

release kit and a Kelderman manual fold kit."

• "I power wash my 1985 **Deere 7000** each year and remove the corn pickup assembly after each season and spray with WD 40 to store," says Merle Kern, Ann Arbor, Mich.

• Kenneth Hooley, Amelia, Va., owns a 1983 **Deere 7000 Max-Emerge** conservation planter and a 1990 **Deere 750** drill. "We get good stands almost every time with the 7000. We just get it out of the shed, grease it up, and use it. We do replace the wear items as needed. We bought the 750 drill used and have had a bit too much bearing trouble, but otherwise we like it. My biggest complaint on the Max-Emerge is probably with the markers, which could work better in some conditions. I installed a foam marker so I could make a better mark."

• "My 1981 **Deere 6-row Max-Emerge 7000** does an excellent job of seed placement and depth control. We replaced the extended pitch chains on the seed transmission and fertilizer drive with roller chain, which made planter run smoother and also makes it easier to maintain correct chain tension," says George Landon, Hartford city, Ind.

• "Maintenance is low compared to other planters," says Lyle LeCronier, Freeland, Mich., about his 1980 **White 5100** 12-row equipped for liquid fertilizer. "It has a short seed drop, simple construction, works well with liquid fertilizer, and quickly converts to transport. I put narrow catwalks on front of frame to make climbing safer. I added liquid tanks on tractor with one quick connect outlet to fill all tanks at once. I also added extra heavy braces at an angle to the tongue, and I put air stoppers on the outside 4 rows on both sides, which makes it possible to plant 4, 8 or 12 rows. One other modification I made was to put a shaft rotation monitor on the fertilizer pump."

"I carry a mix of fertilizer in a large poly tank on a semi tractor with the fifth wheel removed. A 14-ft. flatbed carries the tank and transfer pump and a pallet of seed. I also have an electric pump to direct inject either fungicide or herbicide from one of the planter tanks."

"If I were in the market for a new planter, I'd buy a **White 6180** because I've had 15 years of good luck with the one I own."

• "I'm well satisfied with my 1995 **Case-IH 950** 8-row planter. Very uniform depth of planting and early emergence. I added trash whippers to get a better and smoother seed bed," says Donald Gaarder, Kensett, Iowa.

• Hal Dielschneider, Beaman, Iowa, owns a 1988 **Deutz-Allis 385** 12-row, a planter that is now sold by Landoll. "Excellent seed slot closure but everything is made too light. The support for the opening discs bends until it takes a torch to straight them back. The main frame pivot tube area broke apart. The company did a quick fix and it broke apart again. I finally had to threaten to sue after which they replaced the entire main frame. I have one season on the new frame so I don't know if it will hold together. Another problem is that the bearings in the depth control wheels are too light and we're constantly replacing them. It needs more even spacing between lift wheels, and the depth wheel pivot points constantly freeze up. I added grease zerks to the depth wheels pivots and added Sukup ridge runners for residue clearing."

"To handle bulk seed, I bought a Friesen Tender to mount on a truck. It holds about 200 bu. of seed beans and is powered by a

Honda motor with controls at the end of spout. It's a great piece of equipment and fills the big hoppers on this planter in about 5 min. versus 30 min. using bags. (Friesen of Iowa, 2897 Expansion Blvd., Storm Lake, Iowa 50588 ph 800 437-2334)."

• "We plant beans with a 1995 **Flex Coil** air seeder. Does an excellent job and is easy to set the depth and pounds per acre. One advantage of using this machine is that it also incorporates our chemicals," says Clarence Pistorius, Browns Valley, Minn.

• "One complaint I have about my 1995 **Deere 7200** is that it needs a shaft monitor."

"If a chain jumps one tooth you get a 1-ft. skip in the row."

If a chain jumps one tooth you get a 1-ft. skip in the row. The seed monitor will not pick that up. Also, I'd like to see a lighted panel on the fold system box so I could see buttons at night," says an Illinois reader who did not want his name used.

• Neil E. Irwin, Sac City, Iowa, likes his 1993 **Case-IH 900**. "It does an excellent job, requires little maintenance and is simple to operate. I added trash clearing wheels for no-till. To handle bulk seed, I made a fork lift adaptor to quick-tach to the loader to dump bulk seed into a hopper built on a pallet which I can then raise with the forklift to gravity-fill planter. Works good."

• Steve Mumm, Bloomington, Wis., has been pleased with his 1986 **White 5100** planter. "It does an accurate job of seed placement. I added no-till coulters. I haven't tried no-till but they've paid for themselves in rough ground. I wish the planter had double press wheels like on **Deere's Max-Emerge** - I don't like the single wheel. And I'd like to see an attachment to keep the seed from bouncing out of the furrow. I installed Lock & Load insecticide lids. American Cyanimid paid for them. They're safe and easy to use."

