



Field Cultivator "Grain Drill"

A 12-ft. long granular herbicide hopper mounted on his 3-pt. field cultivator lets Robert Dickerson, Oxford, N.C., till and plant wheat, soybeans, milo, oats, barley, and other crops in one pass, as well as apply granular fertilizer.

Dickerson mounted the Gandy ground-driven granular herbicide hopper on top of his 12 1/2-ft. Unverferth field cultivator. Seed simply falls down through the field cultivator to the soil where it's covered by the cultivator's tines and rolling baskets.

"It does a great job," says Dickerson, who used the combination tool last year to plant 75 acres of wheat and 40 acres of soybeans. "I use a disk or chisel plow to do my main tillage before I use the field cultivator. It leaves the soil loose and in good shape. I've also used it to plant a mixture of fescue and wheat for seeding grass waterways. It does a fantastic job. It also works great for applying granular fertilizer.

"I had been seeding wheat with a 3-pt. spinner spreader, then using a disk or field cultivator to work it in. However, the spreader distributed seed unevenly which resulted in a lot of waste. I used a grain drill to plant soybeans, but it wore out and I didn't want to spend the money for a new one. I bought the used herbicide hopper for \$10. The hopper is 6 in. shorter than the field cultivator so I have to overlap 1 ft. The biggest disadvantage is that the hopper holds only 4 bu. so I have to stop and refill often."

The hopper was originally designed to mount on top of a disk. Dickerson used a pair of 3-in. dia. steel pipes to mount the hopper on the frame of the cultivator. A 3/4-in. diagonal brace runs up to each mounting pipe. The cultivator frame was equipped with a pair of front-mounted



gauge wheels. Dickerson mounted the hopper's ground drive wheel on top of one gauge wheel and used a pair of chains to drive the hopper's hex shaft. "The gauge wheels weren't built strong enough to support the added weight of the hopper. I removed the remaining gauge wheel and use the 3-pt. to keep the cultivator at the right depth," says Dickerson.

The hopper's hex shaft was equipped with paddles designed for granular herbicides. Dickerson removed the paddles and welded a pair of 1-in. dia. hex taps side by side in their place. "The hex taps do a better job than the washers of keeping seed from leaking out when I turn at the end of the field," says Dickerson. "Gandy offers seed paddles for the shaft, but they cost \$200."

Dickerson says he may beef up the cultivator frame and mount two hoppers on the cultivator so he can apply fertilizer and seed at the same time.

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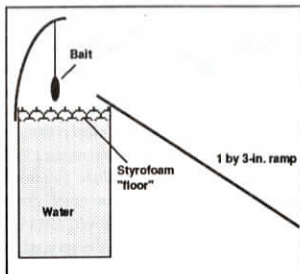
"Always Working"

Mousetrap

"I catch one mouse after another in this trap," says Lloyd Twite, Carpio, N.Dak., who "fools" mice by making a "false floor" on top of a pail of water and tempting them to walk on it.

He simply floats styrofoam granules on top of a pail of water - you can break up a sheet of insulation or use packing "peanuts" - and hanging a piece of bait by a string over it. Then he runs a 1 by 3-in. board from the top edge of the pail to the ground to act as a ramp.

"The pellets float on top of the water and look like a solid floor. It fools the mice so when they jump down for the bait they fall through and drown. They're



never able to get at the bait so the trap just keeps working, one after another," says Twite.

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Front-End Loader Bale Unroller

When Dave and Darryl Rachar, Erskine, Alberta, started feeding round bales to cattle, they got frustrated with the problems of unrolling bales for feeding.

They say they found the ideal solution with an unroller that attaches to the grapple fork on a front end loader. The 8-in. dia. heavy steel roller has sealed bearings on either end. The roller mounts on support arms that attach to the top of the grapple fork.

To unroll a bale, you simply close the grapple fork and tilt the bucket straight down and push the roller against the bale. The roller spins freely, nudging even the most settled bales easily along the ground.

Activating the grapple fork hydraulic cylinders makes it easy to move bales along that have a flat side.

The biggest advantage of mounting the roller on the grapple fork is that you can use the grapple loader to move bales around and then use the roller to unroll them. Because the unroller mounts on top of the grapple fork, it doesn't get in the way of normal operation of the grapple.

The Rachar's have started custom building the unroller.

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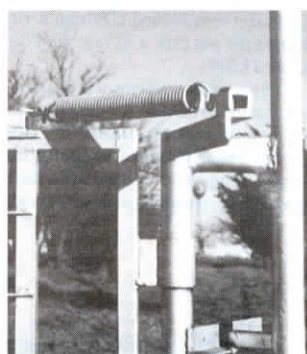
Automatic Spring-Loaded Gate

"I made an automatic spring-loaded gate for less than \$150 that lets me check cattle without ever leaving my pickup," says Dan Peterson, Burdick, Kan.

Peterson built the gate from wire cattle panels attached to a frame made out of 2-in. sq. tubing. A 14-in. long spring mounts at the top of the gate panel over the hinge. A gentle nudge with the pickup's grill guard overcenters the spring, snapping the gate open. To close the gate, Peterson simply reaches out the window to pull a rope that overcenters the spring again, shutting the gate.

"It saves a lot of time and effort. I have cattle in eight different pastures and there's an automatic gate for each pasture," says Peterson. "My handicapped son also can use it while riding his four-wheeler without ever having to get off."

The gate is supported by a 10-ft. high frame built from 2-in. dia. steel pipe. A 9-ft. pole made out of 1-in. sq. tubing sticks



up from the gate about 3 ft. out from the hinge. A pull rope runs up through a pair of pulleys to the top of that gate pole. The driver pulls on the rope to shut the gate.

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