



Aerial photo of Dave Barnett's farm show, held last September on his farm near Pleasant, Plains, Ill.

Copyright 1990, The State Journal-Register

FIRST SHOW HAD 15 EXHIBITORS AND EXTENSIVE CORN AND SOYBEAN TEST PLOTS

Illinois Farmer Started His Own Farm Show

Last summer while working in the field Dave Barnett got an idea. He asked himself: Why not hold my own farm show right here on the farm?

He already had many of the ingredients needed. He had some 80 acres planted to corn and soybean test plots and he had diverted acres nearby to use for machinery displays. Test plots included 64 varieties of corn and 54 varieties of soybeans.

"My initial incentive was to satisfy seed dealers," says Barnett, who has set up variety test plots for the past five years. "then I got to thinking that an equipment show

would just be a natural progression."

The first "Western Sangamon Farm Expo" was held September 10 with 15 exhibitors and several hundred visitors in attendance.

"I'll make it bigger and better next year. I'd like to make it a mini-Farm Progress Show for the surrounding 8 counties or so. We'll have equipment working the ground and harvesting beans," says Barnett. He also plans to have horses working - pulling moldboard plows and running a corn binder. He may also have antique tractors on display.

The 15 exhibitors at the show paid from \$15 to \$350 to participate. Revenues generated were used to pay for lunches and helicopter rides which were offered so farmers could fly over their fields to check out their crops. "I didn't make a penny on the show, but that's not why I did it," says Barnett.

He's already off and running on next year's show, which will be held again on Sept. 10, which will be the show's date every year. New exhibitors who didn't hear about the show until after it was held, have already signed up for next year.

Barnett enjoys the chance to meet a lot of

people he wouldn't normally encounter. His payoff comes from exposure to bankers and farm managers who might make new rental land available to him and from the free seed that companies are willing to donate for his variety plots. "I started plots because there are so many different varieties of seed and everyone had their own figures on which was best. How was I to make a decision? If it does well on my farm then I know I've got something."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Barnett, RR, Pleasant Plains, Ill. 62677 (ph 217 626-1180).

IT'S HOOKED UP TO A TV IN HIS TRACTOR CAB

"Lookout" Camera Makes Big Load Hauling Easier

"Whenever I hauled a big load of bales down the road I had to have someone ahead of me to let me know if there was a car behind. This video lookout system lets me see for myself," says Lonie Rohr, Gladstone, N. Dak. He mounts a video camera on the back of the load and runs a cable up to a TV mounted in his tractor cab.

"I made a wooden box with a window in it, padded with foam rubber. Then I bolted two long metal rods to either side of the box to stick into the bales to hold the box in place. I also tie the box to a bale string just

to be sure it won't fall off. Then I put the camera inside the box and run the wire up to the cab.

"I can see more than 300 ft. behind me just by keeping an eye on the TV while driving. You need a 12-volt TV that'll run off your tractor and a video camera that'll run off the tractor battery or on its own batteries."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lonie Rohr, HC01, Box 23, Gladstone, N. Dak. 58630 (ph 701 225-9275).



Rohr puts video camera inside padded wooden box which has a steel rod attached to either side of it.



When hauling a big load of bales, Rohr puts the camera and box on the back of a load of bales and runs a wire up to a TV in his tractor cab.

Order Form For New Subscribers

Yes! I want to be first to learn about latest new products. Please send me one full year's subscription (\$13.95 per year in the United States; \$16.95 per year in Canada - payable in Canadian dollars - and foreign countries). I understand I can cancel at any time and receive a full refund if not satisfied.

My check (\$ _____) is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check payable to FARM SHOW. Clip and mail this coupon to: FARM SHOW, 20088 Kenwood Trail, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.