

One-Row Corn Planters For Skips, Misses

Wally Miller, Creston, Iowa, makes \$25 an hour planting skips or missed rows for other farmers with his one-row Deere planter mounted behind his Deere 216 16-hp. tractor.

"Usually I'm replanting rows that didn't get planted. Maybe one row plugged up or the farmer forgot to fill a planter box. It'll take him longer to set up his planter to plant one row than it takes me to do the whole job," says Miller.

He mounted the Deere ground-driven plate planter — purchased for about \$150 — on a home-built 1-ft. wide toolbar. He says the rig plants so well you can't tell what was missed once the crop grows up. Besides missed rows, he also plants wet holes that were flooded at planting time, and odd corners that are hard to reach with big planters.

In some years, Miller says, there isn't much work. "When the weather's nice and it's good going, guys are careful and they don't miss much. But, when they get in a hurry, more mistakes are made."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Wally Miller, 1200 S. Division, Creston, Iowa 50801 (ph 515 782-4582).

Dale Wrosch, Onaga, Kan., also put together a one-row planter to seed skips. Built from an old discarded International 4-row planter, he mounts it on his Deere garden tractor.

"I've used it for several years and it works great for planting small patches, or for replanting. It raises and lowers on the tractor's electric lift," says Wrosch.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale E. Wrosch, Rt. 1, Box 170, Onaga, Kans. 66521 (ph 913 889-4329).

Fold-Down Exhaust Pipe

"After we bought an International 786 tractor we discovered it was too high to fit into any of our buildings so we decided to shorten the exhaust pipe up with a fold in the middle," says Jay H. Kneasel, Lebanon, Penn.

Kneasel first cut the pipe in half, then cut holes in two pieces of heavy angle iron and welded them to the ends of the pipe. The pieces of angle iron were then hinged together. To hold the pipe tightly together in



the upright position, Kneasel put a small hand clamp on the side opposite the hinge. When he wants to get into the machine shed, he simply releases the clamp and drops the top half of the pipe.

Oil Test Detects Engine Problems

Testing engine oil to detect potential mechanical problems before they occur has become a regular part of Wayne and Loren Hartung's tractor maintenance program. The Woodbury, Minn., farmers use a relatively little known oil analysis program run by Cenex cooperatives.

The Hartungs take oil samples from their tractors by draining oil from the crankcase drain, or using a syringe to withdraw a sample through the dipstick hole. They send the sample to a lab along with information on the vehicle, type of oil and time since last oil change.

If there's a serious problem, Cenex calls them immediately. Otherwise test results are sent on a computer

printout that tells them if there's antifreeze, water or fuel in the oil, and also shows the level of a variety of trace elements. High levels of iron, lead, aluminum, chromium or copper indicate internal wear of rings, cylinders, bearings or pistons. A high level of silicon usually is a result of sand and dust contamination.

Cenex officials say you should analyze oil samples from each truck or tractor at least twice a year to establish a "trend" for the particular vehicle. Some farmers on the program test oil at every oil change.

Case, Caterpillar, and Mobil also offer oil analysis programs for farmers.

Timely Cattle Feed

"I fatten a few purchased cattle every winter and need some straw for bedding and a little roughage to keep them healthy. However, I don't have time at haying time to put up the alfalfa I need. Instead, I fertilize a field of cornstalks very heavily in the spring and put it into oats. I seed 5 lbs. of alfalfa along with the oats and get 100 or more bushels of oats and 50

bales of straw. After labor day, I cut the alfalfa and get 50 bales of good roughage. All of this work comes when I have little else to do. The next year I disk it once or twice and replant it to corn. It doesn't need any more fertilizer and the field keeps its place in a corn and bean rotation," says Leo Boddicker, Newhall, Iowa.

FARM SHOW

"Best Ideas"

Editor's Note: Have you got a "best idea" you'd like to share with FARM SHOW readers? It might be a new wrinkle in cropping, livestock, machinery or whatever. Maybe it's still experimental but looks promising. Or, maybe you've already proven it works. We'd like to hear about it. Write to: Best Ideas, c/o FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

Hog Farmer Financed By Outside Investors

John and Terri Rohr, Napoleon, Ohio, have financed their hog farm using money from outside investors.

With the help of Henry County extension agent Bob Cole, the Rohrs fashioned a plan that lets them expand their operation while rewarding investors with 10 to 43% return on their money.

Investors invest \$2,000 per sow unit and are guaranteed at least a 10% annual return on their investment. The investors choose the breed of sow wanted and all of the pigs in that bunch are identified. Each investor is guaranteed two litters per year and, if a sow dies or fails for some reason, Rohr replaces them. The investor is charged \$150 per year for care and maintenance of each sow but gets

75% of the profit while Rohr gets 25%.

Besides profits, investors can take investment credits and depreciation. Returns to investors in the form of profits have ranged as high as 43% in part because the Rohrs are active at breed shows, selling many of their animals for breeding. Returns have also been high because the Rohrs have remodeled older buildings and made do with less than modern equipment.

Each investor gets a computerized monthly statement. A year-end report details profits.

"They've already got about 35 investors thanks to reports in local and state publications," Bob Cole told FARM SHOW.

Ear Notch ID System

An ear-notching system that traces each pig back to its parents helps Don Kleinjans, Volga, S. Dak., monitor his operation at a glance as he walks through his barns.

Keeping track of each pig lets Kleinjans know how fast they get ready for market. Checking his records he can also quickly determine date of birth of each pig, birth weight, weaning weight, number of pigs per litter, number of pigs born live, and the number of pigs that died. The information becomes the basis for breeding selection.

Essentially Kleinjans assigns a 4-digit number to each of the approximately 2,500 animals he finishes each year. He does it by notching the week of birth in the right ear — numbering 1 to 52 — and the pig number

for a particular week — 1 to 99 — in the left ear. For example, a pig born on November 20th might be identified with the number 4726 identifying it as the 26th pig born in the 47th week of the year. All data about that pig is entered into a computer and can be recalled simply by punching in the ID number.

The system used to notch each ear is a modification of ear notching methods used on other livestock. He simply assigns numbers to different parts of the ear and then puts in the number of notches needed to add up to the ID number needed. He assigns a 10 and 30 to the spots closest to the head and a 1 and 3 to the opposite midway points of the ear. A value of 5 is given to the end point of the ear.