made to drill was to install drill markers that would lift and drop one side at a time so I could go up and down the field," says Roy Sauder, Bridgeport, Neb.

"My 1987 **Kinze** 12-ft. double frame planter set for 20-in. corn and beans is a best buy. I like the placement accuracy and monitor that tells me everything from seed spacing to population per acre. I added **Yetter** trash whippers and carry liquid fertilizer tanks and a ground-driven squeeze pump. We use an **Aerway** soil aerator a day or two prior to planting or even pull it ahead of the planter if the soil is warm and dry. The Aerway is a great asset for no-tillers. Improves water infiltration yet leaves all decomposing residue on the surface. To control weeds, we put Roundup on grasses before planting if the season is early enough or 6 days after planting if it's a slow spring. We then use Dual and Banvel at 75% of the recommended rate plus soybean oil, such as Landoil or Step 3," says John Van Dorp, Woodstock, Ontario.

"I bought a **Tye** drill in 1984 but I didn't like it. It wouldn't penetrate in coastal grass and setting seeding rates was complicated. We sold it and bought a 1987 **Deere** 251. It's much easier to set and still works very well with minimal soil disturbance. If I were in the market for a new drill, I'd buy a new Deere 750 drill because of its outstanding versatility and performance. I've heard a lot of good reports on it," says Albert Fernandez, San Antonio, Tex.

"We're happy with our two 10-ft. **Deere** 750 drills which we bolted together to give us a 20-ft. planting width. My only complaint is that the calibration information was not satisfactory," says Robert Dobson, Corunna, Ontario. "We've been no-tilling for eight years and have gained an average of about 6 bu. per acre. Probably the biggest benefit has been in reduced fuel consumption. To control weeds, we use Roundup for burn down and then Dual and Sencor."

Brian Mayer, Cutler, Ill., no-tills with a 1991 **Case-IH** min-till drill hooked to a **Tye** caddy. "We're pleased. I had an S-tine and rolling basket on it at first but it always choked up in trash. They gave me my money back on a trade for a set of no-till coulters. I use a spring tine harrow when no-tilling soybeans. The drill was a first run model and they gave me quite a few updated parts. My Tye depth gauge cylinder has had leaking seals two times already. I think it should probably be bigger. Saving soil is the biggest benefit. Yields seem to be about the same."

Mike Whitney, Oak Grove, La., owns a 1989 **Marliss** no-till drill. "It's given us good service with only minor repairs. One problem we've had is that rain gets in the seed cups so any seed left in there sprouts and plugs up the cups. I just use the drill to overseed pasture so I graze the grass short or cut it before planting."

"We don't no-till anything. I think fields look awful with no-till. As a landlord, I would not rent to a tenant if he was going to no-till," says Mrs. Robert Gilliland, Urbana, Ill.

Gerald Roskamp, Sutter, Ill., has had good luck with his 1992 **Case-IH** 900 planter. "It puts seed in the ground at an even depth under most conditions. I purchased **Yetter** 'Residue Manager' trash clearing wheels from Yetter Mfg. to mount on the planter but I'm not satisfied with them. They wrap up with trash around the bearings. We have **Martin** row cleaner trash wheels (Martin & Co., 169 Elkton, Kent. 42220 ph 800 366-5817) on another planter and they work fine."

"We're very happy with our 1981 **White** 5100 no-till planter. We've been no-tilling since 1979 and yields have been about the same as conventional tillage year in and year out, but input costs are much lower and it's much less time-consuming. This White planter has such simple seed monitoring and placement mechanisms, and is so well made, that it's a pleasure to operate. We have spent virtually nothing on it and it still works like new. The only improvements it needs have already been made on newer models, such as a heavier key in the insecticide boxes - the ones in there now shear too easily. Also, we added some covers to keep cornstalks from getting into the drive chains," says Myron Richter, Milledgeville, Ill. "For weed control in beans, we use pre-plant Princep (2-lb.) impregnated on dry fertilizer followed after planting with Dual. In corn, we used Prowl (2-pt.) impregnated on dry fertilizer followed after planting with spot treatments of Pinnacle or Post as needed. We apply the impregnated herbicides in late fall or early spring."

"Our 1990 **Tye** Series V 15-ft. no-till drill produces a good stand and it's easy to adjust seeding rate and depth. I like the ease of maintenance and lubrication and the fact that the owner's manual has an '800' phone number for technical support. The drill doesn't plug in heavy corn stalks. I added four monitor sensors and a custom-made monitor harness to connect to my planter monitor (Ag Express Electronics, Sulpher Springs, Ind.). My no-till drilled soybean yields have been higher than conventional 30-in. row yields and the Tye drill is priced thousands of dollars less than a Deere 750," says Jeff Fisher, Eaton, Ind. "I apply a burndown treatment of Roundup and Prowl approximately one week before planting beans followed by a post-emergent application of Pursuit. We had excellent control in 1992."

Donald Sisung, St. John's, Mich., has had good luck with his **White** 5100 planter fitted with a 6100 splitter. "We've had excellent stands - it handles residue real well. Needs better fertilizer coulters and placement for dry fertilizer. I added two Yetter coulters per row. Yields have been similar to conventional and yet I've saved time and fuel."

