway across the moldboard, I angled over to the

back of the share (see drawing). I also cut the coverboard in half and moved the hitch over so I can drive on land.

"I pull the modified plow with my 130 hp. Allis Chalmers 7020 (with duals) 4 to 4½ mph. Each share was left uncut so each one plows a 16-in. wide section about 9-in. deep. I also left the coulters on to cut trash. Last fall I plowed through heavy cornstalks without plugging up once.

"After chiseling, the soil is loose, ridged up and has about 30 to 50% of the trash left on



Sparrows enter trap through inverted cone made of metal screen leading into the trap from the end (at right in this photo).

YOU'VE GOT TO THINK LIKE A BIRD TO CATCH ONE

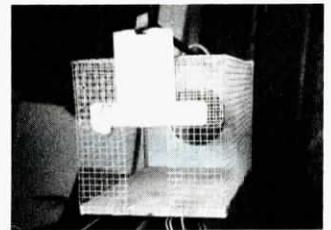
Sparrow Trap Catches 15 Birds At A Time

"We had a terrible time with sparrows in our buildings until we came up with this trap," says Josephine Richardson, a 71-year-old commercial pilot who also manages the local airport in Decatur, Ind. She came up with her sparrow trap idea primarily for use in airplane hangars.

"It'll fill up with 15 birds at a time. The more birds it traps, the more it seems to attract other birds. It'll also catch mice, even when there are already birds in there," says Richardson, who says that after a couple years she's virtually eliminated the bird population in and around the airport and her home.

The sparrow trap consists of a light wood frame cage 19 in. long, 1 ft. wide and 1 ft. high. It's covered with galvanized wire. At one end of the cage, a 5½ in. dia. hole leads into a cone-shaped entryway made out of lightweight metal screen. The hole at the end of the cone is just big enough for a bird, or mouse, to jump through into the main part of the trap. Richardson entices birds into the trap by spreading grain around the outside of the trap and in the cone as well as in the bottom of the cage.

"Once they go in through the cone, they can't find their way out through the small hole. And, for some reason, when you have birds trapped inside, it seems to attract other birds," she explains.



Clean-out door at end opposite from cone-shaped opening lifts for easy disposal of birds.

Once full, birds can be removed through a lift-up door at the rear of the cage. Richardson says you can either gas the birds with a car or truck exhaust or, as she does, let a cat inside to finish them off.

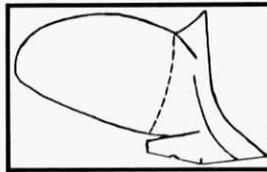
"To be successful trapping birds you have to learn how to think like a bird. You have to keep moving the trap around to spots where birds are likely to land. It won't catch any until you find the right spot but, when you do, you should leave it there because it'll continue to work. You can try different spots on the floor, on rafters, on top of a 55 gal. drum or any other place birds are likely to land," says Richardson.

For example, Richardson says birds continually landed on the window air conditioning unit outside her office, dirtying it with droppings. She placed a trap on top of the unit and caught enough birds to put an end to the problem. She notes that she also catches starlings and an occasional blackbird in the trap. The trap can be built to any length and size to catch other birds, too.

"One season we trapped more than 150 sparrows in an open shed when we got tired of always finding droppings all over the tractor seat, steering wheel and controls. It completely eliminated the problem," she notes.

Richardson sells the traps for \$30 or she'll provide help over the phone to FARM SHOW readers who want to build their own bird traps.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, J. Richardson, Decatur Hi-Way Airport, Rt. 5, Decatur, Ind. 46733 (ph 219 724-7676).



top. It does leave somewhat of a furrow but the furrow fills in easily when discing. Overall it cuts my tillage time by 20 to 30%," notes Anderson.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul Anderson, Rt. 1, Box 157, Mineral Point, Wis. 53565 (ph 608 987-3506).