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## “Sealer Shields” For Side Dressing Nitrogen Applicators

A new “sealer shield” designed for most nitrogen side dressing applicators lets you apply nitrogen to small corn plants at fast speeds, without covering them up.

The sealer shield consists of a pair of offset coulters that gather soil that's disturbed by the knife or the pressure injector coulters. As the applicator is pulled through the field, the soil is collected and redirected to cover the nitrogen so none of it will be lost due to denitrification.

The coulters can be easily adjusted for height and width, depending on the applicator's speed. The system can be used

on rows from 20 to 30 in. wide and even on twin rows. It can be used on most anhydrous and liquid applicators used for side dressing.

“The paired coulters deflect soil as it comes up the face of the knife, and force it back down onto the slot left by the knife so that neither liquid nitrogen nor anhydrous ammonia can escape. It virtually prevents exposure of nitrogen to sunlight and air,” says John Miller, Nitrogen Sealing Systems, Catlin, Ill. “We've offered side dressing shields for ammonia applicators for several years, but this is our first shield for 28 percent liquid nitrogen applicators.”

The company has been involved in a 2-year testing program with Becks Hybrid Seed Co. to analyze the return on investment when using the sealer shields with 28 percent liquid nitrogen. The testing and results were provided by Jason Webster at the Practical Farm Research Center near Downs, Ill.

“After 350 acres of side by side checks, the rows where the sealers were used averaged almost 2 1/2 bu. higher yields,” says Miller. “With \$4 per bu. corn, farmers growing 1,000 acres of corn could net \$10,000 more income.”

Miller currently offers closers for Fast,

Ag Systems, Blu-Jet, Schaben, Case, Nutra Placer, Clymer, DMI C shanks, Yetter coulters units, and Yetter NH3 Magnum units.

Two different models are available. One is designed for Fast and DMI-type applicators and sells for \$235 per row plus S&H. The other model is designed for high clearance applicators and sells for \$285 per row plus S&H.

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Originally developed for post and rail fences, easy-to-install post bracket is now available for building dimensional lumber fences.

## Brackets Help Make Fencing Easy

The same easy-to-install and tough fence bracket design that two semi-retired “farm boys from Oregon” developed for post and rail fences is now available for dimensional lumber fences. Sales have increased and expanded throughout the U.S., says Tom Sawtell, since the FARM SHOW article (Vol. 34, No. 6) was published about the Ram Tough post bracket he designed with Jerry Ryser.

“We had the lumber bracket in mind right from the beginning,” Sawtell says. They recently made the investment to manufacture it.

Like the original round post brackets, the lumber brackets are made of 16-ga. steel and powder-coated to stand up to weather and the corrosive nature of treated wood.

The 4 3/4 by 6 1/2-in. plates mount onto the upright posts with two screws. Though 2 by 6 boards are most common, the bracket can hold other widths. Two of the plate's six holes are inset so that the bracket can be screwed to 4 by 4 posts, though 6 by 6 posts are standard. Sawtell recommends using 3-in. pan head screws that won't scratch anything that rubs against the board. Customers purchase the brackets for everything from horse arenas to house decks to pasture fences.

“The bracket is only needed where the lumber is spliced,” Sawtell points out. So they are only installed on every other post on a fence with posts 8 ft. apart using 16-ft. boards, for example.



Bracket is made from 16-ga. steel and mounts onto upright posts with 2 screws.

The bracket covers the splice where the boards meet, which leaves a nice finished look. Plus there are notches in the center at the top and bottom of the bracket to line up the boards and to allow rain to run through.

Retail cost (at stores listed on the Ram Tough website) is about \$3/bracket. Brackets can also be purchased from the website starting at \$125 for 50 brackets (for lumber or round posts). Discounts are given for large quantity orders.

Sawtell adds that customers have found other uses for the post brackets including H-bracing and reusing tendon rails after the tendons rot off.

Check out the website's video for details about how to install the brackets.

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## Find Tractor Info Fast With This Smart Phone App

If the Guinness Book of World Records handed out awards for the most knowledgeable young female tractor enthusiast, Rachel Gingell would be the likely recipient. “I've loved tractors ever since I was very young, and I've spent the past 10 years learning more and more about how they work and what they're worth,” Gingell says.

Rachel has parlayed that desire for knowledge into an entrepreneurial career that includes developing a smart phone app called Tractor Guide. Gingell says the app allows users to quickly discover the year older tractors were manufactured. They do so by entering the model and serial number of the tractor in the app on their iPhone or iPad. The app soon shows when that tractor was built. The app is available for just 99 cents from the Apple Store online. A version for Android phones will be available in 2015.

Gingell says the idea for the app came to her while she was attending a farm auction on a bitterly cold day. “I was fumbling through a tractor price guidebook with gloves on and said to myself, ‘there has to be a better way.’ I put together the outline for the app, worked with a designer for layout and a developer to program it.” Now anyone can find the manufactured dates on 12 major tractor brands and 10 lesser brands on their phone. The app is getting good reviews and she's encouraged by its success.

Rachel is no stranger to tractors, tractor mechanical issues and tractor restoration. At a young age she'd help her dad at his equipment dealership. In junior high, she told her dad she'd used her last \$25 in savings to buy half ownership in an old Allis Chalmers tractor. She and her dad worked more than 2 hrs. to load the unresponsive relic with the loader locked to the ground. The owner saw how hard they were working and told Rachel “you can just have it for getting it out of my



Rachel Gingell's smart phone app allows users to quickly look up the date a tractor was manufactured.

shed.” Gingell eventually sold the rig for \$650. She kept her end of the bargain by paying her dad \$25 for hauling the tractor home.

Gingell's skills go far beyond phone app development. At age 16, she graduated from auctioneer school and also attended college. She has a website for fundraising auctions called “She Sold It” that's doing well. In her spare time she restores old tractors, writes a tractor repair blog, and does videos on tractor repairs. She learned that skill while working with her father, Dan, who's made tractor repair videos for several years. Over the years Gingell and her dad have sold hundreds of tractors online because of short videos they do on tractors for sale.

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