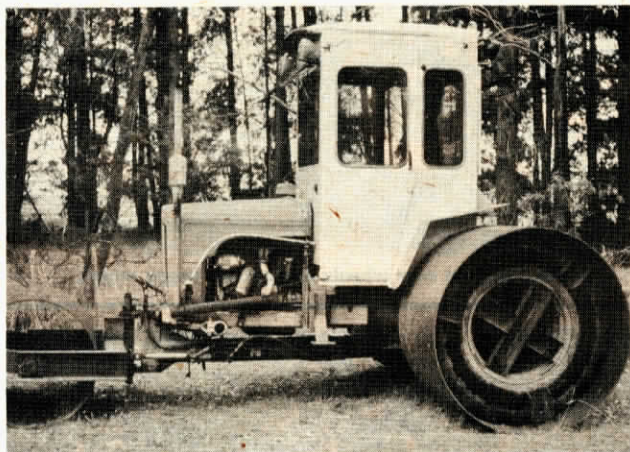


"Best Ideas" Born In Australian Farm Workshops



Rock Presser, Land Roller

"It's great for pressing rocks into the ground, and as a land roller-packer for newly seeded pastures and other crops," says John Cameron, of Meridith, Vict., who with his son Andrew equipped an older tractor with giant roller rings.

Rings mounted over the rear wheels of the 1965 model Fiat are 3-ft. wide and 4-ft. in dia. "We had them custom-rolled in a local shop. We deflate the tire, slip on the ring, then blow up the tire which fits tight against the rim to hold it in place," explains John. "The tire acts as a

shock absorber when the ring goes over large rocks or other obstructions. Rocks up to the size of a brick are pressed completely into the ground."

The front ring is 3-ft. in dia. and 3-ft. wide. On each pass, the rig covers a 9-ft. swath. Field speed is right at 6 mph.

Hydraulic cylinders on each side of the hinged front ring do the steering. The Camerons "beefed up" the tractor's frame with a heavy support beam which runs full length from front to rear.



Fence Made From Old Car Tires

Rancher Rob Bucknell, of Richmond, Qld., used old car tires to build a low-cost, virtually indestructible fence around his cattle yard.

He got the used tires free from local garages and filling stations and used native timber for the posts and top rail. His only out-of-pocket cost was for the smooth No. 9 wire that ties the tires together.

Each panel consists of a top rail and two rows of tires (5 per

row) suspended between the top rail and a bottom horizontal wire on which the bottom row of tires rests. The tires are wired to the bottom wire, top rail and to each other.

Animals will occasionally stick their heads through the tires to eat grass on the outside. But, no matter how hard they push against the fence, it won't break and bounces right back into alignment, Bucknell points out.

Steel Post Straightener

The high cost of new steel posts prompted Simon Joice to create a simple straightener jig that, in a matter of seconds, allows you to make bent or twisted tee-posts "good as new."

Simon manufacturers a twin-jig unit that handles steel tee-posts of all sizes and angles. It sells for \$32 and easily mounts in a bench vice, or on the front or rear bumper of your pickup.

To align twisted posts, you simply slip them in the jig, then turn them with a pipe wrench. Bends can be straightened manually by letting the jig hold the post while you push, pull or lift it into alignment.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sherwood Co., c/o Simon Joice, Jumping Rock, Bundanoon, NSW 2578, Australia.



New Approach To Minimum Tillage

Latest new approach to minimum tillage of small grains and other crops is the Conservatill, a prize winning "Best of the Show" invention born in Adrian Dick's farm workshop.

Large 42-in. dia. rotors, each equipped with three gooseneck-type shovels, are spaced 6 in. apart. The pto-driven rotors, turning opposite the direction of travel at 100 to 150 rpm's, slice through undisturbed stubble to prepare a narrow strip seedbed for each row.

"Only 20% of the soil is used to make a seedbed," explains Adrian. "The Conservatill will plant small grain, sunflowers, pastures and other crops without any prior tillage, regardless how heavy the cover of stubble, straw or other heavy residue. Because only a small percentage of the soil is tilled, the horsepower requirement is only 3-hp. per foot of drill width. Tilling, seeding and fertilizing is all done in one pass. It all adds up to a tremendous cost savings," Adrian told FARM SHOW. The system also offers tremendous erosion control. Another key advantage is that fields can be grazed after planting until the new crop emerges. The machine will also mulch stubble.

"Rectangular-shaped metal runners between the individual row rotors hold soil and stubble down to keep the seedbed strips clean and free of trash. Consequently, there's no problem with nitrogen lockup, as often



happens with other minimum till systems," explains Adrian.

Farmer, dealer and manufacturer inquiries welcome. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Adrian Dick, P.O. Box 244, Echuca, Vict. 3625, Australia.