



In addition to higher yields, Wallace says he uses less seed since he started planting wheat with a corn planter fitted with inter-plant row units.



Wheat is planted in 15-in. rows. Consistent seed depth and spacing leads to uniform growth and better quality grain, says Wallace.

By Janis Schole, Contributing Editor

He Plants Wheat With His Corn Planter

An Ontario farmer says his wheat yields went up 12 bu. per acre when he started planting with a corn planter instead of a drill.

Morley Wallace of North Gower, Ontario, says that in addition to yield boosts, he uses 11 percent less seed because the crop is planted according to seed population rather than by grain weight. Although the rows were wider apart (15-in. rows versus 7-in. with grain drill), more plants grew per row.

"The corn planter is able to achieve a far more accurate and consistent seed depth than a grain drill, regardless of soil conditions," he explains. "The benefits of this system are just phenomenal. I've now done three years of wheat this way, using different farms and different growers, and have consistently seen the average 12 bu. yield increase with the corn planter. Also, the grain quality is a full grade higher."

Consistent seed depth and seed spacing leads to uniform growth and better quality grain, he points out. Because the row spacing is that much wider, it allows more air movement and more crop movement. Wallace says he plants 1.2 million seeds per acre.

He uses a Trimble EZ-Steer GPS system to ensure precision on-row planting with the corn planter, and the GPS is also used to analyze the field and yield data.

His White 6606 corn planter is fitted with inter-plant units. He changes the plates on each seeding row unit for wheat. This results in 11-row, 15-in. wheat rows. He also uses the planter in corn and beans.

Wallace has found an unconventional way to dramatically cut his input costs while increasing yields - it involves a 4-year rotation of three different crops.

Other than blackening his ground before seeding corn the first year, Morley Wallace of North Gower, Ontario, operates zero till production of soybeans for two years, and one year of wheat, before cultivating again for corn the fifth year. Thanks to seeding with a corn planter using GPS, all crops are grown row on top of row so that they can take advantage of nutrients the previous crop left behind. This virtually eliminates the need for broadcast fertilizer on the wheat, according to Wallace.

"Corn produces its own phosphorus and potash, and soybean likes those but creates its own nitrogen, which is put to use by the wheat," says Wallace's son, Jordan. "Growing soybeans twice in a row gives us that extra bump in nitrogen we need to achieve same level for the wheat as we would have otherwise had to broadcast. We're also using only

one planter and very little cultivation, so it keeps our expenses to a minimum."

He still applies liquid fertilizer with the planter when necessary (22 liters/acre on corn, 11 liters/acre on soybeans, and 11 liters/acre on wheat), but the major savings is from not having to broadcast nitrogen for the wheat.

Although a corn planter is worth between \$75,000 and \$100,000, Wallace says not needing any other types of planters makes this system worthwhile.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Morley or Jordan Wallace, P. O. Box 456, North Gower, Ontario, Canada K0A 2T0 (ph 613 489-2932, cell 613 327-6377; jordan@gpsontario.ca; www.gpsontario.ca).



Dan Dawson put together this hand-powered portable milker for his miniature goats.

Low-Cost, Hand-Pumped Milker

When Maggie Leman and Dan Dawson went looking for a portable milker for their miniature goats, they couldn't find one they liked so Dan designed his own.

"I saw a hand-powered portable milker on the internet that was designed for milking horses," recalls Leman. "I didn't think it would fit goats easily, and it cost more than I wanted to spend."

He put together his own milker using materials lying around the house. It worked well enough that they tested it with more durable components. After showing it to others, they began to offer it for sale early this year for use on miniatures or full size goats. It can also be used on sheep, llamas, horses, and other animals.

"We've sold more than we ever thought we would," recalls Leman. "Within two weeks of our first sales, we had customers telling us how much they loved the milker. It

even works when the animal is lying down. One customer used it to collect colostrum from a doe that couldn't get up."

Leman and Dawson advertise in dairy goat trade journals and promote the milker on their website. It sells for \$45. A larger teat cup for full size goats sells for an additional \$2. They also offer closed system receptacles in pint, half gallon and gallon sizes, with vented lids and a hose that connects to the milker. An in-line milk filter also can be installed.

"We offer a 30-day warranty, but with any milking system you should replace hoses and teat cups at least once a year," says Leman. "Dish soap and a weak bleach solution is all that's needed to clean it. We provide a formula with the milker."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Maggidans, 1205 Olive Branch Rd., Durham, N.C. 27703 (ph 919 596-0984; maggidans@msn.com; www.maggidans.com).



Hand-powered milker is made from a spray bottle, clear plastic tubing, and a syringe.

Simple Homemade Hand-Powered Milker

When Hughlene Dunn needed hand surgery and couldn't milk her two goats, she went looking for a milk pump to help her out. But she couldn't justify the cost of the units on the market. After all, she was only going to need a milker for a couple of months until she recovered from her surgery.

"Instead I bought a spray bottle with a padded handle," she recalls. "I also picked up some 1/4-in. clear plastic tubing and a 35 cc syringe and connected the tube on the spray pump to the syringe."

Once the goat udder had been washed and the syringe was wetted with a squirt of milk, Dunn slipped it over the goat's teat. She then began pumping the spray handle, which quickly created a vacuum seal. Milk began to flow with each compression, and Dunn massaged the udder while squeezing the handle until the udder felt empty. Not only did she not have to hold the syringe in place, but when she finished, she had to break the vacuum seal to remove it.

"It worked great, and I used it for a month before I had surgery, and my neighbor used it for a month and a half while I recovered. It emptied the udder out real well without a lot of stripping," says Dunn.

"One of my does has one teat that's smaller and I thought I would need a smaller syringe, but I didn't."

She cleaned the pump nightly with cold and then hot water pumped through it. Once a week, she soaked it in hot water with dish detergent and pumped that through it. She also pumped white vinegar through it.

She doesn't use the milker anymore since her doctors feel the milking by hand is good therapy. However, she has held on to it and recently used it to collect colostrum."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hughlene Dunn, 21205 S. 4190 Rd., Claremore, Okla. 74019 (ph 918 343-3025; fax 918 283-1053; hughlene.dunn@sbcglobal.net; www.dunmilkingfarm.com).