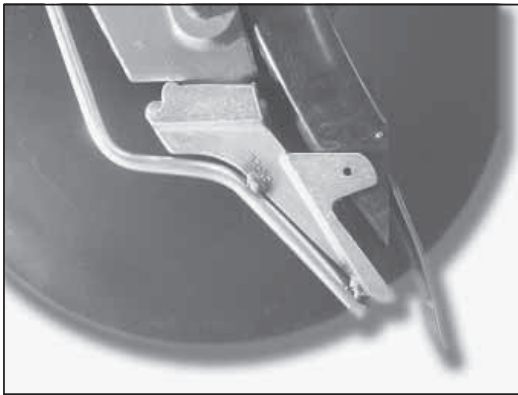


Liquid starter fertilizer is placed under the seed with feeder tubes that attach to front of scraper between the disc openers. Tubes leave a light layer of dirt between seed and starter.



Under-The-Seed Tubes “Boost Yields 5 Percent”

Brent Wisenburger thinks the Hutterite Colonies that farm near him in South Dakota have a better idea when it comes to placement of liquid starter fertilizer. For years they have been placing it under the seed with feeder tubes that attach to the front of the scraper between the disc openers. The tubes leave a light layer of dirt in between the seed and the starter.

“Local colonies had hundreds of them installed on John Deere planters by a local John Deere dealer,” says Wisenburger. “We hold the patents for them now. Our comparison plots indicate they increase plant stand and provide a 5 percent yield advantage over traditional liquid starter placement.”

Wisenburger and a partner have been marketing the starter fertilizer tubes under the brand Totally Tubular. They have expanded beyond Deere to include Kinze, Great Plains and White planters.

“The tube has to be welded to Deere, Great Plains and White scrapers, so each tube comes with a new scraper plate and sells for \$41,” explains Wisenburger. “We just bolt them in place on the Kinze so they sell for just \$27.50. The offset design of Case IH planters prevents us from getting the tube

down and under the seed.”

Wisenburger notes that some farmers have found an added advantage to installing the units with new scrapers. “The finger we weld to on the Deere planters are the most overlooked wear item on a planter,” he says. “I’ve talked to guys who replace their disc openers every year, but never replace the scraper.”

He describes one visitor to the company booth at a farm show. He looked at the display unit and said his scraper didn’t match. It was sharp and narrow.

“He didn’t realize it was worn down and as a result the discs were running too close together and pinching his seed tubes,” says Wisenburger. “He was replacing the tubes every year as holes were worn in them, but never replaced the scraper.”

Wisenburger recommends installation when disc openers are being replaced and pre-season maintenance is being done. Gauge wheels and disc openers have to be removed to replace the scraper plates.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Totally Tubular, 403 N. 1st St., Aberdeen, S. Dak. 57401 (ph 605 216-2102; brentw49@abemidco.net; www.totally-tubular.net).



To safely kill rodents, Richard Layden removes the cap from a 2 1/2-gal. plastic jug, places sticks of D-Con inside the container, and then lays the jug on its side.

Plastic Jugs Make “Pet Proof” Poison Dispensers

A 2 1/2-gal. plastic jug containing rat or mouse poison, placed on its side, is a safe way to kill rodents, says Richard Layden, Hoopston, Ill.

He simply removes the jug’s cap and places sticks of D-Con inside the container.

“The jug is weatherproof and prevents barnyard animals from accidentally ingesting the poison,” says Layden. “I place a brick on top of the jug to keep the wind from blowing it away. It works best to provide the rodent with some kind of a step-up into the feed-

ing chamber. I’ve used both white and black jugs, but mice seem to prefer the black jugs.

“I keep several jugs of poison on my farm including in my shed and barn. I have corn fields within 50 ft. of my house, so I put some jugs outside my house. Another advantage is squirrels and raccoons won’t get accidentally poisoned. I refill the jugs about once a week.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard P. Layden, 11443 E. 4200 North Road, Hoopston, Ill. 60942 (ph 217 283-6864; Layden686@net66.com).

Nesting Box Designed For American Kestrels

Frustrated with the damage birds were causing to his cherry orchard, Ben Dover of Yakima, Wash., decided to build a nesting box to attract American Kestrels. It worked so well he now builds the nesting boxes for sale.

“It really makes a difference in keeping away starlings, robins, and any other birds that damage fruit in orchards or make a mess around buildings and feedlots. American Kestrels nest in tree cavities and old woodpecker holes, but they will readily use nest boxes like the ones I provide,” says Dover.

The “Orchard Guard” nesting box is made from wood and is designed to mount on a pole or tree 10 to 30 ft. above the ground, facing southeast in the center of an orchard. They measure 2 ft. tall by 10 in. wide and deep. Dover recommends placing 2 to 3 in. of wood chips in the bottom of the box for use as nesting material. “Kestrels won’t take anything into the nesting box. You have to put it in for them,” he says. A small door on one side can be opened to clean out the box once a year.

In general, Dover recommends one nesting box for every 5 to 10 acres. The boxes should be checked every week or so to remove starling eggs and nests.

“It’s a relatively inexpensive way to provide bird control. There’s no 100 percent guarantee that kestrels will come, but in three years I’ve been building them I’ve had a 60 percent success rate. I got the idea from a retired state fish and wildlife biologist who told me how to build them. I had tried using sprays and bird guns, but nothing worked. It also works great for keeping birds away from feedlots. I’ve even sold some nesting boxes



Nesting box is made from wood and is designed to mount on a pole or tree 10 to 30 ft. above the ground.

to motels and rental storage facilities, which use them to keep birds from making messes.

“It works best in orchards or vineyards where fruit ripens early, such as cherries, grapes, and blueberries. It’s not quite as effective in apple and peach orchards because by the time the apples and peaches start to ripen the hawks have finished raising their young and don’t always stay nearby.”

Sells for \$35 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ben Dover, 1714 South 69th Ave., Yakima, Wash. 98908; (ph 509 972-3415 or 509 910-6598; bsdover@msn.com).

Deere displayed a first-of-its-kind big round bale of cotton at the recent World Ag Expo near Tulare, Calif.



Bale-On-The-Go Cotton Pickers

A new breed of cotton picker was on display at the recent World Ag Expo near Tulare, Calif.

Deere had a first-of-its-kind big round bale of cotton on display and Case IH introduced its new Module Express 625, which produces compressed square bales weighing anywhere from 4,000 to 12,000 lbs. Deere’s picker is not yet on the market.

Both new cotton pickers eliminate the need for separate “module builders” since they make their big bales on-the-go. In the past, cotton was picked and then dumped into a separate machine. The Deere picker unloads bales on-the-go while the Case IH machine requires that you stop to unload. With both pickers, you can control the size and density from the cab.



Case IH introduced its Module Express 625, which produces compressed square bales.