

Smörgåsbord



Harold Johnson
Publisher and
Editorial
Director

**Owner Says Max-Emerge
Overplants On Slopes**

"I'd like to hear from other farmer-owners who have experienced a similar problem," says Wisconsin farmer David Frank, of Mondovi, who is unhappy with Deere and Company for "refusing to do anything about the inability of the 7000 series Max-Emerge to accurately plant corn on hillsides. Deere sold me this planter knowing I would be using it on hillsides, and knowing all along — but not telling me — that it overplants corn up to 100% or more on hillsides. I had to find out about the problem the hard way — on my own. And, now that I've pinpointed the problem, Deere refuses to do anything about it," Frank told FARM SHOW.

He says he didn't discover the "hillside problem" until three years ago when it was detected by the new Deere Compute Trak monitor he purchased for his planter. "It showed the planter was dropping more than 40,000 kernels per acre on slopes, which was about double the population I adjusted for and had assumed all along that I was getting. I alerted Deere officials as soon as I identified the problem but they told me they've had very few complaints, and that it isn't a common problem. Our local Deere dealer has done all he can. Deere did send out a factory rep but he was no help. He suggested I install a special seed hopper and install plates. Why did they sell me a plateless planter in the first place if I have to equip it with plates to make it plant accurately?"



Frank inserted a plate to partially close the seed opening of the finger pickup unit.

Meanwhile, Frank has gone ahead with several of his own design changes in hopes of correcting or at least minimizing the "hillside problem" with his 4-row Max-Emerge, which is equipped with no-till coulters, hold-down springs and cast iron closing wheels. "On hillsides, with the left side of the planter lower than the right, seed rides high and siphons up into the finger mechanism. Centrifugal force propels extra kernels into the opening as each finger passes by. I inserted a special plate to partially close the opening, which has helped but extra kernels still sneak through. And, if you close the opening too much, you underplant," explains Frank.

He notes that, in addition to size of this opening, the degree of overplanting is affected by seed size, how full the hoppers are, travel speed and the degree of hillside slope. "My quarrel with Deere is that they knowingly sold me a planter they've known all along won't plant accurately on hill-



sides. They surely should be able to supply a planter that will accurately plant on slopes to which their hillside combine will level. There are factory recall programs for cars. I feel there should have been one on the Max-Emerge to correct this problem with planting accuracy on hillsides. If other owners have experienced a similar problem, I'd like to hear from them," says Frank.

Contact: David Frank, Rt. 3, Mondovi, Wis. 54755 (ph 715 946-3576).

FARM SHOW contacted Deere officials, asking the question: To what extent has overplanting on hillsides been a problem with Max-Emerge corn planters? We hadn't yet received their answer as this issue went to press. Meanwhile, we did obtain an evaluation report (No. 357) on the Deere 7000 Max-Emerge from the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, headquartered at P.O. Box 1900, Humboldt, Sask. SOK 2A0 (ph 306 682-2555). They note as follows: "While operating at 5 mph on 11 degree slopes, an increase in the frequency of doubles caused a decrease in the Quality of Feed Index by 2 to 3%. At 7 mph, the effect of the slope was greater, especially when seed was sloped towards the finger pickup unit. This condition caused a large increase in the frequency of doubles, thus dropping the Quality of Feed Index 10 to 20%. Flat seed was affected more than round seed."

Joe Newman's Amazing Energy Discovery — The court case involving that new energy development we told you about last winter (Vol. 8, No. 2) is progressing through the courts. A federal judge is now in the process of determining whether or not the invention creates more energy than it consumes, as is claimed by its inventor, Joe Newman, Lucedale, Miss.



Joe Newman

Scores of respected scientists, professors and physicists who have had a close look at the invention and tested it are backing Newman, signing statements that state the importance of the development and why it should be patented.

Newman recently told FARM SHOW that he's not going to wait for the result of his suit against the patent office. He's decided to write a book telling all. "It's written in very easy-to-understand language that will make it very easy for anyone to build their own demonstration prototype," he says, noting that the book will be out soon. "I want to get this information out to the public and feel that I have documented my case well enough so that its publication will not jeopardize my patent. I'm hoping that public opinion raised in my favor, once people understand the idea, will help my case."

A Dallas high-tech firm is already building a sophisticated version of the new invention and Newman is negotiating with other companies in the U.S., Canada and Japan. "I expect units to be in

production not more than a year after we get our patent," Newman told FARM SHOW.

To get on the mailing list of Newman's book, write: FARM SHOW Followup, Joe Newman, Rt. 1, Box 52, Lucedale, Miss. 39452.

Mark Newhall, Editor.

Deer Farming Catches On — "We're contracting with farmers for their venison at \$2.10 a pound but we expect to pay more," says Robert J. Sims, general manager of the British Deer Producers Society Ltd. who is responsible for marketing venison produced by members of the newly formed marketing association. Deer farming is catching on fast in Britain and the new association was formed in an attempt to organize the marketing of individual producers who have been selling meat through their own farm shops and local retailers. Sims expects the ranks of the original 33 founding members to swell to more than 1,000 in the next year or so, especially since the demand for venison in Britain is great. "We've had orders that we're not able to fill from the largest supermarket chains in Britain. Demand is tremendous and we can only see improvement in the future," reports Sims.

The new association also markets breeding stock to new deer farmers. Together with the British Deer Farmers Association, which was formed in November 1978 to educate deer farmers, the association is hoping to get more farmers to try deer as a "cash crop". The British Deer Farmers Association publishes a quarterly magazine with educational articles and provides basic information about deer farming to anyone interested. They also put farmers in touch with exporters of Red Deer, the best breed for domestication. Membership in the British Deer Farmers Association costs \$25 per year.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, British Deer Farmers Association, M. Crawford, Cluanie, Teanassie, By Beauly, Inverness-Shire, Scotland.

**Great Gift Idea
For Christmas**

We've discovered that there's an unselfish trait among FARM SHOW readers. They like to share good things with others.

That's why we're inviting you and other subscribers to give FARM SHOW for Christmas. Many readers who gave FARM SHOW for Christmas last year wrote to tell us that they've never given a gift which generated so much response from appreciative recipients.

Use the handy order envelope inserted elsewhere in this issue to order your Christmas gift subscriptions.

Here's a recap of our special Christmas gift offer (expires Jan. 1, 1985):

When you give more than one gift subscription, the price drops.

United States: Your first gift sub is \$9.95. Each additional gift sub is only \$5.95. It figures out to \$15.90 for two gift subs, \$21.85 for three, \$27.80 for four, etc.

Canada: Your first gift sub is \$11.95 (Canadian dollars). Each additional gift sub is \$7.95. It figures out to \$19.90 for two gift subs, \$27.85 for three, \$35.80 for four, etc.

With each gift sub we'll send a card, notifying each recipient of your thoughtfulness. The card and first issue will be processed in time to arrive shortly before Christmas — if you order now!

We'll also imprint the mailing label with "A CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM (Your Name)" so the recipient will be reminded of your thoughtfulness.

Merry Christmas and please order today so we can give your special Christmas gift orders the prompt attention they deserve. Contact: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 612 469-5572).