

## KINZE ROW UNITS MOUNT ON IH 500 AIR PLANTER TOOLBAR

# Low-Cost Narrow Row Bean Planter

Cliff Aupperle of Anita, Iowa, wanted to switch to narrow row no-till soybeans but he didn't want to spend the money for a new planter. He solved the problem by replacing the row units on his International 500 8-row air planter with 16 new Kinze row units, minus the seed boxes. The result is a 16-row, 15-in. planter that uses a pair of 8-row air hoppers to deliver seed to the Kinze row units.

"It cost me only about one third as much as a new Kinze narrow row planter," says Aupperle, whose neighbor Dave Brahm helped him build the planter.

"I got the idea for the planter one day when I was at my Kinze dealer and saw a parts list on the counter. I discovered that the lower row units don't cost a lot per row if you buy them without the soybean brush meters and if you assemble them yourself. We think the IH Cyclo air metering system works almost as good on beans as the Kinze brush metering system.

"Each lower row unit includes a double

disc opener with seed drop tube, gauge wheels, and packer wheels and springs. We made our own parallel linkage for the row units and staggered them 6 in. apart for good trash flow. We also replaced the 4-in. wide Kinze gauge wheels with 2-in. wide gauge wheels to help with trash flow. The hardest part was getting the double disc openers shimmed right so that they weren't too tight or too loose.

"The Kinze lower row units are out in the open where they're easy to work on. Some commercial 15-in. bean planters have staggered rows but are equipped with individual seed boxes that are spaced so close together that it's hard to work on them. Another advantage of this planter is that the IH hoppers are much easier to fill than 16 individual seed boxes. I use a gravity wagon and auger to fill the hoppers which have a total capacity of 13 bu."

"I used the planter last year on corn ground and got a beautiful stand. I ran my Soil Fin-



Two IH Cyclo air hoppers were used to deliver seed to row units.

isher ahead of the planter once to knock down the stalks. Even in 70 to 75 percent residue I never had any trouble."

Aupperle's planter folds vertically for transport.

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The men built their own parallel linkage system.

## "IT CAN DO MANY DIFFERENT JOBS AND HAS GREAT FLEXIBILITY IN ROW SPACING"

# They Built The "Cadillac" Of No-Till Planters

When Kincardine Agri-Farms of Kincardine, Ontario, switched to no-till last year, they decided to save money and gain planting flexibility by assembling their own corn and soybean planter by using components from various manufacturers.

Kincardine puts in more than 8,000 acres of corn and beans each year and need something fast, reliable, and durable. The resulting "Cadillac of no-till planters" cost more than \$100,000. It can plant 12 rows of 30-in. corn or 23 rows of 15-in. beans. It's equipped with a Till-Tech coultter caddy with Till-Tech coultters on front followed by White planter row units mounted on an Orthman folding stacker bar that allows the planter to be folded to a 6-row width. A pair of Val-Mar dry fertilizer boxes and air blowers mount on top of the rig. The boxes can be used to apply fertilizer alongside the row while planting corn, or to hold seed when planting soybeans. The pull-type rig is supported by two lift assist wheels on back. The planter was built for Kincardine by Till-Tech Systems, a planter manufacturer based in St. Thomas, Ontario.

"The combination of a coultter caddy and toolbar planter provides a lot more flexibility in how you can use the fertilizer and planting equipment," says Ron Prong of Till-Tech. "This system works great for planting in narrow rows because the row spacing is easy to change. With a conventional planter you normally have to decide when buying whether you want 30 or 20-in. row planter because row spacing is difficult to change."

Till-Tech stripped an 8-row White planter down to the frame and mounted the row units on a modified Orthman stacker bar, which folds from 30 to 16 ft. in both the 12-row, 30-in. row corn setup and the 23-row, 15-in.

row soybean setup. The unit has a transport width of 21 ft. The stacker bar is attached to a 3-pt. hitch on back of the caddy. A pair of Valmar dry fertilizer boxes mount on top of the stacker bar and are filled by a cross auger mounted above them. A pair of blowers are used to deliver fertilizer to the tillage coultters and seed to the row units.

"The Valmar boxes each hold about 3,000 lbs. of fertilizer which is placed two to three inches to each side of the seed," says Prong. "The boxes can also hold three tons of soybean seed, allowing Kincardine to plant 70 to 80 acres before they have to refill. The coultter caddy uses three wavy coultters to loosen the ground in front of each corn row and two in front of each soybean row. Last fall Kincardine used the coultter caddy and fertilizer boxes to band fertilizer. They'll plant corn between the bands this spring. And this fall they plan to use the caddy and boxes to seed winter wheat in 7-in. rows. They'll mount 52 planting units on another toolbar that will be pulled behind the caddy.

"Another advantage is that the planter is equipped with Accu-Plant hydraulic controls which make it compatible with Global Positioning Satellite technology. It allows variable application rates for both seed and fertilizer.

"The planter requires five remote hydraulic outlets - one to raise or lower the coultter caddy, one to fold the planter toolbar, one to raise the planter itself, one to operate the blower that delivers fertilizer, and one to operate the blower that delivers seed. We use flow control valves to raise or lower the planter wings and to operate the cross auger.

"We used the same idea to help another farmer who had a double frame New Idea



Planter cost more than \$100,000 to build and can plant 12 rows of 30-in. corn or 23 rows of 15-in. beans.



Planter is equipped with components from various manufacturers, including a Till-Tech coultter caddy with Till-Tech coultters on front. White planter units mount on an Orthman folding stacker bar.

planter and wanted 20-in. rows. We installed a coultter caddy on front and added fertilizer boxes, blower systems, and extra row units between the existing ones. However, the extra weight overloaded the planter frame and tongue so he had to add lift wheels on back. "Because of the extra weight of its new

planter, Kincardine had to trade for a Deere 8400 235-hp MFWD tractor."

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