

## Spring Steel Gauge, Closing Wheels

Planter gauge and closing wheels that look like hula hoops? That's right, they've been designed, built and proven in Australia and they're making their way into the North American marketplace. Poly Tech Industries is importing Coil Closing and Gauge Wheels which will fit on Deere, Kinze or other planters that use bolt-on type wheels.

Poly Tech's Pat Reinhart says Australian farmers really like the coil wheels because they provide uniform closing and depth control in all types of field conditions. Looking like springs coiled into the shape of a wheel, the coil wheels vibrate to shake off sticky soil or crop residue that might otherwise ball up on rubber planter wheels as a machine moves across a field. Reinhart says the coil-type wheels work especially well for no-till farmers who are often planting into more moist soils because of residue cover.

The wheels also work well when conditions are ideal because they leave a firm but porous surface that doesn't crust or cake so young seedlings can easily penetrate it. In dry sandy soils the wheels pinch the seed into the ground, but leave a soft surface that won't crust.

Reinhart says his company was sold on the wheels because field units they viewed had

covered more than 8,000 acres and didn't show any signs of losing spring tension or breakage.

The wheels are built with heavy-duty hubs and tapered bearings that are designed to outlast wheels with roller bearings. Cost of the rear gauge wheels is \$260 and a set of 2 front closing wheels is \$480. The wheels bolt directly onto the existing row units, replacing the OEM solid rubber wheels. The deep V openers aren't affected by the coil wheel design.

Australian agronomist Brad Cogan says farmers may be able to plant a little faster with the coil wheels without compromising their planting operation. He feels the coil gauge and closing wheels give better seed-to-soil contact, which is a major advantage. Australian farmers have also used the coil wheels with good success on air drills with small grains.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, RFM Ag Technology, 90 Mann St., Coolamon, NSW Australia 2701 (ph +011 61 3 5310 5933; www.rfm.com.au); or Pat Reinhart, Poly Tech Industries (ph 507 296-1976; pat@polyskid.com; www.polyskid.com).



Australian-made, self-cleaning coil gauge and closing wheels vibrate to shake off sticky soil that might otherwise ball up on rubber planter wheels.

## "Breaker" Tool Makes Custom Chainsaw Chains

"When I started my small engine repair business I wanted a way to make and sell chains for saws from bulk material, which was more economical than stocking several different sizes and types, so I invented my own chain-breaking tool," says small engine mechanic Mose Troyer. "The tool worked so well I decided to offer it to other people who might want to do the same."



Mose Troyer's chain-breaking tool simplifies making saw chains from bulk roll stock.

Troyer says his specialty breaking tool has a built-in anvil and double punches that are set in a die. "In just a few minutes, while a person waits, I can put together a standard or low profile chain for any type of saw," Troyer says. "The tool adjusts for .43 to .63 gauge chain and the die is set for 3/8 or .325 pitches. It's built strong and with normal use, except for occasionally changing out punches, it should last a lifetime."

Troyer says he uses the device to make chains from roll stock he has on hand for customers that call him from just about anywhere in the country. At the same time, he's willing to sell a brand new production

model breaker for \$300 to anyone wanting to use it in their business or for personal use. He contracts with a custom machine shop to build the devices.

"Without a tool like this I'd have to stand there and punch out rivets one at a time and keep a customer waiting. Now it's easy to make any size new chain," Troyer says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Troyer's Small Engine, 19400 Lawrence 1135, Verona, Mo. 65769 (ph 417 393-0133).

## "Invisible" Fence Keeps Deer Out

The beauty of Critterfence is that it's difficult to see. That means it blends in with the landscape so it's not an eyesore, yet keeps deer and other pests out.

Instead of less expensive flat strand polypropylene, Critterfence uses rounded or semi-rounded strand polypropylene which is less visible, has a higher breaking strength per square foot, lasts longer in sunlight, stretches less, and has a finished edge, according to Doug Korfel of Critterfence.

And, because it's all black and there isn't a visible top rail that deer can see, deer can't judge the height and won't try to jump it.

If deer or other wildlife run into it, they also won't be caught or injured.

"No opening size (of the mesh) is greater than 2 in.," Korfel says.

For gardeners, Critterfence offers kits that include black fence posts and metal or poly fencing in a variety of heights, lengths and

breaking strengths.

Typically, the 700 series fencing with 650 lbs. breaking strength is suitable for small gardens to keep out deer. Customers often choose 7 1/2-ft. tall fencing, but heights range from 4 to 10 ft. tall.

One benefit of the kits is how easy it is to install thanks to no-dig ground sleeves for line posts, post braces, corner posts and gate installation. No concrete or digging is required, and posts lock in place with a locking set screw.

Check out the website to see the variety of options available, or call and customer service will help find the right fence for your needs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Critterfence, 759 J A Cochran Bypass, Chester, S.C. 29706 (ph 855 921-7900; www.critterfence.com).



Hey Machinery installs aircraft tires on different size ag wheels with varying bolt patterns. They also make several different kinds of rims, including metric sizes.

## 80-Year-Old Wheel Builder Still Rolling

Fourth generation wheel builder Bryan Hey says the business his grandpa William started in 1929 is still going strong as the company approaches its 80th year of operation. FARM SHOW first wrote about the business in 1977.

Hey has a nationwide reputation for building wheels that fit the toughest applications equipment can experience, mounting used aircraft tires on a wide range of wheels. The wheels are used for heavy-duty applications including grain carts, feed wagons, manure spreaders, brush mowers, scrapers, skid steers and even tractors.

"We mount aircraft tires and many truck tires for individuals and about a dozen OEM equipment manufacturers because the

rubber is better than what is used in standard implement tires," Bryan says. "These tires stand up to harsh conditions, including sharp crop stubble, brush and construction rubble."

In addition to its extensive wheel and rim products, Hey also makes metric wheels for several small tractor manufacturers. "We have 7 outstanding employees who do an excellent job on all our products and we expect to continue doing this for a long time," says Bryan.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hey Machinery, 1602 High Street, Baldwin City, Kan. 66006 (ph 785 594-3441; www.heywheel.com; heywheel@embarqmail.com).



Critterfence is made from rounded polypropylene that's less visible to deer, and has no visible top rail so deer won't try to jump it. Fence comes with no-dig ground sleeves for posts and braces.