

# FARM SHOW

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## BIG CENTRAL HOPPER LETS HIM PLANT 20 ACRES WITHOUT STOPPING

### Easy-Fill Soybean Planter

By Gene Schnaser



Borland's shop-built planter boasts a total fill capacity of 35 bushels which cuts fill stops by 75%. Top-mounted hopper "gravity feeds" individual row units and is equipped with an auger that distributes seed throughout hopper. Row width can be as narrow as 13 in. and planter can be easily set up for conventional, minimum-till or no-till planting.

After planting soybeans for 15 years, Russell Borland knew what he wanted in a planter. It had to offer flexible row spacing, hold enough seed to go four times the distance between fills, and be completely adjustable to handle planting in conventional, minimum-till and no-till fields.

So he spent four months in the shop and, using about \$1,500 worth of materials, came up with a built-from-scratch dream planter which he might not trade you for a new one costing \$15,000 to \$20,000. Key features of the 10-row planter include the large 25-bushel seed hopper which resembles a grain box on a drill, plus a fully-adjustable toolbar, and a "convertible" bridge hitch which can be easily switched back to a conventional position.

Borland, who farms 750 acres near Richwood, Ohio, says the main frame of the planter consists of four toolbars that let him stagger planter units to accommodate narrow rows and transport wheels. He used No. 52 Allis-Chalmers planter units from an older mounted toolbar planter he owned. He made about a dozen modifications to the units to improve both depth control and the chain drive system. He also moved the packer wheels forward from their original position to get them closer to the disk openers.

He assembled the seed hopper from

*(Continued on next page)*

**IN THIS ISSUE:** Ag World

Order Form For New Subscribers -p. 36

- 3** Remote control auger shut-off
- 4** Shop-built tractor saved farmer \$100,000
- 4** "Revolving door" drive-through gate
- 7** Do-it-yourself tractor fenders
- 15** Push-button hydraulic outlet multiplier
- 21** Fertilizer cart reloads planter on-the-go

- 23** Make your own weed spray
- 23** Slick way to self-feed big round hay bales
- 24** Machine shed built from junked bridge steel
- 26** Bale handler built from old combine
- 27** New clamp-on light kit for farm implements
- 28** Owners report on best, worst lawn mowers

**36** Rubber belted tractor tracks catching on fast