

## Seed Level Indicator For Planter Boxes

"Our new seed level indicator installs on one or more of your planter seed boxes. It lets you know how much seed is in the box at all times," says Dave Burgei of S.I. Distributing, St. Marys, Ohio.

The simple seed level indicator works on boxes with or without extensions. It consists of a clear plastic tube with a grey-colored plastic slide inside it that has reflective red tape on top. A rectangular plastic plate fastens to the bottom of the slide. The plate sets on top of the seed.

To install the indicator, you cut a hole in the planter box lid and use a flange (supplied) to bolt the unit to the lid. Silicone waterproofs the flange connection.

"It doesn't replace an electronic monitor, but it does let you avoid running out of seed in the middle of the field. The red reflective tape is visible both during the day and at night," says Burgei.

"Smaller planters require only one unit, but if you have a larger 16 or 24-row planter you may want to use two units, one at each end of the planter. You only need one or two indicators per planter because if seed is metering out of the boxes correctly, all the boxes will empty out at the same time. If you suspect that one of your seed meters is off a bit, you can move the indicator to that row to see how the seeding rate for that row compares



Seed level indicator installs on one or more of your planter seed boxes.

to the other rows."

Fits most planters. If you use extensions on your seed boxes, you can cut the tube to custom fit your boxes. Includes all installation hardware.

Sells for \$99.95 plus S&H.  
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, S.I. Distributing, Inc., 03221 Barber Werner Road, St. Marys, Ohio 45885 (ph 800 368-7773; dave@sidist.com; www.sidist.com).



Blade with a 45 degree cutting edge mounts on front of land plane, eliminating the need to first tilt the device like you would a standard bucket.

## Loader-Mounted "Land Plane"

"We call it a land plane, since it works just like a wood plane on dirt," says Daniel Johnson of Raleigh, N.C., who recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a rig built by his father Bruce.

The land plane quick taches to Johnson's Kubota loader.

The sides and back are made from channel iron, with a steel plate welded on back that has quick tach brackets on it. A blade with a 45 degree cutting edge mounts on front. "The cutting edge cuts through the soil so you don't have to first tilt the device like you would a standard bucket," says Daniel. "You just set it at ground level and drive forward. Dirt rolls over the front edge and fills in any low spots. The back plate continues to level the ground beneath it.

"It works great for leveling dirt and for clearing brush. I have a box scraper with ripper teeth, but found it to be ineffective for cutting and leveling the hard-packed sand we have in this area."

Since the land plane's sides are parallel with the ground, the operator can easily tell when the device is level. "Compared to using a 3-pt. mounted box scraper, the loader has down pressure and doesn't ride over harder-packed material. When you're done it looks like you used a large road grader or dirt pan."

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## Grill Guard Protects Family Van

"It might not look pretty, but it's a cheap insurance policy," says John Hintz, who built a grill guard for the family's minivan.

He built it after his wife, Charlene, who has an early morning rural paper route, hit a deer on two different occasions with their 2000 Dodge Grand Caravan SE. Repairing the bumper cost about \$1,700 in parts alone. He thought a grill guard would do the trick but couldn't find anyone who made them for vans.

"So I cut three holes in the bumper, bolted and welded some steel tubing to the frame and started building on the outside what I wanted to cover," he says.

He used 1 1/2-in. sq. tubing for the 72-in. wide guard. "I welded it together for durability, not looks," Hintz says he spent about \$50 on material.

He's tested it too. "A month after I put it on, I was with my wife and a deer shot out. I hit him with the right front of the guard and crippled him. But he didn't do any damage to the van."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Hintz, 41065 S. 134<sup>th</sup> Rd., Wymore, Neb. 68466 (ph 402 696-4386; johhin@alltel.net).



Home-built grill guard fits Hintz's 2000 Dodge Grand Caravan SE.



He used 1 1/2-in. sq. tubing for the 72-in. wide guard.

## Big Truck Hauls, Dumps Large Loads Of Grain

"I wanted a truck with a very large capacity so I wouldn't have to unload as often," says Jarvie, Alta., grain framer Dale Beamish.

So, Beamish started watching for a bargain on a suitable truck for the project.

He eventually found a 1990 Autocar "tandem-tandem," as he likes to call it. Often called a "twin steer" because of the twin steering axles, it's a type of truck found in the oilfields where it carries a large telescopic boom.

"New ones are very expensive, so you don't see many on grain farms," Beamish says.

He purchased the grain box at a local company and had them put it on. It's 28 ft. long with 68-in. sides, and it is fitted with a 45-

ton, 5-staged telescopic hoist that's normally used on gravel trailers. Hoisting any load is never an issue, Beamish says. The box will hold about 1,150 bu. of wheat.

It has a four-piece endgate and the center endgate is two-piece, so you can clean the corners out more easily by opening the top door. The box also has a roll-top on it.

"This truck has good highway gears in it, so it'll do 75 mph down the highway if you want it to," Beamish says.

The unit weighs in at about 32,600 lbs. and Beamish says his total cost was \$60,000 (Can.).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale Beamish, Box 67, Jarvie, Alta., Canada T0G 1H0 (ph 780 954-2166).



Expanded metal shield protects both driver and tractor from flying debris when mowing with a bush hog. Shield simply bolts to tractor's ROPS or to the back of cab.

## Bolt-On Shield Protects Tractor Drivers

It took two broken tractor windows at about \$400 each to convince Marty Miller that he needed a shield to protect himself and his tractor from flying debris when running his bush hog.

That's why he created "The Guard," a framed sheet of expanded metal that bolts to the tractor's ROPS or to the back of the cab.

It fits on most late model Deere, New Holland, Case-IH and many other tractors.

"Most people wish they'd found us sooner.

They buy the shield after they have a glass break or have been hit by flying debris," says Miller, owner of Advanced Manufacturing.

Sells for \$350 for ROPS tractors and \$375 for cab tractors.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Advanced Manufacturing, LLC, 45 Iron Bridge Rd., Long Lane, Mo. 65590 (ph 417 345-8198; fax 417 345-2145; info@homeoftheguard.com; www.homeoftheguard.com).



Beamish mounted a 28-ft. long grain box on this 1990 Autocar truck equipped with twin steering axles. Box is fitted with a 45-ton, 5-staged telescopic hoist.