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## Deere Introduces New Header-Mounted Stalk Chopper

Want to eliminate the need for a stalk chopper? Then you'll be interested in this brand new header-mounted stalk chopper from Deere. It was on display for the first time ever at the recent Farm Fest show near Redwood Falls, Minn.

The StalkMaster chopper is designed for use on 8-row, 30-in. and 12-row, 22-in. corn heads.

"StalkMaster eliminates the need for extra passes in the field with a rotary or flail shredder," says Kelly Granatier, marketing manager, John Deere Harvester Works.

The system features one gearbox unit per row with two rotary chopper knives, which can be easily removed if chopping is not desired. The speed at which the blades rotate varies with the corn head gathering speed but can reach up to 3,300 rpm's.

"The system requires additional horsepower to perform the stalk chopping process compared with regular corn heads," says Granatier. "For this reason, we recommend the combine be equipped with a high-torque, variable-speed feederhouse drive system. Such a system is available on the new bullet rotor STS combines, as well as a retrofit attachment for prior 60 series models."

Deere's header-mounted stalk chopper comes at a time when there's more interest than ever in the idea. Today's BT-resistant corn hybrids have tougher stalks that don't



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cut as easy, and higher plant populations leave more trash so the soil doesn't warm as fast in the spring. The problem is especially bad when corn is planted after corn. And growers are making fewer tillage trips in order to reduce compaction and save on time and fuel.

Other companies have been offering header-mounted stalk choppers for years. They include **Drago** (Dragotec U.S.A., Inc., 3701 30 Ave., Fenton, Iowa 50539 ph 515 889-2723; dragobk@netins.net); **Harvest Tec** (1124 Mayfair Road, Oakville, Ontario, Canada L6M 1G8 ph 888 432-3271; fax 905 827-8543; headers@harvestec.com; www.harvestec.com); and **Geringhoff** (Degelman Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 490, Minot, N. Dak. 58702 ph 701 852-1876; www.geringhoff.com).



Marshall Litchfield built this 3-pt. mounted plow out of salvaged parts. It lets him lay cable from 1 to 1 1/2 ft. deep in one pass, without having to do any backfilling.

## He Built His Own Cable-Laying Plow

"I've always enjoyed the work shop side of farming as much as anything else. It's so much more fun to build something if I can scrounge it up out of the scrap pile," says Marshall Litchfield, Macomb, Ill., a long-time contributor to FARM SHOW.

His latest invention is a 3-pt. mounted plow he made out of salvaged machine parts for laying electrical cable. It lets him lay cable from 1 to 1 1/2 ft. deep in one pass, with no mess and without having to do any backfilling.

The cable-laying plow rides on the 3-pt. hitch and two wheels off an old Deere grain drill. The major component is a 1-in. wide shank off an old C-ripper plow. The shank bolts to a 6-in. channel iron frame that T's off a short length of 7-in. box tubing. A pair of uprights, made from smaller channel iron,

supports the cable spool.

He used 1/8-in. thick steel plate to make a boot that bolts onto the C-shank. A small wheel is fitted to the bottom of the boot, between it and the C-shank. Cable leads down over the wheel, which feeds the cable along the bottom of the ditch as the machine rolls along.

"It works great," says Litchfield. "I use my Ford 960 50 hp tractor to pull it. One time I used it to lay 800 ft. of electrical cable when I put in some pole yard lights. I didn't want to use a trencher because it throws dirt out to the side, which makes a mess. Also, after the wire is in you have to backfill the trench. My machine does it all in one pass."

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Two-visor ed hat protects both your neck and face from the sun.

## Multivisor Keeps Neck Free Of Sunburn

"People were always asking me where I got my hat so I decided to put it on the market," says Robert Keffer, a Cross Lanes, W.Va., construction worker who sewed two visors together to protect both his neck and face from sunburn.

The hat sells itself and Keffer says he's found that companies like it because it has twice as many places to advertise. The front and back halves of the Multivisors are joined by Velcro. Keffer only makes visors, not hats, because they're cooler.

He also has a version with side flaps that

protect the ears and another that has elastic between the two visors instead of Velcro.

Eventually, Keffer wants to sell double-visor baseball caps as well. "We want to be your one-stop shop for hats."

All hats sell for \$5.80 (plus S&H).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Keffer, Multi-visor Headwear, 5279 Doc Bailey Rd., Cross Lanes, W.Va. 25313 (ph 866 441-8628 or 304 776-8628; fax 304 776-8691; skeffer@charter.net; www.multivisor.com).



Naked Neck chickens have about half the number of feathers as a normal chicken.

## Naked Neck Chickens

"Either it's 'I've got to have some of those' or 'There's no way one of those will ever be on my place,'" says National Naked Neck Society secretary and breeder Ed Haworth. "I just happen to be one of the 'I gotta have some of those,'" he says, laughing. Haworth raises about 50 of them although over 30 years, he's had up to 400 at one time.

Naked Necks are also known as "Turkens," based on the false idea that a chicken was crossed with a turkey to create this breed.

Instead, the naked neck is a dominant trait and the result of a single gene that affects the arrangement of feathers. They grow in tracts over the chicken's body and hide areas of skin. It's said that Naked Necks have about half the number of feathers as a normal chicken.

Because the trait's dominant, other breeds that are crossed with the Naked Neck can have the bare neck trait.

Although Haworth adopted the breed because of its "uniqueness," he's stayed with them because of other characteristics.

He says they have a strong resistance to diseases such as Coccidiosis and Newcastle disease. Naked Necks are cold and heat tolerant. "When most hens stop laying, they'll be out hustling bugs and still laying," he says. They are foragers and don't rely on humans to feed them and lay large brown eggs. Because they're bigger than other birds such as the Leghorn or Plymouth Rock, they make good fryers, he says. Without neck feathers, they're easier to pluck which may have been why the breed developed in the first place.

Many think the breed originated in Transylvania in an old province of Hungary and perfected in Germany.

Haworth wishes people's perceptions that the Naked Neck is a mongrel would change. "Nobody thinks they're just OK and might try them," he says.

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