



“Fabric plow” is equipped with a single large shank that digs a slot about 16 in. deep.

Erosion-Fighting Fabric Plow

Here's a new erosion fighter that eliminates the need to use straw bales on newly created terraces or other steep slopes to stop water from washing away soil.

The “fabric plow” was designed by Bill Klein, Jr., Flora, Ill., and is owned by the local county soil and water conservation district.

A single large shank digs a slot about 16 in. deep. A large coultter follows, pushing landscape fabric down into the slot. A foot or so of fabric lays on top of the ground.

The fabric barriers are put in about every 75 to 100 ft., depending on the grade. They hold the soil until grass has time to take root.

Cost to the farmer is 50 cents per running



A large coultter pushes landscape fabric down into the slot.

foot, which pays for the fabric and the cost of installation.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Klein, Jr., Rr 1, Flora, Ill. 62839 (ph 618 662-4553).

Cheap “No Waste” Hog Feeder

“We make our own no-waste feeders out of 55-gal. plastic drums. They're cheap to make and really cut down on feed waste,” say Dave Querio and Valerie Warren, who operate Rainbow Pig Farm near Yacolt, Wash.

They cut five big holes around the middle part of the drum, leaving strips between the holes. They also cut a square hole into the top of the drum so they can use a bucket to dump feed in. They pour 80 lbs. of concrete in the bottom of each feeder to keep pigs from knocking them over.

“They cut feed waste by about two thirds over anything we've tried in the past. We make the holes big enough for the pig to get its head in, but small enough that it can't climb in. We leave anywhere from a 3 to 8-in. lip between the top of the cement and the bottom of each hole. The bigger the pig, the higher the lip should be so the pig can't push feed out onto the ground. Another advantage is that hogs don't fight as much because they've each got their own feeding space. It takes a little more time to dump feed in with buckets. However, I like to hand feed pigs because it makes me look at them and I can see if they're having any problems.

“We've got about a dozen of these feeders on our farm. We buy the 55-gal. barrels for \$3 apiece from a friend. Any kind of drum will work as long as it's round and at least 3



Five big holes are cut around the outside of a 55-gal. plastic drum, leaving strips between the holes.

ft. in diameter. We made our first barrel feeder out of an old water pressure tank, and we even made one for baby pigs out of a 20-gal. garbage can. We use everything from old garbage can lids to corrugated metal roofing to cover the feeders.”

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By Mick Lane, Contributing Editor

Business Is Booming For Case-IH “Header Guy”

John Young grew up on a farm with red machinery. He later worked at an International Harvester dealership and, for 23 years, operated a custom combining business in central Illinois, running a couple of - you guessed it - IH Axial Flow combines.

One problem he's had over the years is that the IH 810, 820 and 1020-style platform headers he's used have never been quite as good as he felt they should be.

His favorite was the 820. “While it was an improvement over the 810, it wasn't designed to cut close to the ground and there was no way to adjust it to make it go as low as you sometimes need to in order to get all the soybeans off a field.

“The company's solution was to advise us to tilt the header forward 17 degrees. The angle meant loose beans rolled forward and out of the header. Cut beans had to move uphill in order to be picked up by the auger,” he says.

He tried the 1020 header, but says it has its own set of problems when it comes to harvesting soybeans. Young decided there had to be a way to modify the 820 to improve performance. He says it was Divine inspiration that led him to the solution in 1994.

Young tore down his 820 head and modified the support arms in such a way that they went back together just the same, mounted on the combine just the same, but let him run the header lower to the ground than he could run his 1020, and at a forward pitch of only 8 degrees.

He used the converted head for custom soybean cutting that fall and several farmers who knew the 820 and its limitations took notice. He spent much of the next winter converting heads for some of them.

He's been rebuilding and converting 820 headers ever since. The business has grown enough, in fact, that he gave up on custom harvesting last year to rebuild heads full time. Young says farmers in 13 states are now run-

ning 820 headers he's modified. He says some of his customers tell him that in harvesting bushy-type soybeans, the modified 820 header will harvest up to 5 bu. more per acre.

He runs the business, Young's Custom Ag Service, from his farm shop near Spring Valley, Illinois. He says the header conversion business is based on two things: The idea that led to the modification of the support arms and also the service he offers. “From the beginning, I've offered a full harvest guarantee on every header we modify,” he says. “The change in the arms is the only thing that's different about the head. So farmers still get parts from their dealers, with the exception of the support arms. And if they need support arms, all they have to do is call and I'll ship them out the next day,” he says. “If they need support arms, though, they've probably hit a bridge or a stump or something and it will take more than new support arms to get them up and running again.”

Young says many farmers who'd like their heads converted don't have a way to haul them to his shop. “We built a gooseneck trailer that will hold up to three headers, so now we can bring them in ourselves,” he says.

Even with the trailer, he felt Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas, western Iowa and Minnesota were just too far to haul headers. He solved that problem by working out a deal with a Laurel, Nebraska farm couple. “They let us use their shop in the spring, so when we have a number of headers to rebuild in that area, we load up our equipment and go to Nebraska,” he says.

Young charges a flat \$1,800 per header, no matter how big it is. Any parts needed are extra. “When we get a header in for rebuilding, we remove the reel and the row crop dividers and then take off all the sheet metal, the entire cutting system and all the skid shoes. Using a jig I built just for the purpose, we modify the support arms, and then



John Young developed a business rebuilding and converting Case-IH 820 headers. In bushy-type soybeans, modified header will harvest up to 5 bu. more per acre, he says.

we put it back together again,” he explains.

While he has the header apart, he checks the cutting system for wear, rebuilds the wobble box and also checks out the auger, to make sure it's positioned and operating properly.

“We restore all the flex and travel in the cutting system that the header was designed to have. When we're through, the header will cut closer, cleaner and faster. The crop will feed through better and header control will be better. It takes 40 man-hours to complete that process on each header,” he says.

Young also offers customers the option of having him install a new pipe reel with plastic fingers, poly skids under the header and his own redesigned row crop dividers, which, he says, are narrower and lighter than the originals.

If you'd like to have one of his converted 820 headers, but don't already own one, Young buys and converts old headers to resell. He gives them the full treatment, from modified support arms to new bearings, cutting system rebuild, poly skids, pipe reel and row crop dividers. His price for a 20-ft. completely rebuilt 820 header is \$6,200, not in-

cluding delivery. “We're putting more than \$3,000 in new parts and materials in them,” he notes.

“I give a 100% money back guarantee for the headers we rebuild,” he says. “If for some reason the buyer isn't satisfied with the header, I'll come out and pick it up and give him a check for every penny he's spent with me.”

While he can fix the most critical problem with the 820 header, Young says he's felt he could actually make a better header if he started from scratch. And most combine operators now would like something wider than the biggest 820, which was 22 1/2 ft.

So Young is now building two 25-ft. prototype headers of his own design and will have them on farms in Illinois and Nebraska for soybean harvest this fall. If they perform to his expectations, he hopes to have them on the market next year.

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