

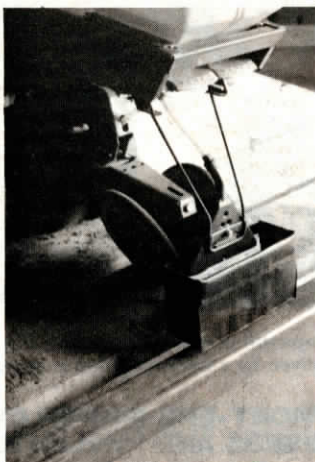
## Low-Cost Herbicide Windshield

Farmer-inventor Arlan Hagena, Lennox, S. Dak., who started out with the idea of designing fertilizer "windshields" to fit his own Deere planter now sells the shields for 40% less than Deere.

"When I bought my new Deere 7000 Max Emerge in 1982, I didn't buy the dry herbicide windshields Deere offered because of the price. I realized, however, that because of the wind, much of the dry herbicide band was blown away from the corn row," says Hagena.

Hagena's windshield, which he dubbed the "Bandit", is made of nylon-reinforced vinyl fabric which he says is heavier than Deere's fabric. The Windshields can be purchased complete with mounting brackets to fit Kinze or Deere 7000 and 7100 planters or the fabric alone can be purchased to replace worn-out originals.

Bandits are packaged in two-row kits that sell for \$30 (\$33 with clips which aren't needed if the planter's already equipped with a granular herbicide diffuser.) Replacement fab-



**Shields sell for 40% less than Deere's.**

ric alone sells for \$8 a piece.

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Photo courtesy FARM Magazine

**Caldow Method uses a masonry cutting disk in an angle grinder to trim teeth.**

## Teeth Trimming Gives Sheep Extra Two Years Of Grazing

Teeth trimming, called "the biggest revolution in sheep husbandry in 50 years," in Australia, is a low-cost way to give sheep two extra years of grazing.

"It means older ewes can be culled for performance rather than for having a broken mouth," according to a recent report in FARM, a leading Australian farm magazine.

Two methods of teeth trimming, both of which use a gag in the sheep's mouth, are becoming popular:

1. The "Pederson Method," developed by Jens Ambjerg-Pederson, of Naracoorte, South Australia. It involves grinding down the teeth using a rough ceramic grinding disc in an angle grinder.

2. The "Caldow Method," (pictured), developed by Howard Caldow, of Cavendish, Victoria, Au-

stralia. It involves cutting off the teeth at gum level with masonry cutting disk in an angle grinder.

"With both inventors advocating different methods of teeth trimming and the best age to do it, considerable debate still surrounds the techniques. However, the benefits of trimming by either method are now recognized. The two gags can be used for either teeth cutting or grinding," the report in FARM points out. Prior to the development of teeth trimming, farmers would cut teeth off with sidecutters or pull them out completely. "Both of these operations were dubious from an animal welfare point of view and no evidence existed that they improved productivity or life expectancy of the sheep. The new system of teeth trimming is not painful."

## Farmer Fertilizes With City Leaves

A Washington farmer says leaves from city streets make great fertilizer for his wheat ground located just outside Spokane, Wash.

According to a report in the Capital Press, T.J. McKelvey lets the city dump hundreds of loads of leaves on his farm every year. He's done so for the past 15 years. He says the city is happy to do it because it saves the street department the expense of paying the refuse department to haul them to the city dump.

Once dumped on his land, he lets the leaves decompose under snow till spring when he disks them into the ground. He says they not only fertilize the soil but, during the 3 to 4 years it takes them to completely decompose, they absorb water and help

keep the soil moist.

One problem with using city leaves is that he often finds bottles, cans and other debris in them. When he started taking leaves he was the only farmer involved but gradually others have also started requesting leaves.

Can an excess amount of leaves be in any way harmful to the soil? University of Minnesota soil scientist Curt Oberdahl told FARM SHOW that as far as he's concerned, the more leaves the better. "It's good organic material for the soil. I can't see any problem except that you have to realize it's not a complete fertilizer. You won't get nitrogen from leaves so you'll still have to apply that," he explains.

## Painkiller For Horses

Tying a knot around a horse's nose and pulling it tight is an effective way to keep an animal quiet for minor veterinary operations. Many horse owners have known for years that the method has a tranquilizing effect closely related to that of Chinese acupuncture. Researchers in the Netherlands recently discovered that "twitching" the horse's nose in this manner causes the horse's brain cells to produce morphine-like substances.

Until recently the tranquilizing effect has been explained as a redirection of pain. In other words, like kicking a stone wall to get rid of a headache. But researchers noted that horses don't behave as if they're suffering from the twitch. They're not as sensitive to pain, they look dreamy and they take very little notice of their environment. In short, they look drugged. There is now evidence that the animal is producing minuscule amounts of its own painkiller.



Photo courtesy the New Zealand Farmer

**Researchers think horse produces a small amount of its own painkiller when a knot's tied around its nose.**

This explanation of the effect of nose twitching on horses is the same explanation for the effect of acupuncture on humans. Pain caused by needles has been found to release morphine-like chemicals in the blood and in brain fluid.

## Wheel Bolt Adaptor

Burton Graves, Sandusky, Mich., mounts larger wheels and tires on his forage harvester when working in muddy fields with the help of a home-built wheel adaptor.

"I replaced 6-bolt 9:50 by 14 wheels with a pair of 10:00 by 20 8-

bolt wheels by making an adaptor plate from 1-in. steel plate. The 6-bolt inner circle is drilled and counter-sunk 9/16-in. SAE and the outer 8-bolt circle was tapped for 9/16-in. bolts," explains Graves.



**Extension's bolted to the loader so it can be easily removed.**

## Manure Bucket Extension

Burton Graves, Sandusky, Mich., increased capacity of his tractor loader by extending it with 3/4-in. exterior plywood.

Graves built the bucket extension with a 1 1/2-in. angle iron frame and

then bolted the entire unit to the bucket. It can be removed when not needed.

"Works great for moving bulky materials like grain, snow, and so on," points out Graves.