• "I'm not pleased with my 1990 **Deere 7200** planter. The bearings in the drive train are poor. If **Deere** used the same type of bearings in the gauge wheels and disc openers, they would be falling off in one day of use, most likely," says Myron Franzmeier, Storm Lake, Iowa. "I installed Martin row cleaners and put after market 'Equalizers' on the gauge wheels."

• "My 1985 **IH 800** does a good job in minimum tillage and does real well in no-till. I can switch from corn to beans and not change anything. I've had some trouble with the monitor but new ones have been improved. I updated the planter to 900 specs," says Richard Cockburn, Correctionville, Iowa.

• George Moyer, Myerstown, Penn., likes his 1988 **New Idea 9200** single frame planter. "It's heavy built and construction is simple. The hydraulic lift arms could be improved. They raise and lower too slow."

• "My 1976 **Deere 7000** has planted about 1,000 acres a year and, except for normal wear and tear, has held up well. I do feel I have some seed bounce that gives uneven seed placement. I added Yetter weed wipers. I plant no-till into bean stubble and needed a way to remove trash in the row,"

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Photo courtesy Mycogen Plant Sciences

Giant 80-Ft. 48-Row Corn Planter

"It was probably the talk of the coffee shop the first year I took it to the field because I had a few transport bugs to work out. Now I've got those solved and it suits my purposes quite well," says Bill Gottfried about the giant 80-ft. wide corn planter he built. "I can make up lost time pretty fast when we have had weather conditions in the spring," says the Upper Sandusky, Ohio, farmer.

Gottfried's 48-row (20-in.) planter is 65 ft. long (including 25-ft. tongue) in its transport position. It holds 4,800 lbs. or 96 bags, of seed when seed boxes are full. He built it in sections in his shop three seasons ago, then assembled it outside.

He used two 24-row (20-in.) Kinze rear-fold planters. Originally, he planned to add 20 ft. to one of the planters to make a 60-ft., 36-row setup. Then he decided to add 10 ft. more to each side.

"That extra 10 ft. per side created a lot of complications," he says. "The planter glides nicely over field contours, even on our rolling ground, but not so well on the road."

There, it could only be hauled at 6 mph because it had a tendency to head for the ditch. And it was hard to stop once it did.

Gottfried found the answer to that problem by converting one of the front-mounted caster wheels into a steering wheel.

Because of its size, the planter has an extra pair of caster wheels bolted to each end on front. Gottfried used the same prin-

ciple used on **Deere 750** drills to get the second wheel from the end to turn. He mounted a hydraulic motor and small drive sprocket on each wheel tower. Then he welded a 12-in. dia. flywheel horizontally onto its swivel point. The hydraulic motor chain-drives the flywheel that the flywheel controls from his tractor.

Now we can transport it at up to 20 mph. We don't need someone to follow us with a tractor and front end loader to push it back on course," he says. "It's also much easier to fold and unfold now."

Gottfried built the planter to flex at three points - the absolute middle and the middle of each 24-row wing. He made joints for the wings out of 1 by 7-in. 1-in. thick plate metal and fitted them with bushings.

He added a subframe just behind the planter boxes out of 4 by 7-in. and 2 by 7-in. box tubing. The subframe runs 60 of the planter's 80 ft.

He also lengthened planter markers from 20 to 40 ft. with new tubing.

Every 12 rows is driven by a separate drive wheel so Gottfried can shut off any 12 rows if he wants. He can also plant one of two preset populations - 32,000 or 25,000 seeds per acre - on opposite halves of the planter.

He pulls the machine with a **Deere 8630 4-WD**. He can plant at up to 6 mph and can do up to 400 acres in a day.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Gottfried 11322 C.H. 47, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351.

New Linkage System Magnifies Pressure On Press Wheels

A new planter linkage system magnifies pressure on press wheels instead of on the opener point like parallel linkage systems because it's designed to keep seed openers and press wheels on a level plane in vertical travel.

Upshot of the Precision Radial Linkage System (PRLS), as it's called, is that improved seed-firming pressure is provided, notes inventor Dan Hasbargen, who won first-place in "Successful Farming's" recent "Edisons of Agriculture" awards.

The system applies 300 psi's on the tillage point or disk and 400 on press wheels, according to tests. As the assembly travels upward 5 in. in an arc (maximum of 10 in. of travel is possible) instead of straight up and down as with conventional linkages systems, downpressure increases to 550 psi's at the opener and 700 at press wheels.

"This allows us to use a 6 1/2-in. wide by 12-in. dia. press wheel and still get great seed-firming pressure," Hasbargen says. It also helps keep seed at a consistent planting depth, even in rolling fields with wide planters, he adds.

The assembly quickly bolts to any 3 by



4-in. or 4-in. sq. tool bar. It'll accept wide range of seed openers and cutting disks.

Available in time for the 1996 planting season at around \$480 per row.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Hasbargen, 800 Buffalo Ave., Hwy. 75 South, Breckenridge, Minn. 56520 (218 643-8033).