"No other mower even comes close to the performance of this 24-ft. wide mower," says Francis Thomas, inventor and manufacturer.

HALF THE PRICE AND REQUIRES JUST HALF THE HORSEPOWER OF A ROTARY MOWER

New "Pull-Behind" 24-Ft. Sickle Mower

"Interest has been tremendous. We didn't realize how much need there was for a mower like this," says Francis Thomas, inventor and manufacturer of a new pull-behind 24-ft. wide sickle mower with hydraulic height control that allows it to cut from 3 to 24 in. off the ground.

The trailing "Strauss Clipper" is pto-powered. "It cuts faster and better than any rotary mowers and all you need is a 40 hp. tractor. We were able to cut 8 to 10 ft. tall ragweed last year at speeds of 6 to 7 mph. No other mower even comes close to that in performance. The largest rotary mowers require 100 to 150 hp. tractors and they leave hay bunched with a high percentage of leaves stripped off. This mower lays the crop down evenly and gently," says Thomas, noting that the sickle is equipped with a fast-cutting double-point Crary sickle with a 3-in. stroke.

Three 15-in. wheels carry the new Clipper. A single hydraulic cylinder raises and lowers the sickle to adjust cutting height and also raises the mower tongue to tow the Clipper in-line down the road. Transport width is just 8 ft., 6 in.

"The only other way to get a mower this big is to buy a swather, which can cost as much as $30,000," says Thomas. The Clipper sells for $7,250. It's enclosed wobble box drive requires a 540 pto and about 1.8 hp. per foot of sickle. The mower is also available in widths of 16 ($6,450) and 20-ft. ($6,850).

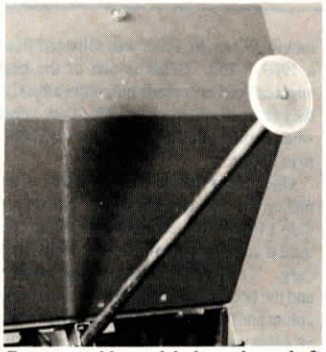
For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Strauss Mfg. Co., Rt. 2, McCune, Kan. 66753 (ph 316 632-4401).

LETS YOU SEE IF SEED SHAFT IS WORKING

Shaft Monitor For Grain Drills

"It works so well my neighbors wanted them for their drills. I applied for a patent, went into production and took it to a local farm show. I sold 467 units and I've got orders for 650 more," says LeRoy Gemar, Great Falls, Mont., about his new seed shaft monitor that tells you at a glance whether the shaft is turning.

"After more than 40 years of staring at sets of 48 and 62-ft. wide grain drills, I finally decided to come up with a cheap and easy way to monitor them. This monitor works great, it's easy to install and there's nothing to go wrong with it," says Gemar, who's lining up dealers throughout the country for his monitor, including some of the largest Deere and Case/IH dealers in his area.



Cutaway table model shows how shaft monitor attaches to drive shaft.

The monitor consists of a 3/4-in. metal pipe with an amber reflector at the end. A cam clamps onto the square shaft that drives the seed cups. As it rotates, it moves the pipe and reflector up and down. "You can see the reflector even through the thickest dust and, if you're working at night, it reflects off tractor lights," says Gemar, noting that you need one unit for each drive shaft. Only one 5/16-in. hole is required for each unit. On some models, an existing hole may be used.

Sells for $28.50.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, LeRoy H. Gemar, Brady, Mont. 59416 (ph 406 627-2454 or 452-7209).

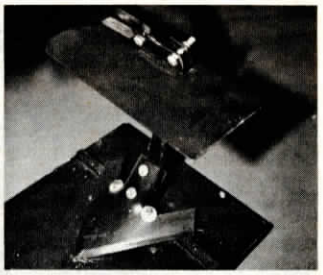
KEEPS DIRT OFF PLANTS

Crop Shield For Cultivators

A simple new attachment for cultivator shanks saves nearly 10% of the crop in an average field of corn or soybeans, according to the Iowa farmer who came up with new Crop Shields.

Gene Mortvedt, who farms near Story City, says dirt, mud and slabs of ground thrown up by the rear cultivator shanks bury enough plants to reduce a stand of 27,000 plants per acre to 24,000 plants per acre in an average field, especially in compacted soil that comes up in slabs. His new attachment consists simply of a 5 by 12-in. metal plate mounted horizontal to the ground about 11 in. above the shovel. When the cultivator is in the ground, the plate is about 8 in. above the surface. As slabs and chunks of dirt come up off the shovel, they hit the plate and fall back to the ground between rows.

Crop Shields attach to the shank with two bolts. Mortveldt says he's never had plugging problems with the shields attached. They can easily be removed in minutes and sell for $6.95 apiece.



Mortvedt's crop shield attaches to shank about 11 in. above the ground.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gene Mortvedt, Kemco, Story City, Iowa 50248 (ph 515 733-2009).

Tillage tools attach directly to the 110 hp. turbo-charged tow behind "Yoke" power unit which lets a small to medium-sized tractor do the work of a big 4-WD.

SELF-PROPELLED 110 HP. TOOL CARRIER

Add-On "Yoke" Boosts Tractor Pulling Power

Small to medium-size tractors can pull even the biggest tillage equipment with the help of a new self-propelled tow-behind power "yoke" developed in England.

The 110-hp. turbocharged power unit can turn a 90-hp. 2-WD tractor into a 200 hp. 4-WD articulated drive power unit. The power Yoke, as it's called, lets farmers use the biggest tillage equipment but still keep their small to mid-sized tractors. The flexibility it provides between power units and tillage tools makes the combination more valuable than a single, high-horsepower tractor, according to the designers.

The add-on unit is fully automatic thanks to a hydrostatic transmission and sensing equipment that ensures that it'll exactly match the forward speed of the towing tractor. It mounts on the lead tractor's 3-pt. hitch. All three link arms connect at the same level on the unit's heavy-duty drawbar which allows the Yoke to pivot freely. Check chains keep the Yoke from "sliding wide" on turns. A pivot point located halfway between the tractor and the Yoke drive wheels allows the unit to articulate as needed on corners so there's no need for the tractor operator to leave wider than normal headlands.

The Yoke is powered by a Caterpillar D4 engine coupled to a hydrostatic pump that feeds directly to wheel motors. An adjustable load sensor on the Yoke's drawbar monitors the work load and increases the speed of the Yoke engine to match the power requirement of the implement while at the same time adapting to the tractor.

Yoke Traction, the manufacturer, also plans to offer a conversion package that will turn the yoke into a self-propelled power unit as necessary. It includes a cab and castor wheel. The self-propelled Yoke could be used to power a baler, swather, forage harvester or other equipment. Then it could be quicikly converted back for use behind a tractor.

The Yoke is scheduled to go into full production this year. It sells for around $27,000.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Yoke Traction, Bythorn, Cambridgeshire, England.

Story and photos reprinted courtesy Power Farming Magazine.