

Soil won't stick to new poly closing wheels for Deere, Kinze planters and Deere 750 drills, helping to improve emergence and stand.

"No Stick" Closing Wheels For Deere, Kinze Planters, Deere 750 Drills

"They reduce sidewall compaction, resulting in improved emergence and stand," says Pat Reinhart of May-Wes Manufacturing about the company's new "no stick" closing wheels for Deere and Kinze planters and Deere drills.

There are two 12-in. dia. spoked closing wheels for planters. On 750 drills, there's one spoked and one smooth. They use the same-size bearing as the original wheels so

replacement parts are readily available, Reinhart notes.

It's recommended that a seed firm be used in conjunction with the closing wheels.

For the 1996 planting season price will be about \$109 per row.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, May-Wes Manufacturing Inc., Cty. Rd. 2, P.O. Box 33, Gibbon, Minn. 55335 (ph 507 834-6572; fax 6909).

Poly Rolling Cultivator Shields

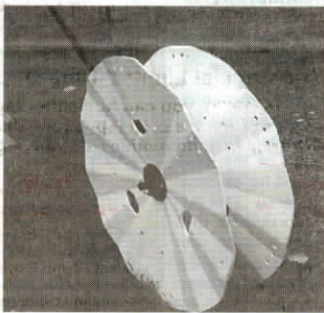
Big new slippery "plastic" rolling cultivator shields run circles around conventional metal spiked shields, according to the manufacturer.

The light-weight shields are 24 in. in dia., compared with the 15 or 17 in. size of most other shields. The additional surface area provides more protection to crops, says May-Wes Manufacturing.

Also, dirt and mud slide off the slick polyethylene surface better than metal. The wave edge design won't tear off leaves as spiked wheels will.

They mount on virtually any 7-in. sq. tool or cultivator bar and sell for \$109 per double row; \$93 for single end rows.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, May-Wes Manufacturing Inc., Cty. Rd. 2, P.O.



Poly rolling cultivator shields outperform conventional.

Box 33, Gibbon, Minn. 55335 (ph 507 834-6572; fax 6909).

"Hay Buddy" Makes Bale Handling Easy

An Oklahoma rancher looking for a better way to remove neoprene string from round bales during raw winter weather put together the first "Hay Buddy" and now it almost never leaves his side.

Archie West of Gage, Okla., riveted a sickle section to one side of an extruded aluminum bracket at the end of a wood handle, and a sturdy hook to the other. It worked so well, he and his wife Jackie began manufacturing them in their small shop.

"I got tired of taking off my gloves to dig out my pocketknife. I had tried a couple other bale handling tools but nothing ever worked as good as the Hay Buddy," says West.

Last winter, West and his wife took a load of Hay Buddy tools on the road and in only 12 days sold 354 of them at co-ops, elevators, and on farms. "Once a farmer gets one in his hand, he's sold," says West.

The tool is 13 in. long and weighs just under a pound. West says the chrome sickle blade will stay sharp for a lifetime and the



Easy-To-Handle "Hay Buddy" works great for cutting twine, handling bales, says the farmer who designed it.

handle is made of treated wood.

They sell for \$16.75 apiece, or 6 for \$100.50; 12 for \$195.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hay Buddy, 214 Mission Road So., Enid, Okla. 73703 (ph 405 234-3363).

"Square" Firewood Burns Better, Longer

You can get up to three times as much heating time out of firewood if you split it into square chunks instead of the traditional triangular-shaped pieces.

"We've been experimenting with square-split firewood for two heating seasons and we've found it saves an incredible amount of time, money, energy and trees," says Robert L. Williams III of Lawndale, N.C.

Williams square-splits firewood by simply cutting off four side slabs with a chainsaw, ax or maul, leaving one square center chunk. The square-split chunks have 1/3 less surface area than conventionally-split wood, the 18-year-old Williams explains.

"The less surface exposed, the slower the wood burns," he notes.

To test the idea, Williams compared square-split wood to traditional-split wood of various types. All woods were cut into chunks of the same length from trees in the same physical condition. Burn was timed with a stop watch.

A stove-size, 6-in. sq. chunk of square-split pine burned 4 1/2 hours in a woodstove, compared with 2 1/2 hours for an equivalent amount of traditionally split wood. Square-split wild cherry lasted 6 hours, compared with 3 hours for traditionally split cherry. Square-split poplar lasted 3 hours, compared with 2 hours for traditionally cut pieces. Square-split oak and hickory last 7 hours, compared with 3 1/2 hours for traditionally cut wood.

Williams says it's easy to square-split

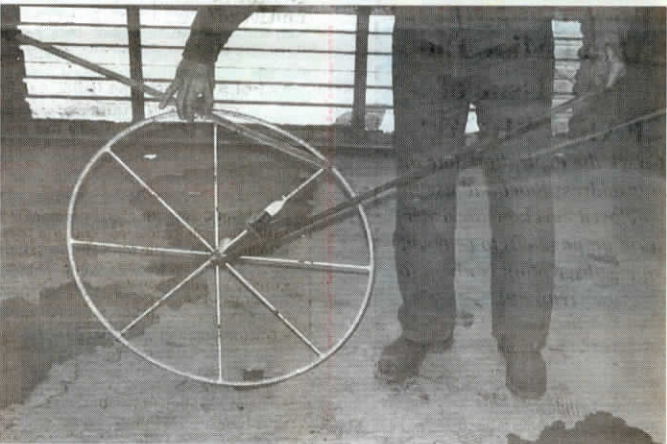


Square-split firewood "saves time, money, energy and trees," says Williams.

poplar, most pines, beech, birch, wild cherry, knot-free oaks and hickories with an ax or maul.

For knotty oaks and hickories as well as some pines, you may have to use a chainsaw because they're difficult to cut square, Williams says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert L. Williams III, 145 Queen Road, Lawndale, N.C. 28090 (ph 704 538-7900).



The Litchfields' measuring wheel works as well as commercial on rough terrain because of its serrated surface.

"Rerod" Measuring Wheel Works Great On Rough Terrain

Marshall and Kendall Litchfield, Macomb, Ill., used rerod bar and a toggle counter to make a simple but highly effective measuring wheel.

"It's bigger than most conventional measuring wheels and has a serrated surface so it works better on rough terrain," says Marshall.

They used 8 ft. of 1/2-in. dia. rebar to make the wheel, welding 1/4-in. dia. steel spokes 1 ft. long to the center hub made from a short piece of pipe. A toggle counter mounts on the steel handle that's made from 1/2-in. dia. steel tubing. Plastic from an antifreeze bottle was used to make a flipper that mounts on an arm at the end of the counter. Every time the flipper contacts a spoke it makes a click on the counter, indi-

cating 1 ft. of travel.

"We made 100 of them and sold them to our neighbors for about \$35. They really like them," says Marshall. "However, we had problems with the plastic flippers which wore out on the spokes and didn't last very long before needing replacement. We haven't pursued the idea any further although we still think it's a good idea. We considered using magnetic counters like the ones found on corn planters but couldn't find one in the right price range. We might look into using low-cost bicycle speedometers."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marshall Litchfield, 15340 N 700 Rd., Macomb, Ill. 61455 (ph 309 254-3481).