



Land imprinter seeder makes a checkerboard pattern of little ponds all across the field. The ponds catch and hold water and help keep soil moist around seeds.

Land "Imprinter" Helps Establish Crops In Dry Soils

Imagine a checkerboard pattern of little ponds all across the field. The ponds, made by a seeder, can catch and hold more than a liter of water and help keep soil moist around seeds and eventually, around new seedlings.

Called the Land Imprinter, this seeder is the brain child of Bob Dixon, Tucson, Arizona. It's an idea he's been involved with for nearly 25 years.

The original imprinter, Dixon says, was fabricated in Tombstone, Arizona by the USDA's Agricultural Research Service. It has since been used to seed perennial grasses onto 50,000 acres of severely overgrazed rangeland in southern Arizona.

Dixon says a number of ranchers have made their own imprinter-seeders. "It's a very simple machine consisting of only two moving parts - the imprinting roller and the seedbox agitator."

Dixon will provide specifications to anyone who wants to make their own imprinter-seeder in widths from 3 to 10 ft. "A 7-ft. tow-type model is expected to become available from a short-line manufacturer in the near future. It will be equipped with a seeder and hydraulic lifting wheels," he says.

Dixon expects the price of the 7-ft. model to be about \$15,000. It will require a minimum 40 hp tractor with good traction.

He sees it as being useful in rangeland/pasture restoration or forage crop establishment. "Advantages over other methods include better soil and water conservation, better stands of vegetation, faster growing seedlings, and greater production of forage/plant material. It can operate in rough terrain with



L-shaped steel brackets weld onto steel cylinder to make indentations in seedbed.

brush, rocks and gullies without breakdown," he notes. "Imprinting has successfully established vegetation in areas of the Mojave Desert where there's only 3 in. of annual rainfall."

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Luxury Seating For Older Model Pickups

If you'd like to jazz up an older model pickup, you'll be interested in the luxury console seats produced by Emerson Seating, Hyattsville, Md.

The company makes a variety of seats for full size pickups as well as vans and some mini size pickups. But maybe their most popular seat is a 3-person bench seat for full-size 1991 and older pickups. It has independently reclining sides and when the middle section is folded down there's a solid cup holder and 2-person armrest.

A basic model sells for \$379.00. Many options are available including leather, individual sliders, lumbar support, etc.

You can install the seats yourself in most cases. Some pickups require custom brackets, particularly for models from the 1960s



Three-person bench seat has independently reclining sides. Middle section folds down to reveal a double cup holder and 2-person armrest.

and back. Emerson custom-builds seats for all models, right up to current 2001 models.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Al Thomas, Emerson Seating, Box 283, Hyattsville, Md 20781 (ph 301 864 1079).



Zuidberg front 3-pt. hitch and pto is made in Holland. The company is the number one supplier of front 3-pt. hitches in Europe.

Company Unveils New Front-Mount 3-Pt. Hitch

Visitors to the recent Outdoor Farm Show in Canada got to see a slick-looking add-on front 3-pt. hitch and pto that's made in Holland and is just being introduced to North America.

Zuidberg is the number one supplier of front 3-pt. hitches in Europe. Their front hitches have been on the market for the past 18 years. Frontlink, Inc., of Courtland, Ontario, is the North American importer.

"It has a more streamlined design than anything on the market and costs about 30 percent less than other commercial front 3-pt. hitches," says Marty Dendekker. "Models are available to fit most tractor brands. Each hitch is specifically designed for a specific tractor model."

The hitches bolt to tractor frames using side plates that, on some tractor models, go all the way back to the rear axle for support. The company offers a wide range of lift capacities up to 11,000 lbs. Zuidberg equips its hitches with Walterscheid automatic cou-

plers and balls; an optional gas accumulator; fold up, removable and articulating lower arms; and twin hydraulic lift cylinders. The pto is direct-driven off the crankshaft pulley and has its own clutch. It can transmit up to 200 hp via a dry cone clutch system. The pto is engaged by a switch on the control panel with a digital pto speed indicator. The cab-mounted electronic clutch control is provided with a "power off" safety switch, so when the tractor is switched off and restarted the pto has to be reset.

"Installation time for the hitch alone is about 2 hours and for the hitch and pto about 8 hours," says Dendekker.

A hitch for a Deere tractor sells for about \$2,900 and the pto for about \$3,100 (U.S.).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Frontlink, Inc., Box 394, Courtland, Ontario, Canada (ph 877 553-2524 or 519 757-3160; fax 519 468-3520; Website: www.frontlinkinc.com; E-mail: frlink@execulink.com).

Powered "Back Scratcher" Keeps Cows Happy

"Cows really like the powered rotating motion of the brush," says Lonnie Boltjes, distributor of the new "Happy Cow" brush which starts and stops automatically.

Made in Germany, the "Happy Cow" is a coarse-bristle nylon brush in the shape of two cones mounted point to point on a shaft powered by an electric motor. The brush starts up automatically when a cow bumps against it. The motor runs for about 60 seconds and shuts off unless the cow bumps it again. If the cow's neck chain or strap accidentally gets caught and starts to wrap, the brush automatically stops and reverses itself.

The brush is made in short sections, with the longest bristles toward the outside. As the brush wears down, you can pull off the inner sections and move worn outer sections toward the center, putting new full-size brushes on the outer ends.

"We visited a 59-cow dairy herd in Germany where the machine was being tested," says Boltjes. "They put a timer on the unit to see how much it was being used. Within a 24-hour period the machine ran for a total of 16 hours."

Sells for \$2,700 plus S&H.



Powered rotating brush starts up automatically when a cow bumps against it. It runs for 60 seconds, then shuts off.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hanson Silo and Equipment, Inc., 401 W. Edgehill, Box 503, Luverne, Minn. 56156 (ph 800 843-7456 or 507 283-2361; Website: www.hansonsilo.com).