



Mike Bauer rebuilt this 40-year-old, 6-row 400 IH Cyclo corn planter, replacing the dry fertilizer tanks with 2 fiberglass tanks that hold 125 gal. each.



He reinforced the planter's rockshaft and added a second set of wheels to support the added weight of liquid fertilizer.

Rebuilt 40-Year-Old Planter Works Better Than New

Mike Bauer has been rebuilding machinery for more than 50 years. He hates buying new equipment, instead opting to repair, refurbish or rebuild older equipment. "Everything I farm with someone else gave up on," Bauer says. "Tractors, combines, wagons, corn planters, disks and diggers...that about covers my full line of machinery."

His 40-year-old rebuilt corn planter is a prime example of innovative ideas and precise workmanship tackling rusted old iron. "When I bought the original 6-row 400 Cyclo planter for \$300, it looked like it had planted half of Iowa and never seen a shed," says Bauer. "The paint was faded, the air chamber was rusted, the fan didn't work, the seed supply lines were all broken and the row units looked like they'd been planting on gravel roads." It looked like it was ready for the scrap heap, but Bauer saw opportunity.

He stripped the Cyclo unit, cleaned up the rust, and repaired the fan unit. The planter was set up for dry fertilizer, but he wanted liquid, so he pulled the dry tanks and replaced them with 2 fiberglass tanks that hold 125 gal. each. Supporting them is a rugged cradle frame that Bauer made out of tube steel.

The markers were bent and broken so he replaced the old chain-type lift with dual acting hydraulic cylinders. In the up position, the markers are held against a metal plate cushioned by the spring from an old Farmall tractor seat.

Bauer reinforced the cracked rockshaft in two places and added a second set of wheels to support the added weight of liquid fertilizer. He built a chain drive for the second wheel on the left side to provide additional support for the drive system. The duals provide extra flotation in some of his high organic peat ground.

"What I'm most proud of on this planter are the seeding system, the platforms and the accuracy of how it plants," says Bauer. Two pieces of ribbed stainless steel are mounted on top of the frame on both sides of the seed box. They provide a solid platform to stand and dump seed bags into the hopper. Bauer rebuilt the seed distribution chamber so it's more accurate than most modern planters.

"The old tubes were too small," says Bauer, "so I replaced them with larger ones. With the larger tubes I can always use large round seed that flows through the tube very

easily. The accuracy and singulation I get with this system has been equal to or better than my neighbor who's got one of those new precision planters that cost more than \$100,000." Bauer figures he probably spent less than \$1,000 to rebuild and reconfigure

the old 400 Cyclo.

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"No Crow" Collars Keep Roosters Quiet

Lauren Taylor wanted to keep a rooster in her urban backyard, but she worried about bothering her neighbors. So she figured out a way to let her rooster crow more quietly. When she mentioned her success on Facebook, her chicken-keeping friends wanted one of her homemade "no crow" collars and a new business was born.

"I made my first one in September of 2013, and I've sold thousands since," says Taylor. "I think they've gone to every state but Hawaii and Alaska, most of the provinces in Canada, as well as Europe and Asia. Some of our first customers were in Australia."

Taylor emphasizes the humane nature of the collars. "They don't deny the rooster the act of crowing, and roosters with the collars are still satisfied," says Taylor. "It allows the neck to fully flex in every direction."

To make her first one, Taylor did a lot of research on how a rooster crows. She found the rooster has air sacs, which they inflate along with their lungs, expelling all the air at once at the end of the crow.

The collar simply doesn't allow the bird to expand its neck as far. This has the effect of lowering the volume of the crow.

She notes that the humane nature of the collar is important for people who keep roosters as pets. She tells about a man living in a high rise in South Korea. He ordered one for his rooster, who he describes as his best friend. He said his neighbors were complaining, and he didn't want to part with it.



Collar keeps rooster from expanding its neck, which lowers the volume when rooster crows.

Although her first collars were handmade with Velcro closures glued to fabric, demand outstripped her ability to supply collars. She quickly switched to a Michigan company that machine sews the collars.

The No Crow Rooster Collars are only available on the internet. They are currently priced at \$17.95. They come in 5 different sizes - 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 in. To pick the right size, measure the lower portion of the rooster's neck circumference and add at least 1 1/2 in. for overlap.

Check out a video of the No Crow Rooster Collar at FarmShow.com.

Contact: FARMSHOWFollowup, No Crow Rooster Collars (www.nocrowroostercollars.com).

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