



Reuben Zimmerman buys used New Idea corn pickers from farmers and rebuilds them, converting wide row models to narrow row.



Zimmerman sometimes buys pickers just for the parts. And if he needs parts that aren't available, he builds his own.

Corn Picker Expert Rebuilds Machines, Sells Parts

Even in this age of high-tech farms and big, expensive combines, there are still some farmers harvesting with ear corn pickers.

But finding machines in good condition can be a problem. New Idea, the biggest manufacturer of ear corn pickers, stopped building units in the late 1970's. No manufacturer makes a new corn picker and most used pickers are set up for 40-in. rows. Finding a narrower machine to match today's row spacings isn't easy.

Reuben Zimmerman, Barnett, Mo., saw the market for rebuilt corn pickers and parts about 15 years ago so he started a business called "Picker Paradise LLC". He buys used New Idea corn pickers from farmers across the U.S. and rebuilds them, converting wide row models to narrow row. If he needs parts

that aren't available, he builds his own. "While I have a good inventory on hand of pickers and used parts, I'm always looking for good pickers to buy," he says.

When Zimmerman first got started, he had to figure out how to convert a wide row model to narrow. "It's quite an involved process. Halfway through my first one I wasn't sure if I'd ever get it finished, but it turned out good," he says.

Finding replacement parts for corn pickers is getting to be a problem, he says. "A lot of parts aren't available through New Idea any more, which is why I started manufacturing hard-to-find parts."

One of the most popular parts that he builds are rubber paddle wheels, which replace the original rubber finger wheels

on the picker's husking unit. "The original rubber finger wheels get brittle and break off, and they're very expensive to replace. My replacement paddle wheels sell for only about one fourth as much as the finger wheels."

"Ear corn picking is making a comeback in some areas and people are realizing if they have a chance to buy a good picker they had better latch onto it as nice ones are getting harder to find," says Zimmerman. He has sold pickers to customers from Texas to Pennsylvania. Most narrow row models sell for \$3,000 to \$4,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Picker Paradise LLC, Reuben Zimmerman, 64757 Hwy. C, Barnett, Mo. 65011 (ph 573 378-4172).

Reader Inquiry No. 20

ATV-Pulled Chisel Plow

"There's nothing else on the market like it," says Kunz Engineering about the company's new ATV-pulled chisel plow.

"It can dig up to 6 in. deep, even in hard ground. It's very aggressive," says Kunz.

The Till-Ease is a 43-in. wide chisel plow/field cultivator designed to be pulled behind any 4-WD ATV, UTV (utility vehicle) or other small towing vehicle. It has a row of 13 1/2-in. dia. coulters on front and five rigid shanks on back arranged in a V-shaped pattern. The shanks slip into a

receiver tube and can be quickly removed by simply removing a pin. The shanks can be equipped with either chisel points or 9-in. wide sweeps. An optional drag harrow for final seedbed preparation pins into receivers on back of the tool's frame.

The implement is raised and lowered by an electric-operated, linear screw actuator.

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Reader Inquiry No. 21

AcrEase Mowers

"The AcrEase Mowers are available in both rough cut and finish cut styles. So whether you have a neglected pasture, narrow trail, or a yard like a golf course, the AcrEase can meet the challenge. They are also capable of being pulled directly behind or fully offset to the left or right," says Matt Kunz of Kunz Engineering.

The AcrEase Finish Cut models can be attached to the side of riding mowers, zero turn mowers and small tractors to add on additional cutting width and drastically reduce mowing time. The AcrEase can also be pulled individually or in tandem

behind ATVs and utility vehicles. The heavy duty, high capacity 40" and 60" models come with electric start engines ranging from 10.5-23 hp. Both commercial and noncommercial grade engines are available. The AcrEase Finish Cut mowers are extremely maneuverable, easy to pull and stable on steep banks. They are also capable of mowing at today's standards in high speed mowing.



www.KunzEng.com ph 815 539-6954

Reader Inquiry No. 22