



Last fall Drago Indiana mounted a Horsch 80-bu. seeder behind this Claas combine. Seeder's air delivery system spreads cover crop seeds under combine's 12-row header.



Seed is delivered through a large hose to a manifold behind header, which distributes it through small hoses under each snout.

## They're Seeding Cover Crops While Combining

Why wait to seed cover crops post harvest when you can seed and combine at the same time? Drago Indiana mounted a Horsch Partner 80-bushel seeder on the back of a Claas 750 Lexion combine in 2016. The air delivery system spread cover crop seeds under the 12-row Drago header as corn was harvested.

"I harvested about 3,000 acres with the combine/seeder system this past fall," says Brent Michael, farm manager at Drago Indiana. "We compared the results side-by-side with drilled cover crops a few days later. The emerging crop showed up better from seeding with the combine."

Michael especially likes the Horsch bulk hopper's capacity. "I refilled it twice a day," he says. "It only took about 20 min."

The on-farm trial is not unusual for the company, which is a farmer-owned dealership for Drago and Horsch products. Windy Lane Farms, the farm side of the business, has been using cover crops for the past 8 years.

"I got tired of crossing every acre twice in the fall," says Michael. "If we have a wet fall, we may need to wait an extra 2 to 3 weeks to seed. Now when we finish harvest, we're finished seeding, too."

The Horsch Partner was mounted on a

specially fabricated frame tied into the rear of the combine. A large hose carries the cover crop seed forward to a manifold behind the corn head. From there it is distributed to small hoses that go forward under each snout.

"We blow the seed in before the rolls get to the stalks," says Michael. "As the crop is processed, the crop residue falls over the top of the seed providing a moisture conserving mulch."

The Horsch seeder has a split tank, which Michael points out would allow the use of 2 different cover crops or 2 different mixes. In Germany, it is normally used for fertilizer application.

"It eliminated fuel and labor costs as well as wear on equipment from a second pass across the field," says Michael. "In a normal year, that runs \$15 an acre. At that rate, the combine/seeder system will pay for itself quickly."

Michael estimates the cost of the Horsch Partner plus installation at around \$45,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Drago Indiana, 6147 N County Rd. 500 W, Mulberry, Ind. 46058 (ph 765 652-2121; brentamichael@gmail.com; www.dragoindiana.com).

## Powered Wheelbarrow Built From Riding Mower

"My power wheelbarrow is a hoot to drive," says Robert Gunter. "It takes the work out of work a little bit."

The Conowingo, Md., construction worker converted an old Scotts riding mower to make the motorized wheelbarrow in 2010 when he needed to move mulch without tearing up a yard.

The mower's simple design made the conversion relatively simple, Gunter says. He removed unnecessary parts, then unbolted the engine on the front plate and moved it near the steering wheel, setting it sideways so the exhaust is on the side.

"One important thing is that the tractor is hydrostatic so there was no clutch to deal with," Gunter notes. "It runs with just one lever—forward, back and central for neutral."

One challenge was hooking up the drive belt by adjusting the tensioner, adding a stiffer spring, and getting a shorter belt to fit.

For steering, Gunter made his own U-joint with a piece of 3/4-in. round stock, offset cross-drilled holes, and yokes on both sides made of 1/8-in. and 3/4-in flat stock. He included grease fittings to prevent it from wearing out. He added a bike cable for braking.

Gunter removed an 8 cu. ft. plastic tub from

an old wheelbarrow and bolted it to the front on angle iron with support brackets and round stock with grease fittings to create a hinge.

To operate it, Gunter stands on a back platform of welded rebar and steel. He loads the tub, drives away, then manually lifts the back of the tub to dump it.

Gunter spent about 40 hrs. building the power wheelbarrow and has used it often for work along with his mini excavator in tight spaces where he doesn't want to tear up the ground.

"It does well in the mud and even works well on slopes," he says.

The powered wheelbarrow is fast, useful and fun, Gunter says. For anyone considering making one he offers two suggestions. To keep it simple, use a hydrostatic tractor, and pay attention to center of gravity and weight distribution.

Check out a video Gunter and his powered wheelbarrow in action at FARM SHOW.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Gunter, 75 Topeka Rd., Conowingo, Md. 21918 (410-658-5544; digndirt@zoominternet.net).



Robert Gunter converted an old Scotts riding mower into this powered wheelbarrow. "It does well in mud and even works good on slopes," he says.



He adjusted the tensioner to hook up the drive belt, adding a stiffer spring and a shorter belt to fit.



Gunter bolted the plastic tub from an old wheelbarrow to metal brackets on front of mower frame, adding a hinge. Photo at right shows mower before conversion.

## How To Reach Us

To submit a "Made It Myself" Story Idea, New Product, Shop Tip, "Best or Worst Buy", or other information, send a note along with photos, drawings and literature, if available. We'll get back to you later if we need more details. Send to: Editor, FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665; fax 952 469-5575); email: editor@farmshow.com. You can also submit information at our website: www.farmshow.com.

To change your address, renew your subscription, take out a new subscription, order videos or books, or for other information regarding your subscription, contact: Circulation Department, FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665; fax 952 469-5575; email: circulation@farmshow.com).