

The entire curved "wing" on each moldboard is cut about 2 in. ahead of the rear edge of the plow share. (Rear two moldboards show an earlier experimental design.)

REAR HALF OF MOLDBOARDS CUT OFF

Modified Plow Leaves More Surface Residue

You can modify any moldboard plow to leave more residue on the soil surface by simply cutting away the rear half of each moldboard, says Ray Key, a county conservation tillage specialist in Waukesha, Wis.

Key helped Tim Downing cut the moldboards on an old 4-bottom plow. They cut off the entire curved "wing" on each moldboard at a point about 2 in. ahead of the rear edge of the plow share. The modified moldboards fracture or crumble the soil, mixing soil and residue together rather than rolling it over in a ribbon.

"We wanted to eliminate the need to buy new tillage equipment that would leave more residue," says Key. "Commercial cut-off moldboard plow bottoms are also available, but they cost up to \$40 apiece. This idea works great for farmers who want to ease into conservation tillage or who need to leave more surface residue to meet requirements of government programs. In a year with average or above average crop yields, the cut-off moldboards can leave 30% residue even when you leave straight

coulters on the plow. In a year with below average crop yields and less crop material, you may want to remove the coulters. We did that last year and the plow never plugged up once."

According to Key, use of a conservation moldboard plow provides better weed control than a disk chisel plow. "Disk chisel plows have a space between the shears so they don't cut all of the perennial roots. Moldboard shears slice through every bit of ground to reduce weed problems."

With the "wing" removed, the modified plow doesn't throw soil as far right as a conventional moldboard plow, so it has to be adjusted to the right to fill the dead furrow. The horsepower requirement is unchanged because the plowshare cutting width stays the same.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ray Key, Waukesha County Land Conservation Office, Waukesha County Office Building, 500 Riverview Ave., Waukesha, Wis. 53188-3632 (ph 414 548-7767).

PREVENTS OVERFLOWING

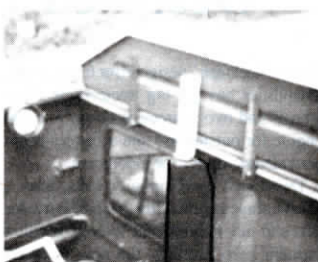
Sight Gauge For Deere Combine Grain Tanks

"It lets you know at a glance when the grain tank is full so you catch it before it overflows," says Delmar Martin, Delavan, Ill., about his new "Sight Gauge" for Deere 6620, 7720 and 8820 combines.

"Usually on these machines you have to open the door, lean out and look up to see if the tank is full. Or, if you have an electric bin-full system, there's always the danger that the components will fail or wear out. This gauge has no moving parts and will never wear out," says Martin.

The gauge consists simply of a metal housing that covers a small portion of the glass window in the grain tank and keeps grain away until it rises high enough to enter a short length of 2-in. PVC pipe that extends up to just under the overflow level of grain in the tank. When grain rises to the top of the pipe, it falls down into the pipe and into the sight gauge. When the tank empties, the gauge also empties out.

To install you remove one existing bolt by the air filter in the grain tank and slip the upper lip of the gauge under the combine bin lip and replace the bolt with a longer



Metal housing covers part of the glass window in the grain tank and keeps grain away until it rises high enough to enter a short length of 2-in. PVC pipe that extends up to just under the overflow level of grain in the tank. Grain falls down into pipe and into the sight gauge.

one. Height of the PVC pipe is adjusted by loosening a clamp.

Sells for \$69. Martin says he's willing to work with farmers to adapt the sight gauge to other combine makes as well.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Delmar L. Martin, Rt. 2, Delavan, Ill. 61734 (ph 309 449-5438).



Lawrence Lundstrom says his winder makes wire easy to take down and store.

CLEVER METHOD OF FOLDING TIRES OVER WIRE MAKES ROLLS EASY TO HANDLE

"Winder" Rolls Wire Up On Old Car Wheels

When Lawrence Lundstrom, Sisseton, S. Dak., started cutting back on his farming operation, one of the cleanup chores he had to face was taking down old fencing. That led to the development of a new-style wire winder that makes wire easy to take down and store.

The "Winder" consists of a metal cylinder precisely reamed to fit various size axle shafts. It's fitted with an automobile hub. The cylinder fits over the end of a tractor axle, held in place by two "set bolts", and an auto wheel with a tire on it is mounted on the hub. The tractor wheel is elevated an inch or so off the ground, and the stationary wheel braced. Then, with the winder turning at a slow speed, you slice the tire down the center of the tread with a sharp knife (Lundstrom recommends a carpet knife) and fold the flaps of the tire back. To wind up wire, tuck one end of the wire through the valve stem hole and bend it over. Then stand ahead of the tractor and guide wire onto the winder with the tractor wheel turning slowly.

When the wheel is wrapped with a full load of wire - from 80 to 160 rods, according to Lundstrom - simply fold the flaps of the tire back over the wire and remove the wheel. The tire flaps hold the wire in place and make the rolls easy to handle.

"It saves me a tremendous amount of



Wire is guided onto an auto wheel mounted on the tractor axle hub.

labor and is the neatest way to handle wire I've ever seen. Everyone has a few old wheels lying around. This puts them to good use," says Lundstrom, who makes the winder to adapt to different size axle shafts and various bolt patterns. Sells for \$60.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lawrence Lundstrom, Lundstrom Manufacturing, East Highway 10, Sisseton, S. Dak. 57262 (ph 605 932-3656).

PREVENTS DISC LOCK-UP

Adjustable Scraper Bracket For Drills

An adjustable bracket for drill scrapers lets you lower the scraper down between the disc blades as the discs wear, eliminating problems with scrapers that wear down into hooks over the top of discs, according to Tough-T Mfg., Glenfield, N. Dak.

"It makes scrapers wear longer and makes changing scrapers easier," says Jerry Tufte, manufacturer. "New scrapers work fine at first, but as the discs wear, the scraper extends over the edge and can wear down and lock the discs. Locked discs push residue instead of slicing through it and cause

uneven planting. By loosening a bolt in the slot, you can adjust the scraper downward as the discs wear."

The bracket was invented by farmer Walter Hoyt, of Pekin, N. Dak., to solve troubles he had with the scrapers on his drill. The bracket comes in two parts which attach to the drill shoe with three bolts. It fits Deere, IH, and some other drill models. Sells for \$5.85.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tough-T Mfg., Glenfield, N. Dak. 58443 (ph 701 785-2555).