

New "Chop Planter"

(Continued from cover page)

drive system can be worked out for both.

The Mathews chopper is 160 in. wide and equipped with 48 hard-surfaced 6½-in. wide hammers. The chopper runs at 2,000 rpms, which is about twice its regular speed, to throw residue back over the planter. Monty speeded it up by simply switching from a 540 pto to a 1,000 rpm pto. The chopper could be extended on either end to accommodate another row or two of planter.

No-till coulters were attached to the planter to slice open the ground just ahead of the double disc openers. Monty notes that 30 to 40% of the residue, which the flail hammers can't pick up, is left on the ground. Spray nozzles mounted behind the planter units spray herbicides on the newly planted ground. Herbicide is carried in tractor-mounted saddle tanks.

"When I first built it there was only a small hood over the planter. In a tail wind, straw would blow up in front of the tractor and clog the radiator. So, I built a large hood with an adjustable deflector that adjusts to varying con-



Speed of flail chopper hammers was doubled by switching from a 540 pto to a 1,000 pto.

ditions. I've planted in 30 to 35 mph winds with no problem," says Monty.

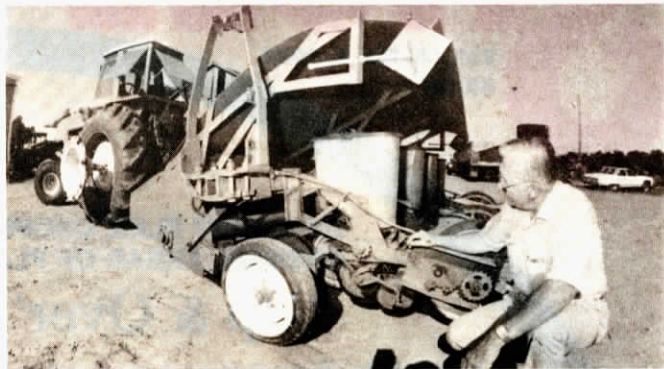
He uses a 180-hp. Allis Chalmers 7080 tractor to move the Chop-Plant on through the field at 4 mph. He planted beans into one cotton field with 4-ft. stalks still standing and says the chopper easily handled the heavy residue. And, despite a 2-week dry spell last spring soon after planting, he says soil moisture held up well beneath the mulched surface.

Monty is patenting the system and would like to find a manufacturer to build it.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Charles Monty, Jr., P.O. Box 1224, Clarksdale, Miss. 38614 (ph 601 624-9843 or 627-2571, ext. 45).



Twin tractor saddle tanks feed herbicide to nozzles mounted directly behind planter press wheels.



Charles Monty points out features of his unique planter, including adjustable deflector which directs chopped-up residue out the back of the machine.



Chop-planter planted directly into this field covered with 4-ft. tall cotton stalks and weeds. Planted field, foreground, is protected by an even layer of mulch.

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SLICES THEM OPEN FOR EASY FEEDING

Tractor-Mounted Bale Cutting Knife

Sliced-up big bales feed out easier, according to a Nebraska farmer who's come up with a new tractor-mounted big bale knife.

Marion K. Woerman, who farms near Oakland, says he got tired of trying to tear hay off round bales for feeding to livestock in close quarters. His 3-pt. mounted knife makes a quick slice through the bale that not only frees up the hay for small-portion feeding but also helps livestock tear them open when placed in round bale feeders. Tub grinders can also handle big bales faster and easier once they're cut, notes Woerman.

The big bale knife is 6-ft. long. "It's modeled after old-style hay knives. A hydraulic cylinder with a 22-in. stroke gives the blade its sawing action," says Woerman, noting that the operator works the hydraulic lever back and forth for the 30 sec. or so it takes to cut through a bale.

"The operator pushes the knife into the center of the bale and works it upward to within a couple inches of the outer edge of the bale. If he stops there, the strings will still hold the



Big bale knife slices upward through top half of bale, putting all the bale's weight on the blade.

bale together. If the bale is already in position for feeding, you can cut all the way through. Woerman says cutting half-way through the bale is all that's necessary to break it wide open," Woerman points out. "The knife can also be mounted to cut towards the ground but it works better with the weight of the bale on the blade. It's important, however, to have at least one bale lined up behind the bale to act as a backstop to keep it from sliding backward when the knife is inserted.

"I've cut several hundred bales

with my original hay knife and bale cutter and I haven't had to sharpen the knife yet. It's built very strong," says Woerman, noting that the bale knife can be removed in a couple minutes by simply removing pins, leaving a heavy-duty bale fork made from 4 by 4-in. sq. tubing.

The bale cutter bale fork sells for \$879.

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