

# Made It Myself

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## Doubled-Up IH "Early Risers" Plant Narrow Row Beans

George Thomas, Radnor, Ohio, switched to no-till narrow row soybeans by hitching two Case-IH 800 no-till air planters together, one behind the other, and splitting the rows to plant 10 15-in. rows at a time.

A pair of "dolly wheels" between the two planters allows the rear planter to operate independently of the front planter and provides enough clearance for sharp turns at the end of the field. Thomas used siderails off an old truck frame to make the hitch mounted on back of the front planter, which is a 6-row 30-in. model. The rear planter is a 4-row 38-in. model that Thomas modified to plant 30-in. rows.

"Everyone told me it couldn't be done," says Thomas, who has used his "doubled-up" planting system for three years. "I had been using a Tye drill to plant soybeans, but I wanted to use a corn planter because it provides better depth control and seed placement. I already had the 4-row planter and I paid \$7,000 for the used 6-row planter. Commercial add-on planters cost about \$15,000. The two-wheel dolly is equipped with a 4-ft. long tongue in front and an 8-in. drawbar behind. The

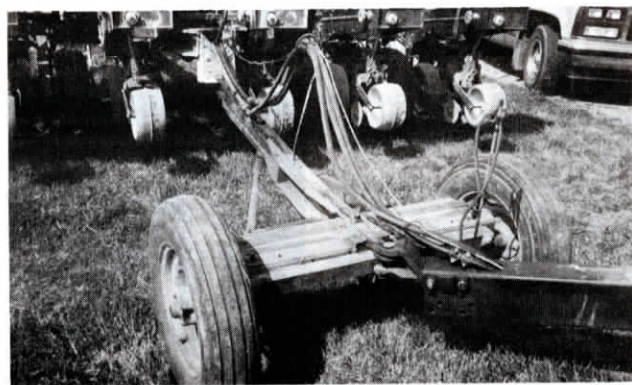
hitch behind the front planter is actually an extension of the planter's tongue. The rear planter pulls through the dolly and directly on the tongue instead of on the front planter itself. It takes only a minute to unhook the rear planter. All I do is pull two hitch pins from the dolly and unhook three hydraulic hoses - one to raise and lower the planter, and two to operate the hydraulic motor that runs the blower. I installed extra valve outlets on the tractor.

"I plant corn with the front planter. When I'm ready to plant soybeans I simply hook up to the dolly and rear planter."

He used the axle, spindle, and wheels off an old Deere model 12A pull-type combine to build the dolly and used tires off an old wagon.

Thomas moved the front planter's markers in 7 1/2 inches on each side to narrow up the outside rows to 15 in. "I've used the doubled-up planter for three seasons with very good results. About 90 percent of my crop is no-till," says Thomas.

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## Self-Feeder For Lambs

Sheep grower Tom Newberger, Canistota, S. Dak., designed this nifty lamb feeder that lets him start lambs out on grain before weaning so that they won't get "overeating disease" when they switch over to a total ration of grain after weaning.

He cuts the top out of barrel with a torch and then cuts six 4 by 6-in. openings in the side of the barrel, spaced 2 in. apart and positioned about 12 in. up from the bottom of the barrel.

"The idea is that the lambs can get their heads through the holes to eat grain, chopped alfalfa, or whatever but the ewes can't because their heads are too big. Of course, the ewes will try to get at the feed so you have to set the barrel up in a corner or anchor it somehow so they won't tip it over," says Newberger.

When lambs get big enough that their heads get stuck in the openings, he weans them and they're ready to go on feed.

"We start using the feeder when they're only a couple weeks old, placing one barrel in each of the four corners of a 16



by 30-ft. building, serving 75 to 100 lambs. They gradually find their way to the feed but they don't overeat on grain when sucking because they prefer milk over creep feed," says Newberger, noting that he's never seen anything like his feeders on the market.

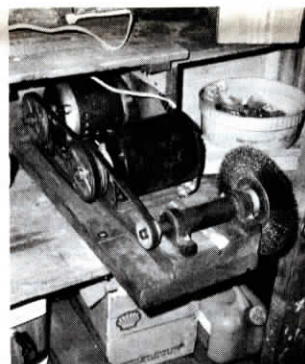
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## Paired Motors Provide Low-Cost Power

Charles Yokimas, Victoria, B.C., joined up a pair of used 1/3-hp electric motors to double the power on his wire wheel brush, allowing him to do heavy-duty cleaning work without the expense of a bigger motor.

"I paid \$5 for each used 1/3-hp motor. A new 2/3-hp motor would cost at least \$75," says Yokimas, who bolted the motors to a 2-ft. long wood board and connected them together with two 4-in. dia. pulleys. He then wired them together so they would run at the same time. A 3 1/2-in. dia. pulley runs from the front motor to a 2-in. dia. pulley on the brush shaft. The 2-in. dia. pulley turns twice as fast as the 4-in. dia. pulleys, rotating the brush at high speed.

"The paired-up motors provide twice as much torque as a single motor and prevent the brush from slowing down even in the heaviest work," says Yokimas, who uses the brush to clean parts or remove paint from them.



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Photo courtesy Grainews

## Loader Built From Old Truck, Tractor

"I don't know how I got along without it," says George Beck, Woodhull, Ill., about the heavy-duty loader tractor he built from scratch using truck, tractor and combine parts.

Beck used the engine, transmission and rear end from a 1935 WC Allis Chalmers tractor. He reversed the transmission so the gear pattern is backwards in order to be able to run the tractor in reverse. The turning axle was salvaged from a 2 1/2-ton Chevy truck (model unknown) while the power steering was taken from a 1954 stub-nosed Chevy truck, including all parts from the axle to the tie rod assembly.

Beck says this power steering setup works excellent for loader work because there are individual steering cylinders for each wheel, allowing for better control and increased "give and take" if one wheel gets stuck or bogged down.

He built heavy-duty loader arms and bucket for the tractor along with interchangeable forks. He also has a 30-ft. boom that fits onto the forks for light-weight "reaching jobs".

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