

### Narrow-Row Soybean Planter

Old no-till planters can be converted to make good narrow row soybean planters, according to a Wisconsin farmer who mounted an extra row of planter units on the front bar of a junked planter.

Lawrence Maier used parts from three old planters to put together his 11-row planter with 15-in. spacing.

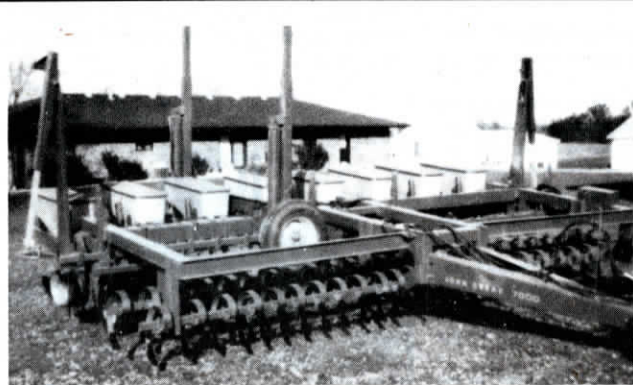
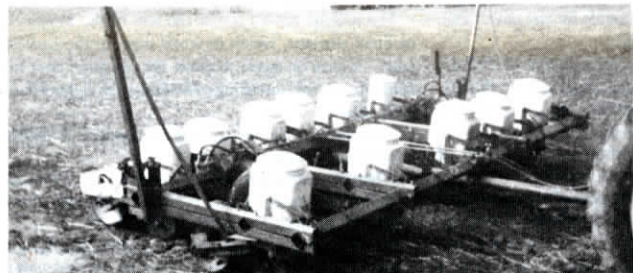
"I got the idea during a long illness when I had lots of time to think and to read auction bills looking for used equipment. We started with a 6-row Allis Chalmers no-till planter that we bought for about \$650. It was equipped with insecticide applicators and liquid fertilizer attachments, with no-till fluted coulters mounted on a front toolbar. We used the frame of this planter and then bought two more planters to get the additional row units needed," says Maier.

He sold all the fertilizer and insecticide boxes and other miscellaneous parts

on the planters, receiving more than he originally paid for the planters. To mount the additional row units, Maier removed the center support brace and then mounted the row units on the front bar where the fluted coulters were originally attached.

"It was easy to do. Removing the extra brace didn't weaken the planter since we removed the liquid fertilizer tanks," says Maier. He can easily shift the planter units to one side or the other to adapt to wheel width if he switches tractors. Last year, which was just Maier's second year growing soybeans, he averaged 45 bu. per acre. He hopes to do better this year by lowering his planting rate to 75 lbs. per acre. "We like the planter a lot. It made the switch to soybeans easier."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lawrence Maier, N4691 Highway 151, Columbus, Wis. 53925 (ph 414 623-5599).



### Planter-Mounted Seedbed Leveler

J.B. Mangus, Renick, Mo., mounted a home-built 2-row Danish tine tillage tool on front of his 8-row Deere 7000 pull-type planter. It allows him to level the seedbed ahead of the planter and can be hydraulically lifted to unplug it or to lift it up out of the way.

The add-on tillage tool is supported by a frame built from 5-in. sq. tubing and 6-in. channel iron. The tines are mounted

on shafts made from 2 1/4-in. sq. tubing and are raised and lowered by a single hydraulic cylinder. Mangus modified the planter with the help of Richard Everhart, Clark, Mo. They also built a hydraulic end transport system for the planter.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, J.B. Mangus, Box 27, Renick, Mo. 65278 (ph 816 263-1758).

Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? (Send to: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, MN 55044).

Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director



### "Mini" IH Farmall

"I built it because I needed a tractor that could be parked partially under a semi trailer due to cramped conditions for loading grain in our yard," says Tom C. Laird, Thedford, Ontario, about the "mini" IH Farmall he built using parts from junked tractors.

"I call it a "W2" because it looks like it's one size smaller than the W4, W6, and W9 series of IH tractors. Overall width is just under 5 ft. with duals. It's 8 ft. long and 56 in. high and has standard 540 pto, belt pulley, live hydraulics, and a front push hitch for a grader blade. The rear end, transmission and final drives are out of an old "A". By removing the 17-in. structural piece from under the seat on the A, and turning the final drive housings a quarter turn, I both lowered and narrowed up the tractor. Mounting holes had to be redrilled and the pinion shaft was machined shorter.

"The bell housing came from an "SC" tractor. Removing the hydraulic unit from the bell housing left a flat area to mount the steering box, which was salvaged from a "W4". The small steering wheel

came off the old "A" and fit perfectly. The 123 engine, gas tank, and radiator came off an old "76" pull-type combine and also fit perfectly on the bell housing.

"I built up the front axle from 3 ft. of I-beam which I boxed in. I shortened the king pin of the old "A" spindles and welded them onto the I-beam. I also built a lower bolster to bolt under the radiator support and allow the axle to rock. The steering arms, steering rods, clutch pedal, throttle, gear shifter, fenders, drawbar, and seat support were all removed from the old "A" and rebuilt. Seat came from a F560, hood and grill are true "A" parts.

"To help smooth out the ride, I built a set of duals from a pair of New Idea spreader rims which help a lot when we use it to rake hay or do other field chores. I also built a 1-row belly-mount cultivator, grader blade, and front-end snowblade. I also plan to build a lawnmower because commercial mowers won't fit under the short wheelbase."

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