

## Cultivator Doubles As A Strip-Till Machine

If you've thought about trying strip-till but you're not ready to dump your cultivator, you might want to take a look at Hiniker's 6000 Series cultivators.

The company recently introduced attachments for the cultivators that turn them into strip-tillage units. When it's time to cultivate, just unbolt the attachments and head back to the field.

"We added row cleaners, berm bedders and a strip-till shank that penetrates to 8 in.," says Jim Johnson, Hiniker Company. "The shanks can be used to place anhydrous, liquid or granular fertilizer in-row while preparing or building the berm."

The price is right too, adds Johnson. He points out that turnkey strip-till units on the market can run from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per row. Retrofitting a 6000 cultivator for strip-till can be done for about \$500/row. Buy one new with strip-till attachments added, and it will cost less than \$2,500/row. Plus it will apply anhydrous, liquid or granular fertilizer in any heavy residue environment.

"Two common complaints about strip-till units on the market have been breakage and plugging," says Johnson. "The 6000 has built a reputation for not breaking or plugging in heavy residue. It's been the leading heavy residue cultivator on the market. That's what it was designed to do."

No modification to the base 6000 unit is needed. All attachments fit existing pre-drilled holes. Attachments are simply bolted on. Costs are approximate, as suggested attachments depend on timing and soils, explains Johnson.

"If you're on 30-in. rows, you will probably want to use row cleaners, but if you are on 20-in. rows, there may not be room to displace the residue," he says. "Strip-till is normally a fall practice. Some soils don't respond as well to spring tillage, so rolling baskets may be needed on them."

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Hiniker recently introduced attachments for its 6000 Series cultivators that turn them into strip-tillage units. To cultivate normally, just unbolt the attachments and head back to the field.

Attachments include row cleaners, berm bedders and a strip-till shank that penetrates to 8 in. The shanks can be used to place anhydrous, liquid or granular fertilizer in-row while preparing or building the berm.



Claw-like truck attachment has a steel blade at bottom and curved rake tines on top that pivot up and down.

## Landscaping Blade Equipped With Pivoting Rake Tines

"There's never been another landscaping tool like this," says Leo Petry about the claw-like truck attachment his friend Woody Harding designed and built. The "Plow Rake" has a steel blade at the bottom and curved rake tines on top that pivot up and down.

"What makes it so innovative and ingenious is that the rotating claw reaches down and grabs soil, gravel, tree branches and more," Petry says, adding that it can do the work of many people quickly to put in lawns.

Basically, Plow Rake works by pushing sand, soil or snow forward with the bottom plow blade. When you've pushed it as far as you want, you hydraulically lower the "clamshell" rake over the material.

Then, you back up to spread the material out gradually or lift up to transport it elsewhere.

The plow blade and claw can get within an inch of a fence, foundation or garage door. It mounts onto a truck like any other plow.

The Plow-Rake also fits on tractors and skid steers.

Harding is looking to license the patent-pending Plow-Rake to a large company that will manufacture and market it.

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## Simple Hay Rack For Goats

Weld together a few pipes, attach a wire cattle panel, and you've got a big round bale hay rack for goats.

Gail Truax and her husband, Gary, came up with the idea to feed goats. "We can put 30 to 40 does on it with their babies, and it works real well. It's up off the ground, so the babies can get up under it and start eating early."

The elevated feeder keeps the goats from climbing up on the bale. Since both are professional welders, putting the pipe framework together was not a problem. They sized it to hold their 4-ft. dia. round bales. Four 9-ft. 2 1/2-in. dia. pipes were set in 2-ft. deep holes at the corners of a 6 by 7-ft. rectangle. The holes were then filled with cement to secure the pipes.

Once the cement hardened, 6-ft. lengths of pipe were welded to the uprights on the narrower sides of the rectangle and at about a 5-ft. height. These pipes serve as cross braces for the structure and also support the cattle panel.

At each 7-ft. wide end, two 4-ft. pipes were welded to the corner pipes and to each other to form peaks about 10 ft. high. The peaks were then connected by another length of pipe to form a ridge between the two ends. Brace pipes were also welded in place at about a 9-ft. height at each peak to further strengthen the structure.

"We strung two lengths of chain between the lower cross braces and laid a 4 by 16-ft. cattle panel across them," explains Gail. "Then we attached it to the chains and cut off the excess four to five feet."

The Truaxs added ends to keep the goats out. Heavy rebar was bent to match the curve



Round bale hay rack gets bale up off the ground, so young goats can get up under it and start eating early.

of the cattle panel, and sections of panel were then welded to the rebar. The new ends were then wired into place.

"To refill the feeder, we simply remove one end, drive in with the tractor and a bale on the loader spear and set it in place," says Gail. "If we use a 5-ft. round bale, we just let the goats eat away the end before we reattach the panel."

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