"This is the best planter I've ever owned. Does an excellent job in no-till," says Gerald Wood, West Point, Ill., about his **Case/IH** 800 Early Riser.

"We don't own a no-till drill but we've rented a **Deere** drill for two years. Last year the ground was softer and it worked fine but the previous year the ground was hard and we broke a lot of fertilizer injectors," says Lyle Kaplan, Rosalia, Wash.

"Our 1991 **Tye** 10-ft. pasture drill has worked well in everything we have tried it in and we've used it in just about every condition including corn stalk stubble, bean stubble, hard pasture, overgrown pasture, etc. It goes through anything. We've used it to plant soybeans, wheat, rye, ryegrass, and milo. I can't think of any improvements I'd make to it," says Gary Mitchell, Vinemont, Ala.

"We've been very pleased for 10 years with our 1982 **Deere** 7000 planter in no-till. We have not modified it at all and have been pleased that our yields continue to improve and with the reduced soil erosion. My only complaint is that it could be built a little heavier for hard soil conditions, but I'm sure that's been improved on later models," says Stanley Fetldrau, Buhler, Kan.

Lutz "no-tilled" 2,000 acres of small grains, flax and peas with this drill last year.

APPLIES FERTILIZER ALONG WITH THE SEED

Home-Built One-Pass No-Till "Air Drill"

By Bill Gergen, Associate Editor

Ed Lutz, Yorkton, Sask., converted a brand new 45-ft. Case-IH air hoe drill to no-till by stacking liquid fertilizer manifolds on top of the drill's seed distributor manifolds and building a liquid fertilizer caddy that he pulls behind the drill, allowing him to plant no-till and apply fertilizer in the same pass.

The air drill was originally equipped with seven seed distributor manifolds. Lutz built seven new fertilizer distributor manifolds and mounted them directly above the seed manifolds. A ground-driven pump sends liquid fertilizer from the caddy's 1,250-gal. tank up through hoses to each fertilizer manifold.

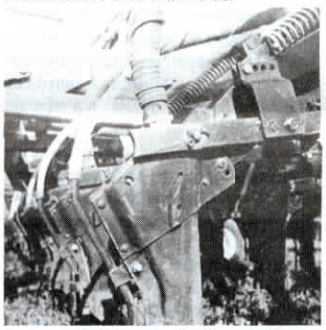
"It lets us go over the ground only once without having to make a separate pass to apply fertilizer," says Lutz, who added the caddy and extra manifolds to the drill last year with the help of his son Bob. "We bought the air hoe drill six years ago and had been seeding into conventionally tilled ground, then deep banding liquid fertilizer in a separate pass. This system now lets us plant into standing stubble and apply liquid fertilizer with the seed at the same high rates that we used when deep banding. We've reduced costs while maintaining the same yields or even increasing them.

"We used it last year to no-till 2,000 acres of wheat, oats, barley, flax and peas. It worked great. Liquid fertilizer is placed slightly to the side of the seed where it won't cause any damage. We apply 75 lbs. per acre of actual nitrogen. Liquid fertilizer costs a little more than dry fertilizer but is easier to handle and goes right to work the minute it's in the ground without having to dissolve first. There's no dust and no augers to wear out, and we don't have to worry about rain.

"The air drill was equipped with a pto-driven hydraulic pump that powered the blower. However, our 4-WD tractor doesn't have a pto shaft. To solve the problem we mounted a 30 hp Belarus tractor engine on front of the drill which belt-drives the pump. It works great. We bought the engine from a neighbor for $800 and spent $1,400 more to build the caddy and manifolds.

"After we're done seeding, we use the fertilizer caddy as a sprayer by mounting a 91-ft. spray boom behind it and hitching it up directly to the tractor. The tongue has a 2 1/2-in. dia. ball hitch. It works like a fifth wheel trailer which makes it very maneuverable. A hydraulic-driven pump mounts on the caddy for spraying. When seeding with the 45-ft. air drill we overlap 1 ft. on every other round. The extra growth in the 1-ft. wide strip provides a marker for the 91-ft. sprayer to follow."

Fertilizer manifolds, made by drilling holes in a 5-in. dia. solid aluminum disc, mount above seed manifolds.



Lutz made his own fertilizer tubes to mount behind the hoe drill shanks. Tubes are cut off at an angle on bottom to prevent plugging.

Lutz used a 5-in. dia., 2 1/2-in. thick solid aluminum disc to make each fertilizer manifold. He drilled out eleven 1/2-in. dia. holes around the outside of the disc and threaded the holes to accept the hose fittings. He drilled a 3/4-in. dia. hole up through the bottom for the main hose from the caddy. He bolted the manifold to a rectangular steel frame that clamps to the seed distributor manifold. A valve mounted on the drill frame under each manifold allows Lutz to shut off the supply of fertilizer to the hoses whenever the drill is folded for transport.

Lutz used the front drive axles and wheel rims off a pair of old Cockshutt combines to build the caddy. He cut 1 ft. off each side of the axles and welded 5-in. sq. steel tubing between the axle stubs. He used 3 by 6-in. sq. steel tubing to build the caddy frame and 2 by 3-in. sq. tubing to make the hitch which attaches to the main frame of the planter. The hitch allows the caddy's front wheels to flex up and down so that the tank's weight is distributed equally on all four wheels.

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