

Sign Alerts To Slow Moving Vehicle Ahead

A new warning system lets drivers know a slow moving vehicle, person or animal is just over the hill. When the solar-powered interactive sign senses anything moving past it at less than a preset speed, it will flash for 3 min. The sign warns faster drivers to slow when it is flashing.

"I have 2 of the signs on hills just north of where I live, and they have been triggered more than 2,000 times in the past 100 days," says Brad Willborn, co-founder, Slow Ride, LLC. "There are 3 Amish families and a lot of agricultural traffic on the road."

The idea for the warning sign came when a family friend driving a tractor was killed. A semi driver in his lane had come over a hill and struck him.

"I drove back and forth on the road trying to think of a way to make it safer," recalls Willborn. "I got the idea of the sign and told my friend Ole Olson. He is an engineer and had a working prototype 30 days later. We formed the company and started gathering data."

Before production on the initial design had even started, Willborn and Olson were asked to come up with variations on the concept. When presenting the idea at a county safety meeting, 2 members of the Wisconsin Highway Patrol made a request.

"They wanted to warn people about blind intersections over a hill," says Olson. "While static signs can be posted, nothing alerts you that something or someone is in the intersection. They gave examples of postal trucks, garbage trucks or school buses stopped or pulling in or out."

The suggestion was for a sign that could be triggered with a remote by drivers as they passed. Olson and Willborn are now working on that concept, too.

A third design was requested by Organic Valley. The large cooperative was concerned about the safety of children on farms where their trucks pick up milk. Last year a 2-year-old broke free of an older brother and ran under a truck as the driver pulled away from an Amish dairy.



When solar-powered sign senses anything moving past it at less than a preset speed, it flashes for 3 min. to warn faster drivers to slow down.

"They asked for a sign that would be triggered by sensors if there was movement under or near a truck," explains Olson. "The sign would warn the driver, and he could stop."

Olson and Willborn hope to have a factory in Wisconsin producing signs by this summer. Their goal is to set up a cooperative with a service group to do installations. Initial production is priced at \$1,800, but prices are expected to drop as production numbers increase.

Check out a video of Slow Ride signs at FARM SHOW.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Slow Ride, 520 Cherry Wood Dr., Oregon, Wis. 53575 (ph 608 482-0596 or 608 332-2283; brad@slowrideruralsafety.com; www.slowrideruralsafety.com).

Where To Buy A Used Center Pivot

When Buddy Jones started installing and repairing irrigation equipment in 1987, he had no idea that his family operation would eventually employ nearly 20 full-time people. Today, Buddy's son Kevin Jones heads the operation that serves customers in several states. They sell and install used center pivots and other irrigation equipment, as well as new systems. Jones says they do the installation work for customers within a 75-mile radius of their office and ship equipment to customers in other states and even overseas.

"We learned several years ago that farmers can't always afford the newest and best products out there, but they still need equipment, so that realization put us in the used market," says Kevin. "We acquire good used equipment from farmers who are retiring or who trade it in. We're also in an area where pivots are being removed as farmers receive assistance with flood irrigation. That gives us an always-changing inventory."

Jones Irrigation offers and prices its used equipment based on the system size, number of towers, year it was built, the model number, and how many hours it has been operated. "Systems from around here are in excellent shape because the water doesn't cause pitting or decay the pipeline. The



Jones Irrigation sells and installs new or used center pivots and other irrigation equipment.

reddish color on the pipes is easily removed by cleaning and systems that are 20 to 30 years old have good integrity and operate good as new."

Jones Irrigation provides service for all brands of pivots. The company also does electric conversions, installs and repairs meter loops and pump panels, installs VHS motors, locates and repairs ground faults, installs and repairs underground pipe and fittings, along with wiring and trenching.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jones Irrigation, 5280 W. State Hwy. 18, Leachville, Ark. 72438 (ph 870 539-1166; www.jonesirrigation.com).



Goodyear's Titan super wide tires are designed for high horsepower, 4-WD tractors. Better traction, less compaction, easier turning and a super smooth ride are promised.

Super Wide Tire Can Replace Duals

Get better traction, less compaction, easier turning and a super smooth ride when you swap out big duals for extra wide, Goodyear LW1400/30R46 tires. The industry's widest tires with matching rims from Titan Tire were previewed at farm shows this past year. The company is taking orders and planning for delivery.

"These are the next step in extreme flotation tires with low sidewall technology," says Scott Sloan, agriculture products manager, Titan Tire.

He notes that the new tires are designed for high horsepower, 4-WD tractors. "There are a lot of applications where row-crop duals can be replaced by a single tire," says Sloan. "They eliminate the pinch-row compaction and rutting between tires that can hurt yields."

In side-by-side trials the singles netted an additional 5 bu. of corn and 2 1/2 bu. of beans per acre over duals on big 4-WD row-crop tractors.

Sloan reports similar results whether soils at planting were dry in Illinois or wet in

Missouri and whether the tires rolled over the seedbed or not. "If a grower isn't running between rows post-emergence, there's really no reason to be running duals," says Sloan. "In Missouri, we could see ruts throughout the growing season where duals went. After the first rain we couldn't even see where the singles had gone."

Wheel and tire assemblies are list priced at \$10,700 each. However, Sloan notes that dealers won't pay that, and he doesn't expect farmers will either. "I expect an assembly will sell for \$7,000 to \$9,000," says Sloan. "Compare that with paying \$60,000 for a set of tracks with less versatility and compaction under the bogeys in wetter conditions. You'll get into fields a week or so sooner without getting stuck and without the compaction of tracks."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Titan International, 2345 E. Market St., Des Moines, Iowa 50317 (ph 800 872-2327; www.titan-intl.com/agriculture).

Crank Top-Wind Jacks With Your Impact Wrench

You can eliminate manual cranking of almost any top-wind jack by replacing the handle with this new accessory that's designed to accept a 1/2-in. impact wrench and socket.

The ImpactApp was invented by Ralph Deshetsky of North Branch, Mich., and is now on the market. It's made from cold-rolled steel and is zinc-plated. To install, just remove the crank handle and the 1/4-in. bolt and nut from the jack's shaft, then place the ImpactApp on the shaft and bolt it on using a pair of holes provided.

"Almost no effort is required," says Deshetsky. "It takes an average of only 20 sec. to travel the stroke of the jack. It's compatible with most all top-wind jacks and works great on everything from round balers to disks, hay rakes, and chisel plows as well as horse, snowmobile and camping trailers."

Two ImpactApp models are available depending on the jack's shank diameter. The App1 has a 1/2-in. hole lengthwise, and the App2 has a 5/8-in. hole lengthwise. Both have a 1/4-in. cross hole.

A package of 2 ImpactApps sells for \$15 including S&H. "If you only need one, give the other one away and gain a lifetime friend," says Deshetsky.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Orr Lumber, P.O. Box 338, North Branch, Mich. 48461 (ph 810 688-3171; fax 810 688-2480; lumbershop@netzero.net).



ImpactApp lets you use an impact wrench and socket to crank almost any top-wind jack. It bolts onto jack's shaft.