

He Uses Combine To Do Two Different Jobs

After being dissatisfied with the grain cleaners he hired in town, Oklahoma farmer Bill Crain decided to turn his old Deere 95 combine into an on-farm, portable grain cleaner.

What's more, Crain also uses the converted machine as a self-propelled swather, laying down grain swaths for harvest later with another machine.

"I cut off the combine right in back of the motor, removing the cylinder drive chain, straw walkers, return elevator chain and the feederhouse conveyor chain leading up to the cylinder. I mounted a grain hopper off an old pull-type Gleaner combine on back that drops grain onto the front end of the sieves," explains Crain.

Screenings are caught in an old cut-off 50-gal. barrel and clean wheat is elevated into Deere combine's grain tank.

"It does an excellent job, cleaning between 275 and 300 bu. of wheat per hour and it only costs me the price of running the combine. I like the fact that I can take the cleaner to the grain, rather than hauling grain to the cleaner," says Crain.

To swath grain with the converted combine, Crain simply removes the long belt on the right side to stop the separator, and then removes the feederhouse door, cross brace, and other pieces of metal just in back of the header auger. "It does a good job, laying down a swath between the combine wheels. It has swathed many an acre of small grains, even during the years when it was still used to harvest grain."

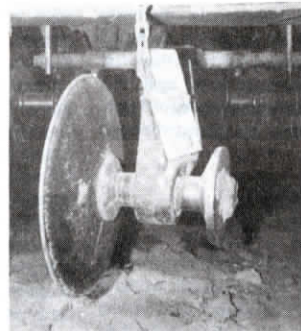
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Add-On Disc Wipes Out "Undisked" Strip

"This is a problem I've had for years. I finally figured out how to solve it," says L.O. Beddard, Snow Hill, N.C., who made an attachment for his field disk that wipes out the untouched strip the disk left right down the center.

"Before I made this attachment my 12 1/2-ft. Ford-built disk would leave a 2 to 3-in. wide strip of grass or weeds after each pass was made. Now it all gets tilled," says Beddard. He says some farmers solve the problem with a single plow shank but that can cause plugging.

He mounted a single disc on a floating support arm between the front and rear disc gangs. He used a bearing section from a "disc hiller" that's designed to support a blade on either side. A chain sets the proper depth by hooking in a notch on the disk frame. The floating arm is about 2 ft. long with the pivot point toward the front.



Beddard says the idea will work on most field disks. He notes that Deere recently came out with a similar attachment as an option on their new machines.

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Live Trap Fitted With "Gas Chamber"

Killing skunks after you catch them in a live trap is a job that often ends up a smelly mess. Oscar Lang, Zap, N. Dak., came up with a slick solution to the problem by attaching a gas chamber to his traps that let him gas trapped animals with no mess or danger.

He puts a one-way gate on one end of a 20 gal. barrel and then fastens that end of the barrel to a live trap. Once an animal is in the trap, curiosity - and some bait - draw it into the barrel. Once inside, he can't get out.

Lang drilled a 1-in. dia. hole through the other end of the barrel and inserted a piece of threaded pipe into it. Whenever he traps an animal inside the chamber, he runs a hose from the pipe to the exhaust on his 3-wheeler. The exhaust gas quickly kills the animal.

Lang uses Tru-Catch Live Traps (P.O. Box 816, Belle Fourche, S. Dak. 57717 ph 800 247-6132).

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Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director



Terrace Seeder Covers Seed As It Goes

Eldon Krambeck thinks he's got the best terrace seeding machine in the country. The self-propelled machine blows seed onto terraces and then covers it with a drag carried by a rear-mounted boom.

"Before I added the drag, the wind would blow away much of the seed. Now I get near-perfect germination with no need to ever go back to reseed," says Krambeck, who got the idea for his seeder while lying in bed in a hospital after an illness. He built it in 1989 and has since rebuilt it 4 or 5 times.

Seeder consists of an IH 460 tractor carrying a hopper from an old 44 Massey combine. The hopper, which Krambeck says carries enough grass seed to seed about a mile of terrace, is fitted with an old post hole auger, mounted vertically in the middle of it, to keep seed mixed.

A 3-in. dia. auger runs from the hopper to a hydraulic-powered IH No. 5 endgate seeder mounted just ahead of the tractor tire. The seeder can be fitted with a "wind chute" that keeps seed from blowing away in high winds.

Krambeck built a platform on the back of the tractor to support the seed hopper and drag boom, which is raised and lowered by a single lift cylinder. The boom pulls two drag sections, reaching about 18 ft. up the side of terraces. Krambeck says he seeds terraces up to 30 ft. high by first making a pass at ground level and then making a pass along the top of the terrace.

Krambeck charges customers 3 cents a linear foot to seed terraces, not including the seed. That includes both sides of the terrace. "Business has been tremendous. Last year I seeded over 140 miles of terrace in 7 different counties," he told FARM SHOW. He's got a ball hitch on the back of the seeder to tow his Datsun pickup to the field when working away from home.

Krambeck is still refining his seeder and says he'd like to add a loading mechanism for filling the seed hopper.

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