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Cultivator Equipped With Oscillating Gauge Wheels

"Oscillating rubber gauge wheels on each gang of this new high-residue row crop cultivator provide outstanding depth control," says Mark Miller, Hiniker Co., Mankato, Minn. "Virtually everything on this model 6000 cultivator has been redesigned from our previous 5000 model."

The semi-pneumatic 4 by 16-in. gauge wheels, which mount on either side of a spring-loaded couler, work like a walking beam axle. When one wheel hits a rock, it rides up over it while the other wheel drops down, allowing the cultivator gang to raise only half as far as it would with rigid gauge wheels.

Like the 5000 cultivator, the new cultivator can be used with a conversion package that lets you mount the company's air seeder on a trailer behind the cultivator. The "cultivator-drill" combination let you solid seed soybeans and small grain and saves you as much as half the cost of a new no-till drill. "The improved depth control offered by these oscillating gauge wheels is especially important when set up in the cultivator drill configuration," says Miller.

Infra-Red Guidance System Eliminates Mechanical Feelers

A pair of Australian crop farmers who didn't like the guidance systems for cultivators and sprayers that they saw on the market, have come up with what they say is the guidance system of the future.

Steve Rees and Craig Smith, of Croppa Creek, say they wanted to avoid the damage caused to crops by mechanical feelers on other guidance systems that work by feeling their way along the stems of crops. Their new "Trueprac" system uses beams of infrared light to sense crop rows, shifting the cultivator or spray boom back and forth with either an air, hydraulic or electric-powered actuator.

Two beams of light are sent up either side of the row. The operator sets the strength of the beam so that when the sensing unit is running down the center of the row, no light is reflected back. If the sensor gets too close to the row, light is reflected back, signaling the monitor in the cab which activates a solenoid that shifts toolbar back and forth.

To keep weeds from triggering the sys-

tem, a sensor unit is set up on either side of the cultivator or sprayer so two rows are monitored at once. Signals from both units must agree that the machine is off center before a shift is signaled.

Spring-loaded coulters help sweeps penetrate even in the hardest ground. Rotating "planter type" scrapers keep the coulters clean.

Three easy-to-use levers are used to adjust gauge wheel depth, couler depth, and down pressure on each gang, eliminating the need for tools. The cultivator can be used to side dress liquid fertilizer. Fertilizer is delivered through a tube to the end of each sweep where it's deposited on each side of the row. It can also be used as a high residue liquid fertilizer or anhydrous ammonia applicator. New-style double disc anhydrous ammonia sealers bolt onto the back of anhydrous recoil shanks to keep anhydrous from escaping. The double disc sealers sell for \$75 apiece.

The cultivator is offered in 4 to 12-row models. A 6-row model sells for \$7,407. Rotary hoe shields (optional) sell for \$1,143.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hiniker Co., Airport Road, P.O. Box 3407, Mankato, Minn. 56002 (ph 507 625-6621).

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The system can be adapted to existing equipment by installing a moving bar between the tractor and the implement. Rees Equipment, the company formed to market the new guidance system, is manufacturing an innovative new spray boom to go with the system that has double shields so you can spray Roundup down the center of the row and band another chemical on the row. Rees Equipment also makes a row crop cultivator designed specifically to work with the company's guidance system.

The Trueprac guidance system sells for \$3,950 (Australian). The company is looking for a North American distributor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rees Equipment Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 12, Croppa Creek, 2411 N.S.W. Australia (ph 067 54 5304; fax 067 54 5247).



Unit consists of upfront bale fork, inclined platform over cab, and unloading endgate.

Truck-Mounted Big Bale Hauler Loads "On-The-Go"

"It lets you load or unload big bales on-the-go. You can move up to 100 bales per hour," says Larry Matlack about his big new bale mover that mounts on any medium or heavy duty truck frame.

The "Stinger" bale transport can haul eight 4 by 4 by 8-ft. 1-ton big square bales, six or seven 5-ft. dia. round bales, or eight 4-ft. dia. round bales.

The hydraulically-powered unit consists of an up-front bale fork, an inclined platform that extends up over the cab, and an unloading endgate. You spear the side of the bale and set it on top of the bale platform. When you retract the bale fork, the bale slides by gravity down the Teflon-coated slide frame.

"It moves hay faster and for less cost than anything else on the market," says Matlack, who built the bale transport assembly with the help of his brother Bill. "It requires little maintenance because there are few working parts. You can load and unload bales at 3 to 5 mph without stopping.

"It can be used on a wide range of new or used trucks or even old school bus frames. The size of the truck depends on the terrain and how fast you want to go. We recommend a tandem axle truck for more stability on steep hilly land. On flat or rolling land, a heavy duty single rear axle with overload springs will work. You can use the truck's hydraulics or a self-contained power unit that we sell with a 25 hp gas engine."

The bale transport rig has three hydraulic cylinders in front - one to tilt the bale forks and the other two to raise the lift arms - and two cylinders at the rear to let the tailgate down.

The bale loader assembly can be easily unbolted from the slide frame and swung forward and down to provide access to the engine compartment.

Sells for about \$25,000. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Matlack, Matlack Brothers Mfg., Rt. 1, Box 185, Burrton, Kan. 67020 (ph 316 465-2683 or 316 463-3513).

"Quick And Easy" Tree Transplanter

"It's the most exciting garden tool to come along in 30 years. Makes transplanting small plants and trees fast and easy," says David Donley, Wien-Donley Enterprises, Ottertail, Minn., about the company's new hand-held tree transplanter.

Works like a miniature hydraulic tree spade with four triangular-shaped blades that slip in under tree at an angle. One blade is fixed to the handle. The other three are pressed into the ground with hand or foot.

Once all four blades are in the ground, you lift the tree out and place it into a hole that's been pre-dug with the transplanter. Then you pull out the three removable blades to release the tree.

"It ensures a high survival rate because it keeps a solid root ball around the tree with the root hairs intact and also eliminates air pockets so there's less shock to the tree," says Donley, a partner to inventor Harlen Wien. "It takes only about 2 minutes to remove a tree and replant it."

"It works great for farmers who obtain small bare root trees from the Soil and Water Conservation service to make wind-breaks. You can start the trees in a sheltered area and then move them to a permanent location after a year or two.

"We also offer biodegradable containers that you can place the soil plug into. The containers are the same shape and size as the transplanter.

"Transplanter handles trees with up to a 1/2-in. dia. trunk and can be used on shrubs, bushes, flowers - even tomato plants."



Sells for \$89.95.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wien-Donley Enterprises, Inc., Rt. 1, Box 503C, Ottertail, Minn. 56571 (ph 218 346-7686 or 346-7515).