



Injector knives can be mounted on the Ridge Rider attachment for injecting fertilizer or anhydrous.

### FRONT-MOUNTED "RIDGE RIDER" PREPARES SEEDBED FOR PLANTING

## Ridge Plant With Your Planter

The new front-mounted "Ridge Rider" from Orthman Mfg., Lexington, Neb., lets you use your conventional pull-type or mounted planter — without adding any attachments to it — to ridge plant corn, soybeans or other row crops.

The Ridge Rider mounts on Orthman's front mounted, Cat. II, 3-pt. Ram Hitch. The hitch fits on most late model 80 hp. and larger 2-WD Deere, International and Case tractors.

The Ridge Rider features an optional automatic guidance system

that follows last year's furrow and actually steers the tractor through the field.

"The unit will work without the guidance system," says Bill Orthman, president of the company, "and because it's out front, it is prob-

ably easier to control than rear mount units. However, the one thing missing in all other ridging systems is precise control.

"If the farmer had done a good job of maintaining his ridges, the Tracker will absolutely keep the Ridge Rider centered on the ridge. In addition, it eliminates the steering responsibility of the tractor operator."

The guidance system consists of 2 guiding discs that follow the old furrow and electro-hydraulically control the two, 27 in. dia. steering coulters that steer the Ridge Rider, keeping it centered on the old crop ridge.

"The main difference between our ridge unit and the others on the market, is that by being out front we can use the size tools that are needed in a trash situation," says Orthman.

The unit's 24 in. coulters slice the old crop's root stumps in half and are followed by a sweep that parts the residue. A set of "angled opposed" coulters follows behind the sweeps, distributing the trash into a furrow and leaving a clean seedbed that's ready for planting.

Ridge Riders are available to match 4 to 8 row planters, planting 30-40 in. rows. Larger models can be special made. The unit requires about 15 hp. per row to power.

The basic 6-row Ridge Rider lists for \$7,000, the Ram Hitch for \$2,500 and the Tracker guidance system for \$4,500. Orthman can convert the Ridge Rider to a front mount, no-till cultivator for an additional \$2,000.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Orthman Mfg., Inc., P.O. Box B, Lexington, Neb. 68850 (ph 308 324-4654).

## How About A Thatched Roof For Your Home?

"It's the most beautiful roofing material in the world — an old idea whose time for revival has finally come," says Weston Warwick, a California entrepreneur whose fledgling company, after about three years of research and development, is now ready to sell and install thatched roofs.

Although a common sight in Europe and other parts of the world, thatched roofs are virtually unknown in the U.S. and Canada where, because of fire danger, they haven't been popular. Warwick, founder of Warwick Cottage Enterprises based in Anaheim, has high hopes of cultivating a new image for thatched roofs. He imports real thatch, a water reed, and treats it with a fire retardant material in much the same way wooden shingles are treated. The treated thatch, he says, meets certification standards for fire resistance for both residential and commercial structures.

Warwick initially experimented with thatch made from plastic or fiberglass but scrapped those "substitutes" in favor of the "real thing" which, he says, is "more durable, attractive and easier to make virtually fireproof. What's more, termites and

other insects hate the stuff and want nothing to do with it. Our thatched roofs will withstand winds exceeding 100 mph and have a life span of 70 or more years," Warwick points out.

His technical director is John Cousins, a certified master thatcher in England, his native country. Cousins and his staff will install all thatching jobs sold by the company.

"Thatching is a slow, tedious process requiring the skill of experienced craftsmen," Warwick told FARM SHOW. "It's not a project for inexperienced do-it-yourselfers. A professional thatcher can do about 50 square feet of roof area per day. Because it's much more labor intensive than conventional roofs, thatched roofing costs twice as much or more. But, dollar for dollar, you get a better roof," says Warwick. "It'll last much longer, is less fire prone than most conventional home roofing materials, and the 12 in. thickness of hollow reeds makes a terrific insulation blanket which reduces heating and cooling costs.

"Another exclusive advantage of thatched roofing is the distinctive rustic charm it gives to a home or other structure," notes Warwick. "This isn't just a new business. We're



Finished thatched roofs are 12 in. thick, providing good insulation.

developing a whole new industry right from scratch."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Weston

Warwick, Warwick Cottage Enterprises, 2944 Greenhedge Ave., Anaheim, Cal. 92806 (ph 714 630-9251).

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