Here's Where To Get Parts For Older Planters

If you need parts for an older model planter and your dealer or a local salvage yard doesn't have them, chances are Kansas farmer and repairman Clem Koelzer does. Koelzer "accidently" got into the business back in 1972 when he bought a salvaged planter from a local dealer for parts.

One old planter led to another, and pretty soon he had a variety of Case IH, Deere, White and Kinze planters in his back lot. Nowadays, after nearly 45 years in the salvage business, he has people calling from all over the country for used parts.

"I've got about 5 acres of planters on hand," says Koelzer, "and we have a good supply of the most common parts pulled and in parts inventory. Most of the planters I have were built from the '60's through early 2000. I have a good selection of parts for Case IH 800 through 955 Series, for the Deere 7000 series, for White 5100's, and several models of Kinze built before 2000."

Koelzer says he hasn't gotten into newer planters because many of those are priced too high, even at auctions. Most of the older planters he acquires now are salvaged from dealers who can no longer sell them.

When Koelzer isn't answering the phone to sell parts, he and his 3 sons run their own farmland, raising stock cows.

"It has been a good business," Koelzer says, "and we'll continue as long as people keep calling and are satisfied with what we're sending them."

Koelzer says he doesn't operate a computer and prefers doing business the old fashioned way. "Word of mouth and a few small ads in some farm publications have done just fine for us in terms of advertising, so that's the way we'll continue."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Koelzer Repair, 581 KS-16, Onaga, Kansas 66521 (ph 785 857-3257).

Skid Loader Repowered With Cummins Diesel Engine

When the original engine went out on his 2012 Volvo skid loader, Melvin Zook of Kinzers, Penn., decided to repower it with an inexpensive used Cummins 4B39 diesel engine rather than rebuild the loader's original JCB diesel engine.

Zook operates an equipment repair business and occasionally uses his skid loader as a rental machine. "The Cummins diesel had less than 1,000 hrs. on it and has about the same power as the original JCB but has more torque, which comes in handy for excavation and logging work. Cummins diesel engines are known to run for a long time."

Zook made the conversion in August 2016. "I had to fabricate motor mounts for the front part of the engine since the bolt holes wouldn't line up. Everything else worked out better than I expected. The bell housing, gas line, wiring, throttle and choke cables and even the original belts matched up.

"I chose the Cummins engine because after taking measurements I knew it would fit well. It was an older 2012 model so it didn't have any common rail fuel systems on it that would have made it harder to install."

Zook says the entire job took only about 30 hrs. to complete. "I paid $2,900 for the engine. It was money well spent."

Melvin Zook repowered his 2012 Volvo skid loader with an inexpensive, used Cummins diesel. "I had to fabricate motor mounts for the engine. Everything else worked out great," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Melvin Zook, 5277 Mine Road, Kinzers, Penn. 17535 (ph 717 940-1303; mzook241a@gmail.com).

Rack Holds 3 Fuel Tanks

Iowa farmer Tim Renger says he saved a lot of space inside his "fuel shed" by building a wood rack to hold 3 big tanks. "It isn't anything fancy, but it saves floor space and keeps the tanks in a small area just inside the door on a level cement floor and out of the weather."

Renger built the rack so his 100-gal. and 250-gal. gasoline tanks would rest on a sturdy platform directly above a 500-gal. diesel tank. The rack has 4 sturdy corner posts that he made by tripling 2 by 4's. He attached 2 by 4's to the posts to hold the tanks.

Renger's setup is clean and efficient, with the pump and meter for the diesel tank located at one end of the setup and the motor, pump and meter for the gasoline mounted just behind it. Both pumps have in-line filters and hoses are held neatly on 2 special brackets (taken off an old IH combine) that keep the hoses from kinking when they're not in use.

Renger says he likes to keep things neat and the rack is a good way to minimize the amount of space needed for 3 tanks and to keep the hoses off the floor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tim Renger, 1002 390th St., Bancroft, Iowa 50517 (ph 515 320-3287).

Tim Renger saved space inside his shed by building this wood rack that holds 3 big tanks.

Pump hoses store neatly on brackets made from old combine parts.

A blower fan pulls exhaust through the pvc pipes under shop floor and expels it outside of building.

Simple System Sucks Exhaust Out Of Shop

"I installed an in-floor exhaust removal system in my farm shop that makes it easy to work on vehicles in the shop without choking to death from fumes," says Michael LeFevre, White Cloud, Mich.

"I ran a network of connected 4-in. dia. pvc pipes under the floor, with 2 ports in the floor in each of my shop's 3 work bays. They all run to an outlet in the utility room where a boiler draft fan, powered by a 1 1/2 hp. electric motor, pulls exhaust through the pipes and then pumps it outside through the wall. There's a 4-in. tee joint below the floor under the fan so any moisture drains into the sand below. The whole system is pretty much laid out like a floor drain system, which I also installed. In fact, between the exhaust and floor drain systems, I've got more than 200 ft. of 4-in. dia. pvc under the shop floor.

"There's a metal cap over each port in the floor when it's not being used. For some vehicles, where the exhaust outlet is close to the floor, I can just park over a floor port and it will suck the exhaust down without a hose. For bigger machines, we have various lengths of hose available."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Michael A. LeFevre, 6223 W 2 Mile Road, White Cloud, Mich. 49349 (ph 231 854-1446).

A metal cap is placed over each floor port when they're not being used.

Solid Outdoor "Workbench" Great For Pounding

"I've used this outdoor workbench for many years. I made it from a 3-ft. long piece of 4-ft. dia. steel pipe," says Douglas Edwards, Englehart, Ontario.

"I first put a couple inches of concrete in the bottom of it and then filled it up to about 10 in. from the top with gravel. Then I filled it up with concrete so it's level with the top. A piece of 1-in. thick steel plate with bolts welded to the underside was pushed into the wet concrete to hold it firm. I also inserted a few bars to use for bending and attached a vise to the side of the pipe.

"This circular workbench is ideal for swinging a heavy hammer when you need to straighten something out. I enjoy working outside so I often use my torch and welder on this heavy table."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Douglas Edwards, 287065 Spruce Grove Rd., Englehart, Ont. Canada P0J1H0.

Solid outdoor workbench was made from a 3-ft. length of 4-ft. dia. steel pipe filled with concrete and gravel.